

**EURAS e.V.**  
**Members' Assembly 11 November 2020**  
**Online via Teams**



European Academy for Standardisation

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## **Minutes**

### **Participants**

- Timo Ali-Vehmas
- Abdel Alshadafan
- Henk de Vries
- Stephen Fertig
- Andrea Fried
- Jussi Heikkila
- Jan Hunady
- Kai Jakobs
- Keith Hawken
- OIia Kanevskaia
- Dong-Hyu Kim
- Ivana Mijatović
- Anne Mione
- Zygmunt Niechoda
- Marta Orviska
- Arta Pilena
- Cesare Riillo
- Ike Sari
- Valerio Torti
- Zuno Verghese
- Paul Wiegmann
- Anna Wronka
- Bertus Zuijdgeest

### **Registered for participation, not present:**

- Olga Bukreeva
- Suguru Tamura
- Reinhard Weissinger

## **1. Opening**

- a. Henk de Vries opens the EURAS Members' Assembly and welcomes all participants.
- b. The attendees briefly introduce themselves.

## **2. Confirmation of the invitation and quorum according to the EURAS Statutes**

- a. Both the invitation and the quorum fulfil the requirements set in the statutes.

## **3. Approval Agenda**

- a. There are no additional topics to add to the agenda.

## **4. Announcements**

- a. There are no announcements by the attendees other than already scheduled as topic on the agenda.

## **5. Approval of the minutes of the Members' Assembly 2019**

- a. There are no comments on the minutes of the 2019 Members' Assembly. The minutes are hereby approved.
- b. Thanks to Paul Wiegmann for the minutes.
- c. Questions related to the minutes of the meeting
  - i. There are no questions related to the 2019 minutes.
  - ii. Henk de Vries has a comment on a question by Cyrill Dirscherl under topic 7.a on how EURAS can function as a community if it cannot do so in the research project on education (7.a.I).  
The EURAS president can put forward the EURAS position when the EURAS position is clear in advance. In general, EURAS seeks to stimulate research, education and publications in the field of standardisation. In case it is unclear which position to take, he can ask feedback from other Board members and if necessary from the EURAS members.

## **6. Board composition**

- a. Board members serve a term of 4 years. Unfortunately Henk cannot fulfil his term due to changed circumstances, as he explained in his letter accompanying the invitation. He will remain president in name only till a new president has been found. Other board members will take over his role. If parts of this role cannot be continued, then EURAS involvements will have to end in these specific areas.

- b. A successor for Henk has not yet been found.

## 7. Reports

- a. Report of the President – Henk de Vries' letter can be seen as the report from the president. In summary:
  1. The EURAS Website – the new EURAS website is in the alpha test phase. The site is expected to be available for beta testing by EURAS next week. The site is expected to come online by the end of November. The site will contain a presentation possibility for members. There is also a possibility for other researchers by request from the EC.
  2. The EURAS Conference – The 2020 conference in Glasgow had to be cancelled. Proceedings were produced and sent to the authors of accepted papers. The conference in Glasgow has been postponed to 2022. Dong-Hyu Kim will organise the event on the Glaswegian side. Sponsoring by BSI and ISO is planned.

The EURAS Conference in 2021 will be planned in Aachen where there's the opportunity to have it take place back-to-back with the SIIT conference. The dates are 6-8 September. The participants will partly overlap and maybe there'll be a joint conference day.
  3. Research on standardisation – There was an initiative by the EC for a project on the impact of standardisation, as reported last year. EURAS had to stop participation due lack of confidence in the leadership. This led to reflection on the role in this sort of projects. It is important to get the community closer so researchers can team up for joint projects. Forming a consortium is difficult, each member has to be treated equally. EURAS is in no position to be the team lead or provide the project management. However, EURAS will continue to stimulate research and support the formation of consortia. There are no comments or questions on this part of the report.
  4. Education about standardisation –Henk explains briefly the background of the EaS-activities of EURAS. Ivana Mijatović took the lead in this activity. Ivana: mails were sent out in the EURAS community to ask for interested parties in this subject to form a working group. Several people expressed an interest. They will be asked about the background of their interest and for ideas for activities. Outside EURAS, there are other groups on the subject, but at the moment none is functional. By the end of the year a group will be established. Presentation of the group and the planned activities will be on the next conference. There are no questions or comments on this part of the report.
  5. EURAS in social media – Kai Jakobs sent out an e-mail requesting participation in a group to support of EURAS' presence in the social

media. Ray Walshe will chair this group.

Kai also gathered other ideas for EURAS activities. The most promising is a multi-lingual version of the website. In general there was a positive response to the request sent out. It resulted in a pool of volunteers to support the Board with activities.

Olia Kanevskaia asks if there are still volunteers needed for the EaS subject. Yes, more participants are welcome, please contact Ivana.

Stefan Fertig asks if there are other working groups planned. Kai Jakobs answers that there is the WG on publications. The subject was discussed few years ago, but it needs to be taken to the next level. But in general: please do come forward with suggestions when these support the EURAS goals.

Dong-Hyu Kim suggests podcasts to present standardisation to young people as used by BSI may be interesting for both the WG Social media and the WG Publications. The contact at BSI is Mr. Matthew Chiles.

Ray Walshe is in charge of the WG Social Media, he can look into this.

Stefan Fertig suggests to look into the economics of standardisation. It would be great to find a link between the academic and the business world on this subject. The WG could promote research relevant to industry and support the creation of internships. The Society for Standards and Standardisation (SSS) in South Korea has participants from both worlds. Dong-Hyu Kim: government finds standardisation important. There is serious funding available, which is a great incentive for all to engage in research. Firms want to hear of the trends and how other markets and countries perform.

Stefan Fertig: standardisation is strategic, but in Europe and the USA research is not open. EURAS could maybe provide a pool of experts and promote cross boundary support.

Jussi Heikkila: wants to contribute to the economics of standardisation. It is decided to send out an invite to start this WG and try to get more people from industry on board. That may not be easy. Henk recalls that in de the JIS researchers, national standardisation bodies and the EC were active. Industry was almost entirely absent.

6. Publications – some years ago there was a working group to stimulate publications. ISI recognition is important, Geerten van de Kaa, the new editor of the *International Journal of Standardization Research*, intends to stimulate publisher IGI to seek this. So journals and books are the way to go to keep the focus.
7. Community building – EURAS should keep on being community builder to bring together industry, standards bodies and academic researchers. EURAS should also stimulate other communities.

## b. EURAS Finances

### i. Preliminary Financial Report 2019

1. Paul Wiegmann reports – per decision by the Members' Assembly some years back, EURAS has decided to stop charging membership fees. The income from fees roughly equals the cost of the administration. The only source of income therefore is the conference with the philosophy that it should break even. In 2019 EURAS failed, with a substantial 'profit' as a result. The reason for this surplus is that EURAS has to set the fees at a time when sponsoring and participation is not really clear. That leads to a healthy bank account. As a rule, EURAS needs a financial reserve to be able to cancel a conference and still be able to organise the conference the year after. The current reserve must be seen in the light that EURAS expects to have a deficit over 10.000 Euro in 2020 which will reduce the current balance.  
Furthermore, the issue of taxes has to be cleared. EURAS might have to pay taxes over some of the recent years, with will also reduce the reserves.

2. There are no questions on the finances.  
The financial statement is approved.

### ii. Financial outlook 2020

1. The financial outlook was provided with the agenda of the Assembly and briefly discusses under topic 7.b.1.

## 8. Status EURAS 2021 Conference

- a. The 2021 EURAS Conference was discussed under topic 7.a.2.

## 9. Other EURAS activities: reports of ongoing initiatives, new proposals

- a. The SIIT papers of this year's cancelled conference are available. Quite a few authors decided not to publish because of other plans with their paper. The publication can be ordered by mail from Kai Jakobs (kai.jakobs@cs.rwth-aachen.de).

## 10. Miscellaneous

- a. Andrea Fried: How will the succession of Henk be organised? The expectations are high given the success of Henk's work.
  - i. Henk de Vries points out that also a successor for Kai will become necessary in a few years, because of Kai's oncoming retirement. Paul Wiegmann and Ivana Mijatović will support Kai

with the organisation in the next years to the transition will be smooth.

- ii. If all runs smooth, the job of a president requires limited time. But the higher the ambitions, the more work is involved. Work that can seldom be done in an academic day. Henk had a lot of meetings in Brussels, which was relatively easy because of the limited travel distance from Rotterdam. The question is whether all his activities need to be continued in the future. Henk was very active and represented EURAS in platforms at the European level. But these activities are an extension of the minimum activity for EURAS: organising the annual conference. This is mainly done by the local organisers and Kai Jakobs. Extra activities require more effort. It is certainly an option to share tasks amongst board members or volunteers. Of course, then the coordination task remains and increases. Members are asked to put forward names of suitable candidates for the EURAS Presidency. Members are also invited to express their own interest in the presidency.
- b. Timo Ali-Vehmas – standardisation creates value for industry. But the heyday of standardisation is long past. The current research is not actively future oriented and nowhere near the old success. The question is do we present standardisation. There is a lot of work available in the future in the data society. Henk remembers a conference 15 years ago, mainly on mobile telecom: indeed, the heyday. Henk reminds that researchers often (must) look back to find evidence to project to the future. But there is also research focused on the current situation and the future.

## 11. Closure

- a. Instead of closure drinks as would be a much more enjoyable setting in a conference, Henk suggests members enjoy their closure drink at home, which of course is not really a substitute. Henk thanks all participants for joining the 2020 Members' Assembly, their contribution to the discussion and closes the assembly.