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MINUTES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Date, Time: 24th May 2023, 3:00pm (CET) **Location:** Hybrid; Impacthub, Lindengasse 56, 1070 Vienna

1. Welcome and Determination of Quorum

President Andreas Treichl welcomes the attendees.
The quorum is established.

2. Approval of the agenda

The agenda is unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General assembly held on 17th May 2022

The minutes from May 17, 2022, are unanimously approved.

4. Report of the President and the Secretary-General

President Treichl provides a retrospective on EFA22 and a preview of EFA23. Additionally, he reports on EFA 365, a concept aimed at keeping the Forum's presence active throughout the year. In conclusion, he highlights an increase in sponsors and the complete booking of all partner slots within the program.

Secretary-General and Managing Director Feri Thierry offers a review of the 2022 program. This was new for many, and the organizing team gained valuable insights and feedback. The changes were not universally embraced, but it was emphasized that, unlike previous years, Alpbach managed to bring together a diverse range of people who would not typically cross paths.

The new concept introduced new formats, such as the innovative setup of the Schrödinger Saal, with features like circle discussions and fishbowl sessions, the hosting of labs, and the use of new venues such as Schulhäusl. Hikes were also

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employed as content sessions. This new approach extended into arts, culture, and social events, such as "Bread and Butter".

In 2022, 13 out of 17 Austrian government members and 19 European political figures attended Alpbach. A total of 3,685 individuals from 98 nationalities participated. The gender distribution was 56% male, 42.4% female, and 1.5% non-binary. The average age of participants (including scholarship recipients) was 40 years.

Thierry introduced the Alpbach Experience survey. Individuals under 35 years of age, those from the scientific sector, and the NGO sector receive a 50% discounted ticket.

5. Report of the FAN

Jennifer Zeller presents the activities of the FAN Board. At the outset, she expresses gratitude on behalf of her predecessors, with special emphasis on their exceptional efforts during the pandemic.

In November 2022, a conference was held in Rust, hosted by the Alpbach Club Burgenland, and in May 2023, a conference took place in Delic Rič, hosted by the Club Senza Confini. Florian Boschek represented FANB at the Africa Alpbach Network's Strategy Week in Ghana in November.

New or reactivated members in the FAN network include: CA Poland, CA France, CA Finland, CA Netherlands, and CA London; the Africa Network has been integrated into FAN. There are 9 Alpbach Ambassadors in Hungary, Greece, 2x Ireland, Switzerland, Spain, Estonia, Lithuania, and Moldova. FAN was able to send a delegation to COP27. New FAN logos, in line with EFA CI, featuring unique elements, have been introduced.

FAN has established its own solidarity fund to provide support when needed.

EFA23: FAN is actively participating with various events and organizing different opportunities for gatherings.

6. Report of the Financial Officer on the Fiscal Year 2022

Feri Thierry presents the report on behalf of the Financial Officer, Andreas Bierwirth. The basis of the report is the attachments sent with the agenda, so only specific points will be addressed.

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7. Report of the Auditors and Account Examiners on the Financial Statements and Financial Management

Gerald Pessl, representing Ecovis Austria, the auditing firm, reports that the term "negative equity" is misleading, as there still remains an overall positive equity. Ecovis has provided an unqualified audit opinion during the examination of the financial statements as of December 31, 2022. The bookkeeping has been conducted in accordance with regulations, and the use of funds has been in compliance with the statutes.

Ecovis emphasizes that the year 2022 showed significant improvement compared to the years 2020 and 2021, yet the revenue of 2022 still falls short of that in 2019.

Max Kothbauer, as the account examiner, explains that the European Forum Alpbach Association, according to §22 VerG, is considered a "large association" and therefore subject to external financial audit. As such, the appointed account examiners have primarily focused on the financial picture presented by the current finances. The account examiners note that they advocate for continuous vigilance in comparing income and expenses. Max Kothbauer expresses appreciation for the extraordinary efforts of the EFA organizing team and congratulates the association leadership.

8. Approval of the Financial Statements and Discharge of the Board

The financial statements are approved by the Annual General Meeting.

Franz Fischler presents the motion for the discharge of the Board: The motion is accepted without opposition, with 2 abstentions, thus the Board is discharged by the Annual General Meeting.

9. Outlook for Forum 2023

Also at EFA 23, the structure will be built around four thematic tracks, each detailed by three guiding questions. Technology and innovation will hold a significant role as a cross-cutting theme at EFA, with the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) as a Premium Partner.

Seminars in 2023 will be open to everyone once again. The Forum will provide a wide range of formats.

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Unit Reports:

Unit Experience

Unit Head Clara Rindler-Schantl introduces the Alpbach Experience. Guided by the phrase "Alpbach is what you make of it," active participation is encouraged. Participants are aimed to be specifically addressed through "call to action."

Efforts will be made to further engage people in conversation. Unique spaces and moments will be created through collaborations with Ikea or various events in the village. By mapping out customer journeys, attempts have been made to better address the participants' perspective.

Catering provided by EFA will be purely vegetarian and vegan (Green Meeting concept), even at meeting points like the vegan sausage stand.

Accessibility, ombuds and awareness teams, childcare, and orientation aids in the village are ongoing projects that aim to enhance the experience for an even better and more inclusive event.

Unit Content

Feri Thierry presents, on behalf of Unit Head Leopold Schmertzling, the new format "Pitches" (3x10-minute pitches followed by a 10-minute discussion), as well as the "Talent Forum" (marketplace for talents and potential employers), the "Track Forum" (networking offering within the track communities), and the concept of defined session objectives.

Content Manager Elke Lerch presents individual program highlights (sessions and speakers).

Unit Communities

Unit Head Annamaria Toth introduces the World of Women Initiative.

The initiative is rolled out in four areas:

- Participation
- Networking opportunities
- Content curation
- Amplification
- The central idea is to strengthen the female voice at the Forum Alpbach and in Europe

Unit Communications

Unit Head Ankica Nikolic looks back at the transition to a new website. Future media collaborations will include international media and target new audiences as well.

The daily wake-up call on social media (videos) will continue; it has received very positive feedback.

Unit Operations

Unit Head Markus Hafner-Auinger introduces the professionalization of the jury tool and invitation management for partners.

The final program will be accessible on the internet in the second week of June.

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10. Approval of the Budget for 2023

Feri Thierry reports that this year's sponsorship goal is well within reach; grants have already been exceeded, but more fundraising is required from donors.

The budget is approved by the General Assembly.

11. Report on the Foundation

Feri Thierry reports that in 2022, approximately 4,000 individuals from 120 nations applied for scholarships. A total of 450 first-time and 150 returning scholarships were awarded.

In 2023, around 5,000 individuals applied, and 400 first-time scholarships and 200 returning scholarships were granted.

12. Miscellaneous

No comments.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 5:10 PM.

Minutes: Maximilian Handl

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