



EGU Extraordinary Council 21.05.2024 – summary of minutes

Chair: The Vice-President of the EGU

Time: 13:00 – 15:53 CEST
Potsdam and online

Agenda:

1. Welcome

The Vice-President welcomed the participants to the meeting and read out the legal statement as to why the Vice-President will be chairing the meeting.

"The President generally presides over the meetings of the Council. However, if the President is unable to attend (i.e., is unavailable) for whatever reason, she shall be deputised by the Vice-President. A case of unavailability occurs not only if the President is physically absent, but also if she is present but prevented from exercising her duties for legal reasons (legal unavailability). This is the case, inter alia, if it can be assumed that she is not able to perform her duties neutrally due to the risk of bias or a conflict of interest. As the main purpose of this meeting is to discuss and pass a resolution on the dismissal of the President, the President is prevented from chairing the meeting for legal reasons, meaning that the Vice-President must preside over the meeting."

2. Check on the presence of quorum

31 members were present, including 23 voting members, so quorum for a Council meeting was met. EGU legal representatives were invited to attend the meeting.

Vote to allow legal representatives to attend the meeting.

e-vote – 21 votes: 20 yes, 1 abstain

3. Approval of the Agenda:

1. Welcome

2. Check on the presence of quorum

3. Approval of the agenda

4. Approval of Minutes of the April Council meetings

5. Dismissal of the President as member of the Executive board with just cause - allegations.

6. Dismissal of the President as member of the Executive board with just cause - vote

7. Appointment of a new Vice-President

8. AOB

Vote on the agenda

e-vote – 22 votes: 21 yes, 1 no

Agenda was approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the April Council meeting

Because numerous changes to the original minutes were suggested at a very late stage, it was proposed we will leave the approval until the next Council meeting in October. This proposal was accepted and the meeting will proceed without approval of the previous minutes.

5. Dismissal of the President as member of the Executive board with just cause – allegations

The Vice-President outlined the procedure: he will present the allegations, after which there will be an equal amount of time allotted for the President to respond, followed by discussion in Council.

Legally, **just cause** has to be established in order to dismiss the president. Council has lost confidence in the president and feels that just cause is established based on the following points:

- Lack of cooperation and ability to work with the Executive and the Council, leading to dysfunction
- Breaches of confidentiality - 3 cases
- Threatening and defamatory messages from the President to other EGU officers and staff

The President responded to the allegations and all council members were given the opportunity to express their opinions, after which Council proceeded to vote.

6. Dismissal of the President as member of the Executive board with just cause – vote

e-vote – 23 votes: 20 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain

At 14:43 CEST, the President was dismissed and the Vice-President took on the role of President. Upon dismissal as a member of the Executive Board, all other leadership roles within the Union conveyed by membership of the Executive Board (e.g., membership of the Council and Union President role) shall cease at the same time.

7. Appointment of a new Vice-President

As the Vice-President took on the role of President, a new Vice-President needed to be appointed until the election and installation of the next Vice-President (President-elect).



The Executive proposed Marian Holness to Council. After a short discussion (with Marian temporarily leaving the session, as is standard practice with votes in Council concerning a sitting member) a vote was taken.

e-vote – 20 votes: 19 yes, 1 abstain

Marian Holness is appointed as Vice-President from now until the General Assembly 2026.

8. AOB

The new President thanked the Council for the way they have responded to this difficult situation.