

EGPA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Madrid (Spain), Friday, 21 September 2007

Draft Minutes

The General Assembly was chaired by the President of EGPA: Geert Bouckaert

The President opened the session and thanked the participants for attending.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Decision 1: The agenda was adopted.

2. EGPA Strategy 2008-2011

The EGPA strategy had been sent to all EGPA members. It was then discussed at the EGPA Steering Committee. Geert Bouckaert commented on the 12 points of the Strategy Plan.

1. EGPA would continue to consider the Permanent Study Groups (PSGs) as the backbone of the organisation.

The 12 PSGs met in Madrid. Each of them had received a good number of papers; approximately 20 papers per PSG were presented. These PSGs now had, or would have, a website to report on their activities, publications etc... The IAS Director General was setting up a new IAS website in which each of EGPA's PSGs would have its own space.

2. EGPA's Permanent Study Groups (PSGs) would develop a maximum level of exposure with regard to academic and practitioner communities

The PSGs would be the interface between practitioners and academics.

3. EGPA would become the key platform for Public Administration-PhD training consultations

This platform had met in Madrid and had been quite successful; 18 Phd students had participated. This platform would meet during the next EGPA Conference in Rotterdam.

4. EGPA would create a virtual Public Administration research space

EGPA launched a web-based platform for non-English journals in Europe. The President asked for the support of EGPA members, notably in giving information about Reviews/Journals on PA in their respective countries and in promoting the platform. The website address: <http://soc.kuleuven.be/io/egpa/pub/index.htm>

New journals had joined and more data had been included.

5. EGPA would become a natural platform for national Public Administration associations

This was a project. It had to be developed.

6. EGPA would take the opportunity of its 35th anniversary in 2009 to take stock of PA in Europe and European PA

EGPA would establish a Task Force on the 'Future of PA in Europe'. The idea would also include the setting up of a discussion group on the "Plurality of Public Administration".

7. EGPA would work closely with significant practitioner groups in Europe

A first step had been taken in this direction with the establishment of a permanent contact with the European Institute of Public Administration (EIPA) in establishing a Permanent Practitioner's Group on Good, Innovative and Future Practices in European Public Services; the Group had met in Madrid and was chaired by Patrick Staes and Nick Thijs from EIPA. Contacts would now have to be taken with EUPAN. Werner Jann was in charge of these contacts. Another idea was to establish contacts with the Institute of Public Administration, as Madrid had been our host.

8. EGPA would begin or continue regular Dialogues with crucial parts of the world

The Trans-Atlantic-Dialogues (TADs) were a success and the next one would be scheduled in Milan in June 2008. EGPA had received requests to organise them. The first Trans European Dialogue (TED) would be organised in Tallin next January with Nispacee.

9. EGPA would actively support the quality of education in the discipline

Geert Bouckaert would like to negotiate with the European Association of Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA) and would propose that EGPA and NISPACEE become members of EAPAA. The Executive Director of NISPACEE wanted to examine this proposal with her Steering Committee and would then report to EGPA.

10. EGPA wished to work towards a disciplinary cross fertilization

Contacts were already underway with Christopher Hood. The idea would be to have a trans-disciplinary approach/dialogue.

11. EGPA sought a functional type of membership for academics and practitioners

A clear typology of membership(s) was needed to create clusters of members for reasons of transparency and marketing, a reduction in bureaucracy, and the attractiveness of packages offered to members. Streamlining was needed. This should be part of the marketing strategy.

12. EGPA would adjust and modernise its governance

EGPA was growing and had to redesign the functioning of the Steering Committee, relying on members who were responsible for developing a portfolio that covered the full scope of EGPA activities. The members of the Steering Committee agreed with the proposal, namely the appointment of two Steering Committee members to be responsible for the EGPA portfolio and its follow up. A “soft” guideline would be proposed at the next meeting.

Geert Bouckaert would forward the revised Strategic Plan to all EGPA members. He was waiting for comments, suggestions and support.

Some participants thanked the President of EGPA for such an ambitious strategic plan. Geert Bouckaert recognised that some points/ideas were still in embryo but with the help and energy of all the members, EGPA could certainly go further and implement these ideas.

Decision 2: The EGPA Strategic Plan was approved by the Assembly General.

3. Statutory Issues: renewal of the Steering Committee terms & nomination of new members

Werner Jann, The EGPA Immediate Past President presented the list of members for the 2008-2011 EGPA Steering Committee proposed by the Steering Committee. He drew attention to the fact that according to EGPA Regulations « *The members of the Steering Committee are proposed by the Steering Committee and confirmed by the General Assembly for a three-year term, renewable only once* ». The IAS had approved changes to EGPA regulations, noting that the EGPA President could serve a second three-year term. Werner Jann mentioned that Geert Bouckaert had agreed to a second term. He also introduced the new proposed members: Tiina Randma (Estonia), Isabella Proeller (Switzerland) and as ex-officio member: Ludmila Gajdosova , NISPACE Executive Director. (Please see list in Annex 1)

Decision 3: The new Steering Committee proposed by the Steering Committee was confirmed by acclamation of the General Assembly.

4. Finance

The IAS Director General gave his activity report and presented both the accounts and the EGPA budget. (Please see the report and the accounts in Annex 2)

Some participants commented on his report. They thanked the IAS Director General for the information given and requested still greater transparency. The IAS Director General promised to provide more detailed information on the different budgetary items and also to modernise the website. These activities were on going.

4. Upcoming Conferences and Activities

The future activities of EGPA were then reviewed:

a. The 2008 EGPA Conference would be hosted by Rotterdam Erasmus University from 3-6 September 2008. The theme would be “*Innovation in the Public Sector*”.

Three workshops would be organised:

Workshop 1: Governing Innovation: public innovation in-between managerialism, professionalism and public preparation

Workshop 2: Innovation in Governing Networks: institutional learning and leadership

Workshop 3: Innovation Policy and the Public Sector

b. The fourth Trans-Atlantic Dialogue Conference would be held in Milan (Italy) from 12-14 June 2008. The theme would be “The Status of Intergovernmental Relations (IGR) and Multi-level Governance (MLG) in Europe and the United States”: The initiative had been taken by the European Group of Public Administration (EGPA), and specifically the Permanent Study Group on InterGovernmental Relations (PSG on IGR), with the support of Università Bocconi, and the American Society of Public Administration (ASPA), specifically the section on intergovernmental relations, with the support of Rutgers University – Newark, School of Public Administration and Affairs.

c. The first Trans European Dialogue (TED) would be organised jointly with NISPAcee in Tallin from 30 January to 1 February 2008.

Geert Bouckaert thanked the organisers of these various events.

5. Other Business

Geert Bouckaert wished to thank the organisers of the Madrid Conference, namely Dr. Francisco RAMOS FERNANDEZ-TORRECILLA and his team and also the IIAS Secretariat for the excellent organisation of the EGPA Annual Conference.

Geert Bouckaert
President of EGPA