

**DRAFT REPORT.** RTDE Members’ General Meeting at the European Parliament, Brussels, 11 December 2019.

1. **Present**: Aycke Smook (President), Hugh Wynne (Treasurer), Jet van Hoek (Secretary), & delegates representing nine (9) Member Societies.
2. **Apologies**: Flemming Schollaart, who was unable to attend due to other commitments.
3. **Main subject & purpose of the meeting**: to conduct the routine business of the (two-yearly) Members’ General Meeting held during the 2019 Conference of Delegates
4. Aycke Smook (President) opened the meeting & welcomed those attending. He said he had been President for several years &, as required by the Constitution, he intended to stand down from his role as President. He suggested to the meeting that they should accept Jet van Hoek (currently Secretary) to be his successor as temporarily President. There was widespread disquiet at this suggestion, & the meeting did not agree to it.
5. A delegate remarked that there had been no invitation for Agenda Items from Members as required by the Constitution, Nominations had not been invited from Members, & no Agenda had been provided. Members could not vote.
6. Another delegate suggested the present Board be re-elected either for two (2) years or for six (6) months to rectify these errors & hold another Members’ General Meeting.
7. A delegate asked who the present Members are. Hugh Wynne (Treasurer), referring to his document “19. Societies' Dues & Payments”, which was shown on screens & issued on paper to delegates, explained that a column to the right showed the eleven (11) Member Societies who had paid their Membership Dues for 2019, & the amounts paid.
8. Another delegate held an informal roll call, from which it seemed that Dignicide Germany & another Member were absent. The Treasurer confirmed that RWS Belgium were fully paid-up. FATE UK was not a Member, but said they intended to pay-up.
9. A delegate suggested that, with nine (9) Members present of a total Membership of eleven (11) Member Societies, the Meeting could agree a way forward. The next Members’ General Meeting would have to be better!
10. Another delegate questioned why, over the years, so many Societies, that had formerly been Members, had let their Memberships lapse? This trend needed to be investigated &, if possible, reversed.
11. A delegate suggested the Meeting either “vote now” (although it was not clear on what), or allow the present Board to continue in function for six (6) months. Another delegate remarked “Everything needs to be discussed properly”.
12. Aycke Smook (President) adjourned to meeting to later in the afternoon.

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1. After the adjournment, Aycke Smook (President) asked everyone please to be seated.
2. A delegate reminded the Meeting of the two options, namely to allow the present Board to continue, either for six (6) months or for two (2) years, to rectify errors & hold another Members’ General Meeting & conduct elections. Six (6) months seemed preferable to get action. A two (2) year continuation could lead to a situation like the present, with no significant improvement, if little was done. This would be a tragic waste of time.
3. Another delegate had accepted the invitation to attend today to elect new Directors, but would be content for the present Board to continue in function for six (6) months, & then to hold & conduct elections.
4. A delegate expressed doubt that six (6) months was long enough. The Board was a small group of volunteers only, & there was much work to be done, particularly trying to get Societies, that had formerly been Members, to re-join. Every Member should try to persuade these “leavers” to return, & to recruit new Member Societies.
5. A delegate expressed the view that some Members had left over time because not enough was being done.
6. Aycke Smook (President) considered six (6) months was not long enough to achieve all the things the Meeting seemed to want. Many of these would fall as tasks for the next Board.
7. Another delegate expressed willingness, with three other delegates, to form a new Board. There was no vote on this. However, it was just a proposition & not a call for an immediate election. There should be six (6) months to select & nominate candidates. There was a call to endorse this idea, & general support was evident.
8. Aycke Smook (President) explained the present Board would continue until another Members’ General Meeting in about six (6) months, when there would be nominations to elect Directors & a new President. He hoped this would earn support & assistance from all Member Societies & delegates.
9. Aycke Smook (President) thanked all for attending, & closed the meeting promptly as others were waiting to use the room.

*Hugh Wynne, RTDE Treasurer, for the RTDE Board, 16 December 2019*

**Footnote**: No Agenda, no List of Delegates, no List of Directors standing down & retiring, no Call for Motions to be considered for adoption, no Call for Nominations to the Board, & no Reports & no other accompanying papers, appear to have been prepared or issued, which led to a disorganised, inefficient, & irregular meeting. The Board had entrusted these aspects of organisation to the Secretary, who did not explain what had happened.

Our intention as Board was to see what was going on in Europe concerning developments in end-of-life issues. We never intended to interfere in the actions of Member societies, for the societies know best how to make progress. Unfortunately, we were lacking in information. We asked for several times, and we did not receive even annual reports of our Member societies. How could we act as the umbrella of Member societies without being informed?

We found that the presence at our biennial meetings declined by the year, and more and more societies did not react to the request of our treasurer to settle their annual dues. Eleven societies who paid their dues could be called “real” members. Nine of them attended our last and important biennial in the European Parliament on 11thDecember 2019. The intention was to inform Euro Parliamentarians about the need to have a discussion on and legalize a dignified death. Polls show that citizens wish for proper answers from the Parliamentarians who represent them in Europe.

On behalf of the board of RtDE,

Sincerely yours,

 

President ht Right to Die Europe.