

# **Election Committee Report EMAlumni General Assembly 2022**

## **Report of the Independent Election Committee**

**16 June 2022**

### **Introduction**

This is the Report of the Independent Election Committee (the ‘Committee’) of the Alumni Association of the European Master’s Degree in Human Rights and Democratisation, also referred to as EMA, (the ‘Association’) concerning the 2022 General Assembly conducted in compliance with the Statute for the EMAlumni Association ASBL (the ‘Statute’), and the Act for non-profit associations dated 27 June 1921 and the Code des sociétés et des association adopted on 23 March 2019 (collectively, the ‘Regulations’).

The Committee was appointed by the President of Association/Chairperson of the General Assembly and the Board of the Association in accordance with the Statute. The Committee consists of EMA graduates Jean-Marie Rogue, Michele Romano and Charles Slidders. The Committee is assigned to verify the transparency of voting procedures and confirm the quorum.

### **Certification and Declaration**

In accordance with the designated assignment, the Committee independently observed and reviewed the conduct of the General Assembly held online between 26 May 2022, 11:00 CEST and 6 June 2022, 23:59 CEST.

The Committee hereby verifies and certifies that conduct of the General Assembly and the online vote was conducted transparently, fairly, and honestly and fully corresponded with the provisions of the Statute and the Regulations.

The Committee thus declares that:

- In accordance with Article 13.7 of the Statute, the General Assembly conducted between 26 May 2022, 11:00 CEST and 6 June 2022, 23:59 CEST. Thirty-one full members participated in the General Assembly (70 per cent) of a total 44 full members of the Association. The General Assembly therefore achieved a quorum of more than 50 per cent of full members being present and was therefore validly organized.

- Jessica Fiorelli validly nominated for the position for President. No other candidate nominated for the position of President and Jessica Fiorelli is hereby duly elected President of the Association.
- Four alumni validly nominated for four Board Member positions: Filipe Vendrame, Camille Roux, Florence Carrot, and Zoi Aliozi.
- There were four vacant positions on the Board and thus Filipe Vendrame, Camille Roux, Florence Carrot, and Zoi Aliozi are hereby declared elected.

The voting details are provided below. All comments received are also provided below and should be considered by the Board under the upcoming mandate.

### **Background Information**

A General Assembly was announced by email on 11 May 2022, well in advance of the eight days before the start of the voting procedures, as required by the Statute. The General Assembly was announced via email, via the EMA alumni newsletter, and via social network (i.e. Facebook) to all full members. Candidates had to present their candidacies before 22 May 2022, 23:59 CEST in the Association's dedicated online General Assembly forum. Within this required timeframe, one person validly nominated for president and four people nominated candidacies for the Board.

The General Assembly took place online from 26 May 2022, 11:00 CEST to 6 June 2022, 23:59 CEST.

A forum for online debates around the 2022 EMA alumni General Assembly was opened on 10 May 2022, 13:00 CEST but did not lead to any discussion (no post).

### **Items for vote or comment**

The items submitted to vote (approval or rejection) or comment were:

1. Presentation of the Mid-term Narrative Report 2021/2022 – for comment
2. Presentation of the Mid-term Financial Report 2021/22 – for comment
3. Activity plan 2021/2022 – for comment
4. Election of the President
5. Election of 4 Board Members (2022-2024) – for vote
6. All Other Business/General Comments – for comment

The following summarises the comments received for the “for comment” items and clarifies the votes and quorum for the “for vote” items.

## **1. Presentation of the Mid-term Narrative Report 2021/22 – for comment**

See annex 1.

The Mid-term Narrative Report 2021-2022 covering the activities for the period August 2021 – January 2022 was accessible via a link.

Five comments were received all complementing the Association and/or the Narrative Report. The comments follow:

- ‘Thank you for all the work!’
- ‘Good job!! Loved reading the report. Easy and focused.’
- ‘Congratulations on the report and keep up with the good work!’
- ‘Keep the good work! You make me proud of being part of this network.’
- ‘Great work :)’

Two comments also noted that they had ‘no comments’.

## **2. Presentation of the Mid-term Financial Report 2021/22 and approved year budget – for comment**

See annex 2.

The Mid-term Financial Report covering the period August 2021 – January 2022 and approved year budget and approved year budget for August 2021-July 2022 was accessible via a link.

Five comments were received, as follows:

- ‘maybe I missed sth but I didn't see anywhere where the remaining funding came from since membership can't cover the running cost of the association.’
- ‘I am wondering what is the expectations for funds next year..’
- ‘No objections’
- ‘It is great that you are now giving the information about how much we collect with memberships. We talked about it and wanted to do it for transparency.’
- ‘Thank you for being transparent.’

One comment noted that they had ‘No comments’

## **3. Presentation of Activity plan 2021/2022 and associated input/comment**

A link to the activity plan drafted by the board for the period August 2021-July 2022 was provided. It explained that the Association’s activities corresponded to its 3 objectives being to strengthen the community by bringing alumni together, increasing the visibility of the Association’s work and impact of alumni on human rights, and support the professional development of alumni.

The presentation also stated the Board will be having an in-person meeting in Brussels on July 2/3, 2022. At the in-person meeting the Board will discuss priorities for the next year and requested input from the General Assembly participants.

The following three comments were received:

- ‘Looking forward to the implementation of the plan!’
- ‘Love the indicators. It makes the work of the association more precise. Maybe this one could be reviewed for the next cycle: “Alumni understand the strategy of the Association” as it is not so clear how this will be measured’
- ‘Whilst I can see some of the planned activities, I am not clear how certain activities will be achieved. To sum up, I see the what and the results sought but not the how.’

#### **4. Election of President**

Pursuant to Article 15 of the Statute, the President of the Association is to be elected by the General Assembly. Jessica Fiorelli was the only nominee for President and was duly elected unopposed. Quorum was reached with 31 out of 44 Full Members voting.

#### **5. Election of 4 Board Members (2022-2024) – for vote**

Four alumni put forward their candidature for the Board Member position (all candidacies being valid).

Total number of voters: 31, thus the quorum was reached.

The candidates received the following votes:

- Filipe Vendrame – 30 votes
- Camille Roux – 31 votes
- Florence Carrot – 29 votes
- Zoi Aliozi – 30 votes

As a result Filipe Vendrame, Camille Roux, Florence Carrot, and Zoi Aliozi were elected as Board Members.

On 9 June 2022, the Independent Election Committee was informed that Dr. Zoi Aliozi has withdrawn her candidacy for Board appointment on the basis of a perceived and/or potential conflict of interest with her position as an EMA teaching fellow with the EMA programme.

## 6. All Other Business

The Association proposed creating a Whatsapp group with supportive members to bring the Alumni community closer and share its activities in a more efficient way. It thus requested the phone number of anyone who wanted to join the WhatsApp group.

Twenty full members provided their phone number.

One comment was received:

- ‘Data protection is a human right, too, so Please don’t use WhatsApp, but Signal or Threema!’

## 7. General Comments and Suggestions

Voters had the possibility to propose any additional comments and/or suggestions for the Association.

Nine comments were received.

Three of the comments were substantive:

- ‘I am sorry to see that there were so few candidates for the board and president. Perhaps one integral part of the work needs to be to 'groom' future candidates. And thank you in advance for all the work the new board and president will take up!’
- ‘Create more added value for becoming a (paid) member which speaks to all alumni (not only the ones with a human rights job living in Brussels)’ and ‘[I]ast year when I helped with ordering the promo material for the association, I also suggested that post cards (e.g. themed cards designed by alumni) could be made and sold to raise some funds (printing cards does not cost much and you can sell them for a bit more) or used for promo purposes.’
- ‘Alumni used to have the possibility to have access to university libraries. This access was very precious for those of us who do not work for universities but still regularly need academic articles. I have managed to get some access through another alumni service I am part of in the US.’

Six comments complement and/or thanked the Association for their work.

- ‘Good job!’
- ‘Thanks for your work!’
- ‘Congrats to everyone from the Board that worked so hard to prepare the GA and to our wonderful SG! :)’
- ‘Keep up the fantastic work! I cannot wait to follow the new board and the new president.’
- ‘Well done!’
- ‘The information is super well presented, process is very clear. Thanks! Long live the EMAlumni!’
- ‘Thank you for all your work and for trying to keep up the alumni community together.’

Signed by the Independent Election Committee on 16 June 2022:



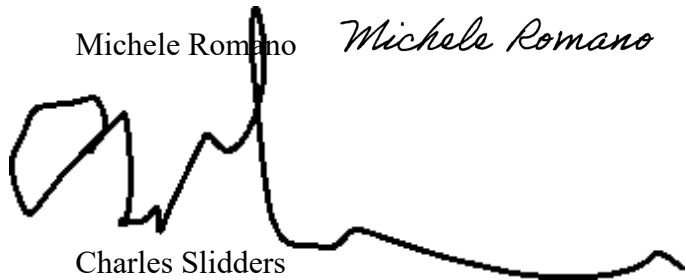
Adam Jacobi Moller

6 July 2022

Jean-Marie Rogue

Michele Romano

*Michele Romano*



Charles Slidders

Annexes:

- Annex 1 : Mid-term Narrative Report 2021/22
- Annex 2: Mid-term Financial Report 2021/22
- Annex 3: Activity Plan for the period August 2021-July 2022 was provided.