

# MINUTES

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**Date, Time:** 2025.12.10, 16:00 – 20.00 (CET)

**Location:** WeXelerate, Praterstraße 1, 1020 Vienna and online

### 1. WELCOME AND QUORUM

**Attachment:** PowerPoint „Attending & Voting Figures“

**Voting rights:**

- Attendance on-site: 77
- Attendance online: 45
- Voting authorisations: 62
- Vote transfers: 83

**Discussion:**

- Voting will be held openly; topic of “secret vote” (beside the case already clearly regulated in the statutes) can be investigated for the future when members wish to do so.

### 2. APPROVAL AGENDA

**Attachment:** PowerPoint „Agenda“  
Note: find all relevant information and documents at [www.alpbach.org/generalversammlung](http://www.alpbach.org/generalversammlung) (German) or [www.alpbach.org/general-assembly](http://www.alpbach.org/general-assembly) (English)

**Vote:** **Agenda approved unanimously**

### 3. APPROVAL MINUTES OF PROTOCOL EO. GENERAL ASSEMBLY 22 JULY 2025

**Attachment:** Find minutes at [www.alpbach.org/Generalversammlung](http://www.alpbach.org/Generalversammlung)

**Discussion:** Minutes sent out exclude essential facts and miss crucial information, especially about the grave financial situation and the debate following the presentation of the auditor’s report. Addition supplement to minutes is asked for by members of General Assembly.

**Decision:** An addendum to the minutes of 22 July 2025 will be provided with the missing information and shall be delivered with the current minutes.

**Vote:** Minutes approved, 1 opposing vote.

## 4. REPORT PRESIDENT

**Attachment:** PowerPoint „Report of the President”

## 5. CHANGES OF THE STATUTES

**Attachment:** PowerPoint „Changes of the Statutes”

**Talking points:**

- Massive deficiencies that existed since long before 2025. Concrete change initiatives have been set in motion. Full support by board members.
- Restructuring relationship between EFA-Foundation (EFA-F) and EFA-Association (EFA-A). EFA-A no longer operational in 2025 and future. Changes needed for further meaningful steps. EFA-F shall support EFA-A promptly and in effective way. Costly redundancies and transfer costs will be eliminated. Both managing directors work on implementing the board's proposals for a restructured budget of -25% cost cuttings..

**Discussions:**

- *Postponing decision to create transparency about foundation deed?*
- *Spending-side potential exhausted? Number of EFA-staff very high. What is planned in restructuring before fundamental cuts?*
- *What is loss distribution between EFA-F and EFA-A? How can EFA-A restructure itself if operational activities move into EFA-F?*
- *What are financial reserves in EFA-F?*
- *Pro-active provision of the foundation charter. Standardization of member's participation rights?*
- *Dependence on one major donor (ERSTE Foundation) not ideal. Create better basis for future additional donors.*
- *Re-activate past donors and sponsors by going back to previous formats (Technology Talks etc.)*
- *How feasible is the transfer of money from EFA-F to EFA-A?*
- *Merging both entities has been an issue way back, today, due to increased complexity, even more.*
- *Presentation of critical situation shows existing or non-existing leeway. More time for solid decision-making process needed.*
- *Request to one more week and vote through circular resolution. – denied.*
- *Foundation deed like a Black Box – motion to provide foundation deed to everyone who seeks insight.*

**Vote:**

- Supplementary Motion Oberlechner/Karas/Strolz: General Assembly will be provided with draft budget for EFA-F for the fiscal year and the last completed financial statement.
- **Approved, 2 abstentions.**
- Proposal of the board on the submitted change of statutes:
- **Approved, 11 abstentions.**

## 6. AMENDMENTS TO THE CODE OF CONDUCT

- Talking points:**
- Amendments are result of DEI working group which started already last spring
  - CoC important part of EFA values and state of the art document
  - Amendments comprise alignment of German and English version, extension of effectiveness to online actions, simplification of access to the Ombuds Team plus a number of editorial changes
- Vote:**
- Approval of changes in Code of Conduct: **Approved, 1 abstention.**

## 7. REPORT OF THE FAN

**Attachment:** PowerPoint „Report of the FAN”

## 8. OUTLOOK EFA 26

**Attachment:** PowerPoint

## 9. MISCELLANEOUS

- Vote:**
- Motion of Jennifer Zeller to establish a working group with members of the EFA-A for joint discussions and work regarding the envisaged legal changes (checks and balances, information rights, confirmation duties etc.) to take the current concerns and transparency into account. A report by this group shall be given at the next General Assembly.
  - **Approved, 9 abstentions.**

## 10. CLOSING REMARKS

- President Karas thanks the GA for the committed and fruitful debate
- A next GA is envisaged for Q1 2026 with an enhanced in-advance-communication to the members