



# The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International

## European Forum Committee

### European Forum Committee Meeting

**Date:** May 25, 2024

**Place:** Helga's house in Vestnes

**Present:** Marie-Antoinette Hubers de Wolf (Regional Director Europe), Marika Heimbach (chair) GER, Carola van Zanen van Rijn (finances) NED, Pia Nyman (minute-taker) FIN, Reeli Tänävsuu EST, Evelyn Goodsell GB, Helga Skeidsvoll SWE, Muriel Marsh NOR

**Absent:** Anita Jonsdottir (ICE)

### Minutes

1. Meeting was called to order by Chair at 10.35.
2. Minutes of the meeting on April 11, 2024 were approved.

### **3. Survey EU**

148 members out of 750 European members answered.

Some of the topics that were highlighted: well-being of teachers, violence in schools, impact of immigrant students, mobile phones and digitalisation. Helga said it is vital to also talk about the political decisions behind the lack of teachers (respect & status, low salaries etc). DKG should be the leading light towards getting more resources. There should be more lobbying of our representatives. Marika suggested that we write a letter together here and now to be sent on. Carola suggested we share our good practices in our respective countries, so we can refer to them when contacting the politicians. Writing to the Minister of Education is an effective way.

We looked at the results of the survey, and there was a lengthy discussion.

Marika will write about the results of the survey for the convention booklet.

After further discussion it was decided to ask the next EFC to put this issue on their agenda.

#### **4. Forum Meeting in National Harbour, Maryland on Fri 12 July at 4 pm**

There will be a proposition about an amendment to the Guidelines and Policies/Procedures (GAPP) about the reimbursement of the travelling costs of the EFC chair to travel to the international conventions. Once passed, it will go to GAPP.

We talked about the role of the booklet for the convention. The agenda and all of the information will be on the international website. Muriel suggested we have an e-booklet, having all of the important information in one place. It was decided that there will be a paper booklet, and Marika will prepare it. It will include: highlighted guidelines (finances), photos of EFC members (group photo/individual photos), photos of artists and their work, educational presentations, connections with other international states/chapters.

At the convention, there will be a joint meeting first with the other Forums (US, Canadian, European, Latin-American). The theme: PEACE - a video will be shown at the end of the meeting. Mrs. Marion Blumenthal Lazan has been invited as speaker via Zoom, after her presentation she will stay online to answer questions etc.

As a committee we should be more committed to informing our respective countries about the work of the committee. Muriel pointed out that we should have clear communication lines, and it should be the president who gets all the information from the Headquarters (HQ) and makes sure it is dispersed to all chapter members through chapter presidents. The importance of the member of the EFC always being invited to participate in the state board meetings was emphasized again: to ensure a fluent information chain from the EFC to the states, and vice versa.

There is a possibility of the Maryland joint forum meeting being streamed. Marika will inform us about it.

## **5. EFC Finances**

Marie-Antoinette ran us through the Finances (cf. Basecamp). The committee received USD 3000 (€ 2681) from HQ. We still have € 447 in our emergency fund for emergencies, or projects with refugees etc. It was decided to inform members about the fund money. As fundraising for this EFC Fund, we can organise a raffle during European Breakfast at the convention.

The 1 €/member towards the travel costs of the Regional Director will be paid to Marie-Antoinette's account, or at the meeting by cash.

The board went through the travel costs of the individual board members, and € 300 will be reimbursed by EFC. The rest will have to be paid by the states, but have to be applied for by the member.

Marika told us that there will be a cost of \$125 (plus taxes etc.) per forum for the meeting room of the joint forum meeting at the convention. This cost has to be met by us, the EFC will reimburse Marika for it or pay for it.

## **6. EU Forum Guidelines, Rotation of Members, New chair**

We will leave the guidelines as they were agreed upon last year. The new committee will review them.

The states have different practices as to the selection of the new EFC member. We agreed that the new chair has to be a person who has served on the committee for the last biennium.

Carola will be announced as the new chair of the committee for the next biennium 2024-26 at the convention in Maryland. Muriel was asked to serve as secretary and she agreed.

Marika, Reeli, Pia, Helga, Anita and Evelyn are finishing their biennia.

New members are:

Kadri Mettis EST, Henna Perätalo FIN, Thi Finkemeyer GER, Diana Bell GB, Vilborg Asa Bjarnadottir ICE, and Anette Nyberg, SWE.

## **7. Recommendations to the next EFC**

Artist of the Month will be continued, but renamed as Artist in the Spotlight. Estonia will be next with Meeri Sild, then Sweden. Marika also volunteers, being a quilter.

Educational presentations will be continued. A new series of presentations on the different school systems will be started, perhaps along the lines of or as a continuation of the Tampere – Manitoba Zoom organised by the Zeta of Tampere (Maarit Kostamo).

## **8. European Conference on 17-20 July, 2025**

Marie-Antoinette gave us an update about the planning stage of the conference at Sussex University in Brighton.

## **9. Other business**

Marie-Antoinette has been in contact with a teacher from Poland, Joanna Skiba, and we are investigating on the chance for Poland to become a new DKG state. If enough Polish teachers are interested a viral chapter could be founded, and as Germany is nearest to Poland the members will be asked to be of support.

We will use our contacts to reach out to Polish and Latvian teachers/schools.

There is a proposition for an amendment of USD 400 (x 8 at the moment) to exceed the annual support of the EFC by US Headquarter which has been USD 3000. This would imply USD 400 for each European member state, and thus for every new member state as well.

## **10. Next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Zoom on the 20th of June at 7 pm CET. It will be a joint meeting for the old and new committee. Marie-Antoinette will send a link and Marika will send it to the in-coming member together with the agenda etc.

The meeting ended at 7 pm.