

# Minutes of the 2024 General Assembly meeting



Milan and online  
16 November 2024

## 1. Minutes of the 2023 General Assembly and the Returning officer

- The Council presents the minutes of the 2023 General Assembly for approval.
- The Council presents Bernd Redmann, Musikhochschule Lübeck as the returning officer.

✓ The voting ballot was sent out. The results are announced at the end of point 2.

## 2. President's Report: Annual Report 2023 and activities until November 2024

- As a detailed report of the year 2023 can be read in the AEC Annual Report (available on the [AEC website](#)), the President focuses on AEC's activities and achievements in 2023-24.
- 2024 has been another productive year for AEC. The AEC Council met in Milan in March, online in September, and again in person in Milan on Thursday;
- The Executive Committee met online in February, June, August and in the beginning of November.
- AEC Council

The AEC Council and ExCom continued their work, including through discussion groups to brainstorm on current and future activities. In particular, the Council:

The AEC Council and ExCom continued its work, and throughout the year, in cooperation with the Office, we worked on a range of topics, in particular:

- We have finalised the new AEC Strategy 2030, which we will discuss under point 4 on the agenda
- Established a new Trad-Folk-Global Working Group
- Worked with an advocacy toolkit and template that was part of the Pre-Congress workshop on Thursday
- Approved a Sustainability Policy and Action Plan for AEC
- Published a statement on the conflict in Gaza
- Monitored the 2024 activities, such as:
  - working groups, meetings and events, and in particular the AEC Congress
  - project work, and in particular the work conducted within the framework of the ARTEMIS project
  - advocacy activities, in particular a new advocacy toolkit and template
  - external relations, and communication
- Considered the feedback from the regional meetings as well as general membership matters
- Monitored staff performance and finances

In 2024, the AEC Council consisted of the following representatives

<b>President:</b>	Deborah Kelleher	Ireland
<b>Vice-Presidents:</b>	Elisabeth Gutjahr	Austria
	Jeffrey Sharkey	United Kingdom
<b>Secretary General:</b>	Ivana Perković	Serbia
<b>Council members:</b>	Bruno Pereira	Portugal
	Claire Michon	France
	Keld Hosbond	Denmark
	Martin Prchal	The Netherlands
	Riccardo Ceni	Italy
	Barbara Maria Willi	Czech Republic
	Małgorzata Sternal	Poland
<b>Co-opted:</b>	Abra Bush	United States
	Anothai Nitibhon	Thailand
	Miranda Harmer/	EPASA
	Monica Vejgaard	EPASA

### AEC Office

The AEC office team has continued its high level of activity and commitment:

- During 2024, the team was composed of 7 permanent members, supported by two interns.
- Finn Schumacker, assumed his post as AEC Executive Director from February 2024.

Some of the activities completed by the AEC office include:

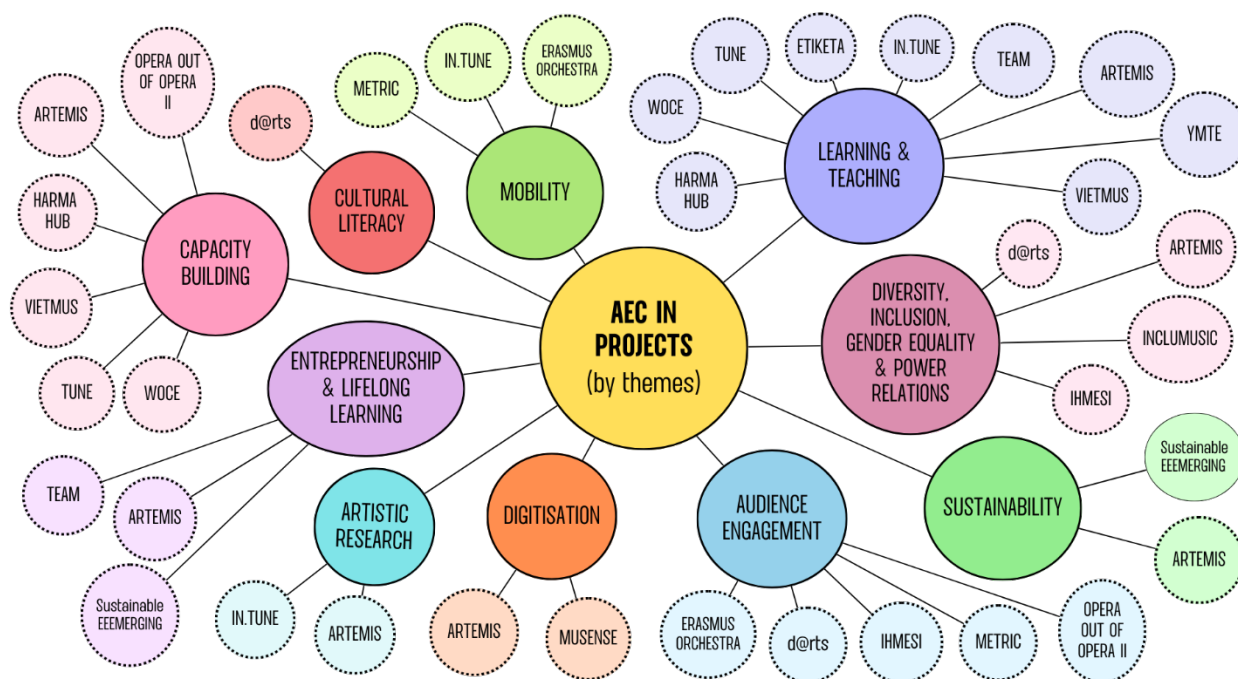
- Preparing and managing our four annual events with an ever increasing number of participants.
- In collaboration with our close partners on advocacy we engaged in dialogue with the European Commission on topics related to Artistic Research, STEM/STEAM, evaluation of the big European funding programs, and introducing the new Members of the European Parliament. AEC participated in the European Bauhaus Festival and supported advocacy initiatives such as the Cultural Deal for Europe and the State of Culture.
- Supporting members threatened by autocratic regimes, and together with Uniarts Helsinki we continued our financial support to our members in Ukraine.
- Supporting various ARTEMIS WGs and TFs: ensuring that the WGs are on track, organising workshops, cluster meetings, seminars, coordinating the important changes in the EASY online mobility system which occurred this year and preparing a manual, sending out surveys and analysing results, communicating about the project and its progress
- Joining the SHIFT eco-certificate pilot project with the aim to make the operations of the AEC greener and more sustainable, including our event.
- Continued support to EPASA that held its first in person event this year in Ghent.

### AEC partner organisations



### Projects in which AEC is involved:

In addition to the projects below a new Creative Europe Network Grant (- i.e. the same type of grant that funded the ARTEMIS project) has been granted to the AEC for the next 4 years.



### Update on AEC's communication initiatives and challenges

#### **Current Reach and Audience Distribution:**

AEC engages audiences across multiple platforms, including Facebook, Twitter/X, LinkedIn, and Instagram. Among these, Facebook boasts the highest reach with approximately 5,000

followers. Additionally, the AEC Newsletter has a substantial readership, reaching over 2,500 individuals.

### Challenges and Opportunities in AEC Communication

AEC is actively exploring ways to overcome current communication challenges while capitalising on new growth opportunities. Key areas of focus include **developing relevant and digestible content** specifically tailored to the needs of AEC members to reach new audiences, and **adapt a “lingo”**, that is understood by everyone. The AEC also finds ways to **create diverse and engaging content** that appeals to both stakeholders and the general public and **disseminating findings from the ARTEMIS (Empowering Artists as Makers in Society) project** to broaden the impact of its initiatives and disseminate the findings from about 10 projects that the AEC is involved with as a Communication and Dissemination Partner.

### AEC Communication and Visibility Actions for the AEC members as well as Dissemination opportunities

- AEC Website & Institutional Profile - The Institution Administrator is the key figure
- AEC Events - Information Forums / Markets
- AEC Newsletter & Social Media Channels
- Campaigns & Initiatives (e.g. #AECforUkraine, Designing Voices for Our Lives - OSAKA Expo)
- AEC as Communication & Dissemination Project Partner

### Call to Action for Members

To support and amplify these communication efforts, AEC encourages its members to:

- **Subscribe to and regularly read the AEC Monthly Newsletter** to stay informed about the latest updates, projects, and opportunities.
- **Share and disseminate insights gained from AEC events** within their institutions, as these events remain AEC's most powerful platform for dissemination, enabling members to connect, share, and amplify the impact of AEC's initiatives across a broad audience.

### Approval of the minutes of the 2023 GA and the Returning officers (continued from point 1)

Deborah Kelleher invites Ashkhen Fixova to share the screen with the results.

- ✓ The General Assembly approves the GA 2023 minutes.
- ✓ The General Assembly approves Bernd Redman as returning officers for 2024.

### 3. Elections to the Council

There are two vacant seats on the AEC Council, and two applications have been received: Gyula Fekete, Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest and Jan Philipp Sprick, HfMT - Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg.

- ✓ The voting ballot was sent out. For results see point 7.

#### 4. AEC Strategy 2030

- At the General Assembly in 2023 the GA was informed on the recruitment process of the new Director, who was able to give input on the next Strategic Plan. For this reason, we presented to you a FRAMEWORK for the Strategic Plan 2024-2028.
- At the Council meeting in March and based on the Framework Finn prepared a new draft strategy for the AEC, the Council discussed it thoroughly in a workshop format. During the following meetings of the Council and the ExCom the draft gradually was commented and adjusted to the final version that has been shared with the GA.
- The AEC Strategy 2030 sets out **four objectives**, which together with a fifth organisational strand build the foundation for the operations of the AEC. They will be described in the AEC Operational plan which will outline how the Strategy objectives will be executed in the coming years.
- The new EU project will be integrated with AEC's many other tasks as a member organisation. This means that there will not be a project name and associated acronym.

✓ The voting ballot was sent out. For results, see the item before point 7.

#### 5. Financial report of the Secretary General

2023 has been a positive year for the association's financial situation. At the end of 2022, AEC's sustainability plan came to an end. The various measures taken to increase AEC's level of reserves were successful and the targeted amount of reserves was exceeded. From 2023, AEC continued to generate positive results but without having the need to further increase the reserves. Thus, AEC ended the year with a surplus of nearly 1.700,00 EUR, bringing the total reserves to over 102.000,00 EUR.

##### Annual Accounts for 2023 (for information)

The Secretary General Ivana Perković informs that the full annual accounts for 2023 have been checked by the following two external auditors: Kaarlo Hildén, from the Sibelius Academy, University of the Arts Helsinki), appointed for 2022 and 2023 and Dimitrios Marinos, from the Athens Conservatoire College of Music (appointed for 2023 and 2024). They both recommended approval of the 2023 Accounts. Ivana Perković expresses gratitude for their work.

The Annual Accounts for 2022 had been approved in August 2024 through an online vote: 108 votes were cast, out of which 104 members approved and 4 abstained from voting.

##### Proposed membership fees for 2024

- In 2025, the membership fees are indexed at 2.5%.
- Although there will be an indexation of salaries of 3.5% in Belgium in 2024, AEC ExCom has decided to report this raise only moderately to the membership fees, in order to keep the 2025 fees at a reasonable level.
- As in previous years, a discount of 5% will be applied to the figures listed in the document, if the payment to AEC is made before 01/04/2025.
- A discount is offered to member institutions who are member of both AEC and ELIA.

##### Forecast outturn 2024

The expected result for 2024 is € 1'283,97.

### **Income 2024**

- Membership fees have increased compared to 2023, in line with the indexation rate and new members joining;
- Event fees have increased, due to a significant attendance of our members to all events organised in 2024;
- Project income has also increased thanks to the ARTEMIS project grant and AEC's involvement in several other projects;
- Regarding EASY, the income has resumed (2023 was a transition year while changing to a new system);
- the amount reimbursed by MusiQuE to AEC for staff and overhead costs has slightly increased compared to 2023.

### **Expenditures 2024**

- Staff costs shall increase in comparison to 2023 levels (changes in the team and indexation of salaries)
- Event costs have increased in comparison to 2023, in line with the higher volume of participants attending;
- Office costs have increased, and Other travel costs have remained stable;
- ARTEMIS and other project expenses have increased, according to the number of projects the AEC is now involved in;
- Finally, the EASY service fee will remain stable.

### **Proposed budget for 2025**

Ivana Perković presents the proposed budget which shows a result of over 1.300 €.

#### **Income of 2025**

- Membership fees in 2025 shall slightly raise;
- The income from event fees should remain stable in 2025;
- Concerning project grants, we have allocated the last instalments from the ARTEMIS budget, and all other project funds should decrease;
- The income from EASY should remain stable, and the income from the METRIC coordination should remain the same as in 2024;

#### **Expenditure 2025**

- Staff costs shall increase;
- Event costs are expected to increase, and office and travel costs are expected to remain stable;
- Project expenses should decrease according to the level of implication of AEC in the different projects;
- The EASY expenditure should remain stable.

### **Appointment of two auditors for the 2024 accounts**

The Council suggests to the GA Diana Mos from the National University of Music in Bucharest and Dimitrios Marinos, Athens Conservatoire College of Music as external auditors for the 2024 accounts.

- ✓ The voting ballots on the membership fee levels for 2025, forecast outturn, proposed budget for 2025 and the appointment of external auditors were sent out. The results are announced before point 7.

## 6. AEC Sustainability policy

As AEC, we acknowledge the connection between human activity and the climate crisis and commit to minimising our ecological footprint, implementing environmentally sustainable practices, and behaving as an example of good environmental practice for our members and other cultural networks. This event, striving to be a sustainable event, is one such example.

The AEC Sustainability policy is presented to the GA for information.

## 7. Matters related to the European subject-specific quality assurance agency for music, MusiQuE

The representatives of MusiQuE board, Jacques Moreau and Ankna Arochaim present the latest developments in MusiQuE.

- MusiQuE is working on various ongoing **Critical Friend Reviews** (The Hague, 2020-2026) (Antwerp, 2020-2025) (Malmö, 2024-2029) (Singapore, 2024-2028), **Programme accreditations** (Ljubljana, 2024) (Tbilisi, 2024) and **Consultancy visits** (Anton Bruckner University, Linz), as well as **Project evaluations** (AEC ARTEMIS project) (European Music Council Network project). It also provides **consultancy** for European University Alliance IN.TUNE in comparative study of QA systems (2024-2025), external review of the alliance (2025-2027) and in counselling on benchmarking tool.
- Other MusiQuE activities include Implementation of the revised MusiQuE Standards in programme and institutional reviews, Consultation across EAS and EMU memberships in relation to the ongoing revision of the MusiQuE Standards for pre-college level and Classroom Music Teacher Education, MusiQuE position paper and MusiQuE 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration conference.
- MusiQuE continued collaboration at the European level, with sharing of practices at the European Association for QA in HE Forum and GA, being represented at EASPA and EQ-Arts boards, and with advocacy for international subject-specific QA (“cross-border QA”).

## Results of voting from points 5 and 6

- ✓ The General Assembly approved the Strategy 2030? (98 valid votes, 88 yes, 1 no, 8 abstentions)
- ✓ The General Assembly approves the proposed membership fee levels for 2025 (87 valid votes, 76 yes, 3 no, 9 abstentions)
- ✓ The General Assembly approves the forecast outturn 2024 (87 valid votes, 83 yes, 0 no, 4 abstentions)
- ✓ The General Assembly approves the proposed budget for 2025 (87 valid votes, 79 yes, 1 no, 7 abstentions)
- ✓ The General Assembly approves the appointment of Dimitrios Marinos, Athens Conservatoire College of Music (since 2023) and Diana Mos, National University of



Music in Bucharest as external auditors for the 2024 accounts (87 valid votes, 81 yes, 1 no, 5 abstentions)

## 10. Membership matters

The following institutions have been accepted as Active Members during 2024:

- Conservatorio Statale di Musica Domenico Cimarosa in Avellino, Italy
- Conservatorio Statale di Musica Gaetano Braga in Teramo, Italy.
- Conservatorio Statale di Musica Vecchi Tonelli in Modena, Italy.
- Pôle Supérieur d'Enseignement Artistique - Pôle Sup'93 in La Courneuve, France.
- Real Conservatorio Superior de Música Victoria Eugenia in Granada, Spain.
- Conservatorio Superior de Música Andrés de Vandelvira in Jaén, Spain.
- University of Macedonia, Department of Music Science and Art in Thessaloniki, Greece
- and the Faculty of Musical Art of Kyiv, National University of Culture and Arts (Ukraine)

The following institutions have been accepted as Associate Members:

- Centre de musique baroque in Versailles, France.
- College of Chinese & ASEAN Arts, School of Music & Dance in Chengdu, China.
- Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music, Northwestern University in Evanston, USA.

The following institutions have withdrawn their membership:

- Conservatorio di Musica Franco Vittadini (Pavia, Italy)

Memberships with 2 years of non-payment of the membership fee are expired. The following memberships have been expired in 2024:

- Conservatoire à Rayonnement Régional Pierre Cochereau (Nice, France)
- Conservatorio Statale di Musica Lorenzo Perosi (Campobasso, Italy)
- Accademia Stauffer (Cremona, Italy)
- Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra (Vatican City)
- Communication University of Zhejiang (Hangzhou, China)

AEC ends 2024 with 309 members (270 Active members and 39 Associate members), marking a new record within the AEC community.

## 11. Announcement of the Council election

The returning officer Bernd Redmann comes to stage. AEC President Elisabeth Gutjahr asks Ashkhen Fixova to share the screen with the results and announces the candidates who reached the absolute majority of the votes cast and were elected as Council members:

✓ The AEC GA elect Gyula Fekete and Jan Philipp Sprick new AEC Council members.

The returning officer Bernd Redmann confirms the information provided by the voting software and announced by the Chair of the General Assembly.

## 12. Future congresses

- 2025: Salzburg