

# Annual General Meeting 2015

**Amsterdam, Netherlands 29.11.2015**

## MINUTES

### 1. Presidential Address: Welcome and Opening Remarks

Meeting started at 09:30 by Alper Coşkun, Vice President, with a video message from Sidsel Munkebo Hansen, President: *who sends her greetings as she cannot attend the AGM due to health issues and letting us know that Alper will step in for her and assume most of her responsibilities. Sidsel brought to the attention the newly started tradition of face-to-face committee meetings, which happened twice in 2015: in Brussels and in Amsterdam. Sidsel also announced that she will not run for the position as President in 2016 and finally thanking Sh-Jong for hosting the AGM 2015.*

### 2. Election of Chairperson of the Meeting

Rasmus Draklander, Sweden. No objections.

### 3. Election of the Secretaries of the Meeting (2)

Astrid Fejrø, Denmark and Camilla Mattjus, Finland. No objections.

### 4. Election of the Inspectors of the Minutes and Vote Counters (2)

Sara Kwekkebom, Netherlands and Berke Yetisgin, Turkey. No objections.

### 5. Stating the Members of IFHOHYP

Organization Name	Country
AFaMUT	Italy
Bangladesh Hard of Hearing Association	Bangladesh
Bekol	Israel
Bundesjugend	Germany
Canadian Hard of Hearing Association	Canada
Česká Unie Neslyšících (CUN)	Czech Republic
FADCY	Russia
Hard of Hearing Young People Foundation	USA
Høreforeningen (HF)	Denmark
Hørselshemmedes Landsforbunds Ungdom (HLFU)	Norway
İsitme Engelliler ve Aileleri Dernegi (IEAD)	Turkey
Jugehörig (JH)	Switzerland
Kuuloliitto Ry	Finland
Sh-Jong	Netherlands

Surdus Loquens	Poland
Svenska Hörselförbundet R.F.	Finland
Unga Hörselskadade (UH)	Sweden

Three new members were welcomed at the AGM:

Organization Name	Country
Academy of Sports and Education for Deaf of Tunisia	Tunisia
SHRUTI National Association of Hard of Hearing and Deafened Nepal	Nepal
Uganda Federation of Hard of Hearing (UFHOH)	Uganda

#### 6. Stating the Delegates and Observers in the meeting

Coskun	Alper	Turkey	IFHOHYP	Board
Saygi	Ece	Turkey	IFHOHYP	Board
Niemi	Heikki	Finland	IFHOH	Delegate
Best	Lidia	U.K.	EFHOH	Delegate
Belhouane	Mona	Tunisia	Academy of Sports and Education	Delegate
Ivanova	Irina	Russia	FADCY	Delegate
Fejro	Astrid	Denmark	Høreforeningen	Delegate
Yestigin	Berke	Turkey	IED	Delegate
Nicita	Claudio	Switzerland	Jugehörig	Delegate
Junttila	Jenna	Finland	Kuuloliitto Ry	Delegate
van Lint	Mark	Netherlands	Sh-Jong	Delegate
Lewandowska	Paulina	Poland	Surdus Loquens	Delegate
Mattjus	Camilla	Finland	Svenska Hörselförbundet	Delegate
Persson	Nimrod	Sweden	Unga Hörselskadade	Delegate
Bobeldijk	Marcel	Netherlands	IFHOH	Observer
Bong	Bryan	Netherlands	EFHOH	Observer
Babushkina	Anna	Russia	FADCY	Observer
Draklander	Rasmus	Sweden	Honorary Member	Observer
Mehrvarz	Arezu	Turkey	IED	Observer
Rohrbach	Manuel	Switzerland	Jugehörig	Observer
Kaasinen	Julia	Finland	Kuuloliitto Ry	Observer
Kauppila	Anniina	Finland	Kuuloliitto Ry	Observer
Kwekkeboom	Sara	Netherlands	Sh-Jong	Observer
Rehn	Victor	Finland	Svenska Hörselförbundet	Observer

Question from Jugehörig: Can Finland and Denmark vote despite the delegates functioning as secretaries?

Answer from the Board: Yes; approved.

#### 7. Verifying the Authority of the Meeting.

The AGM has quorum; two board members are attending. Approved.

## 8. Approval of the Agenda of the Meeting

Discussion took place:

- Claudio Nicita, Jugehörig, brings up the issue about individual membership fees, he would like us to decide a clear price.
- Alper Coşkun, Vice President, replies that a motion for the fee can be included in the next AGM.
- Rasmus Draklander, Chairman, informs the AGM that a motion has to be sent in 8 weeks prior to the AGM. He suggests that we discuss this issue on #17.
- Ece Saygi, Secretary, reminds the AGM that all documents, according to the Constitution, have to be sent out 1 month before the AGM.
- Rasmus, states that the Constitution has to be followed and recommends Switzerland writes a motion on individual membership fees for next year's AGM. He also allows a short discussion on #17.

Agenda is approved; no objections.

## 9. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM 2014.

Approved; no objections.

## 10. Presentation and Approval of the Annual Report 2014

The current Board was elected in November in 2014, so the Annual Report 2014 was based on information supplied by former President, Karina Chupina, who also checked the document. Highlighted events include: AGM, Study Session, United Nations event, EHOH board meetings, the European Platform on Deafness, Hard of Hearing, and Deafblindness, etc.

Approved; no objections.

## 11. Presentation and Approval of the Financial Report 2014

Daria Panicheva, Treasurer, presented the financial report via a letter, since she was unable to attend the AGM. No operation grant was received in 2014, and as such, IFHOHYP spent more than it received. Organized events include a meeting in Israel, AGM, and Study Session etc.

Approved; no objections.

## 12. Presentation and Approval of the Auditor's Report 2014

Announcement: Juliana Grosse who participated in 2014's Study Session did not respond to more than 3 requests from the Treasurer since March 2015 to provide account information necessary to carry out reimbursement. As such, IFHOHYP will no longer contact her to reimburse her expenses. Also, the Board will no longer call for reimbursement and will not carry them out after a period of 90 days.

Victor Rehn, the Auditor, presents and reads aloud his Auditor's Report 2014.

Approved; no objections.

### 13. Presentation and Approval of the Work Programme 2015

Ece Saygi, Secretary, presents the work that has been done in IFHOHYP during 2015 and also where IFHOHYP has been represented: EFHOH AGM in Germany, local HOH in Ireland, UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York, EFHOH board meeting and workshops organized by a Greek deaf organization etc.

Approved; no objections.

### 14. Presentation and Approval of Budget 2015

- Question from Heikki Niemi, IFHOH: does IFHOHYP have any money from the grant left?
- Alper Coşkun, Vice President, says that any remaining money from the grant will be returned back to European Commission. The fund given was to be used for 6 meetings, but unfortunately only 5 took place.
- Nimrod Persson, Unga Hörselskadade: where the expenses of 3381 euros have gone?
- Ece Saygi, Secretary, replies that Daria, Treasurer, will be contacted to explain the budget better.

Approved; no objections.

### 15. Presentation of the Annual Report 2015

- Astrid Fejrø, Høreforeningen, asked why only 5 out of 6 meetings were held.
- Alper Coşkun, Vice President, answers that it is postponed for next year as IFHOHYP wishes to make a bigger conference together with IFHOH.
- Nimrod Persson, Unga Hörselskadade, asks that if IFHOHYP has to pay back the remaining grant, will IFHOHYP get bigger grants later on to be able to make the conference to happen?
- Alper answers that money will be used for the postponed meeting and they will also apply for additional grants. Discussions with EFHOH are ongoing to consider possibility of their support in planning this conference

### 16. Presentation and Approval of the Work Programme 2016

Alper Coşkun, Vice President, presents the Work Programme for 2016.

Approved; no objections.

### 17. Presentation and Approval of the Budget 2016

Alper Coşkun, Vice President, presents the Budget for 2016.

- Incomes: IFHOHYP is expecting to receive a grant again; Membership fees and AGM fees will also be part of the incomes.
- Expenses: AGM, committee meetings, representations, summer camp, membership in other organizations, website, and administration expenses etc.
- Astrid Fejrø, Høreforeningen, and also part of the Summer Camp committee comments that she has not heard anything about IFHOHYP paying anything for Summer Camp

- Claudio Nicita, Jugehörig, complements Daria Panicheva, Treasurer, because IFHOHYP has not had such a good budget nor financial plan in previous years ☺
- Heikki Niemi, IFHOH comments on the fact that it was mentioned that IFHOHYP had plans in participating at an IFHOH Board Meeting in New Zealand in January, but it is difficult to make plans if they do not know if they have enough money as they have not received any grants yet, so he recommends that IFHOHYP decides wisely and do what is best for members.

## 18. Election of the Officers of the Board

Paulina Lewandoska, Nomination Committee, presents the nominees.  
Sara Kwekkeboom and Berke Yetisgin collect the votes.

- Secretary  
Nominee: Bowen Tang, Canada. Elected with 11 out of 11 votes.
- Treasurer  
Nominees: Daria Panicheva, Russia. Elected with 11 out of 11 vote.
- General Board Member  
Nominees:  
Mona Belhouane, Tunisia. 2 votes.  
Victor Rehn, Finland. 9 votes, elected.

## 19. Election of the Auditors for 2015 & 2016.

Jenna Junttila, Finland, is elected; no objections.

## 20. Presentation of the Committees.

- Summer Camp Committee, presented by Astrid Fejrø, Denmark  
Next Summer Camp will be held on August 6<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> at Castberggård in Denmark.  
Those who are interested should join the Facebook event called Summercamp 2016 and like the Facebook page with the same name.
- Study Session Committee, presented by Camilla Mattjus, Finland  
Next Study Session will hopefully be in November 2016.
- Communication and Information Committee, resented by Ece Saygi, Turkey and Irina Ivanova, Russia  
Ece asks for new members to join and help with web design and proofreading.
- Expansion Committee, presented by Rasmus Draklander, Sweden  
Lidia Best from EFHOH introduces the possibility of a Greek organisation joining the international HOH political scene and urges the Expansion Committee to contact them.
- Nomination Committee, presented by Paulina Lewandowska, Poland  
Paulina asks for news members to join.

## 21. Motions

- Approval of 2016-2020 Strategy Plan.
  - Alper Coskun, Vice President, presents the Strategy Plan and refers to the discussions held on Friday before the AGM. The Strategy Plan will be in effect from January 2016 until December 2020.
  - Manuel Rohrbach, Jugehörig, wishes that IFHOHYP focus more on members outside of Europe.

- Alper informs the AGM that IFHOHYP is focusing both on keeping current members, becoming strong in Europe and writing letters to countries outside of Europe in their native language. He underlines that it is currently in progress.
- Mona Belhouane, Tunisia, offers to help with translations into French and Arabic.
- Lidia urges IFHOHYP to become strong in Europe and set a strong example for countries outside of Europe, spend all the grant money, and ask for more in order to be heard and taken seriously.

The 2016-2020 Strategy Plan is approved with 10 out of 11 votes, one against from Jugehörig.

b) Biannual General Meetings

- Jenna Junttila, Kuuloliitto Ry, criticises this point because of occurring problems with the new board members whose term will end in 2017.
- Alper suggests either having an EGM with online voting or rejecting the motion so the Board can work around this problem.
- Mark van Lint, Sh-Jong, suggests re-electing the entire board in 2016, but stresses the problems if the entire board will be inexperienced.
- Lidia Best, EFHOH, suggests alternating election terms to make sure that there is stability.
- Astrid Fejrø, Høreforeningen, suggests the motion should be postponed until we have a solution for the board periods.
- Claudio Nicita, Jugehörig, stresses the problem with the age group of the board members as the age group is bound to changed lifestyle situations, i.e. jobs and families.
- The Board suggests postponing the motion.

The motion is postponed with 11/11 votes.

c) EFHOH/IFHOH Voting Rights

- IFHOH and EFHOH do not wish to influence youth organisation the way they currently have. They appreciate being present at the AGM and working together with IFHOHYP.
- IFHOH accepts and supports this motion. EFHOH also supports this motion, and IFHOHYP will keep their mandate at the AGM of EFHOH.

The motion is approved with 11/11 votes and in effect immediately.

d) Remote participation at AGM/BGM

- Ece Saygi, Secretary, presents the motion and explains that it is an attempt to make participation at the AGM easier for countries that want to join, but are too financially challenged. A Nepalese organisation wishes to join IFHOHYP but cannot afford delegates at the AGM as it is now.
- Claudio Nicita, Jugehörig, is concerned about the social element of the AGM.
- Ece explains that in order to be granted remote participation, the organisation will have to submit solid proof of their financial challenges.
- Astrid Fejrø, Høreforeningen, underlines that this is an important motion for the expansion outside of Europe.

- Manuel Rohrbach, Jugehörig, suggests organising an AGM in Asia to make participation easier for countries like Nepal.
- Ece argues that new members should see what the AGM is before they are tasked with organising it, as it is a great challenge.
- Irina Ivanova, FADCY, suggests that not every organisation should have the right to vote remotely in order to protect the social aspect of the AGM.
- Mark van Lint, Sh-Jong, is worried that other organisations will be unsatisfied with having to sponsor delegates for the AGM.
- Alper underlines that remote participation requires a strong Internet connection, cameras and for palantypists to support remote screening, so it is not an easy solution.

The motion is approved with 6 out of 9 votes, one against from Jugehörig, Sh-Jong and Tunisia.

e) “Members” definition change in Constitution

- Nimrod Persson, Unga Hörselskadade, argues that it is problematic with the definition of Honorary Member, as an Honorary Member should not have anything to do with the organisation.
- Astrid Fejrø, Høreforeningen, thinks that the expression of remarkable and long service is too hard to define, and is against not being able to exclude Honorary Members because it is a democratic problem.
- Lidia Best, EFHOH, also thinks it is problematic with Honorary Members since it is unclear whether they are supported fully by IFHOHYP or have voting rights.
- Sara Kwekkeboom, Sh-Jong, thinks the article should not be changed, but maybe we should make a new article, e.g. 7d.
- Nimrod argues that the current honorary membership is not honorary per definition as it currently includes people who are not inside the organisation anymore.

The motion is postponed with 9 out of 9 votes.

f) Nomination of Karina Chupina as an Honorary Member

Astrid Fejrø, Høreforeningen, argues that IFHOHYP should not name a new Honorary Member before the definition is clear.

The motion is postponed with 8 out of 9 votes, one against from FADCY.

## 22. Future Planning 2016-2017

a) Annual General Meetings

2016 – Washing, D.C.: June 26<sup>th</sup> 2016.

Participants are urged to inform the Board soon if they can participate.

2017 - \_\_\_\_\_

Rasmus suggests Finland as the next host as there are two Finnish organisations that can work together. The Finnish delegates will ask their organisations.

b) Summer Camps

2016 – Copenhagen, Denmark

It is not in Copenhagen, but Jutland.

2017 - \_\_\_\_\_

The Board urges every participant to ask their organisations about hosting the next Summer Camp.

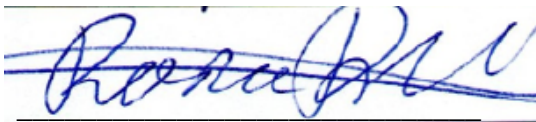
- c) Study Sessions in cooperation with the Council of Europe  
2016 – Pending approval from Council of Europe.  
Reply will be out in February. If accepted, the Study Session takes place in November.

23. Any Other Business

- Ece Saygi, Secretary, expresses gratefulness for her time in the Board and underlines that she will still be doing IFHOHYP Committee work.
- Rasmus Draklander, Chairperson, thanks SH-Jong for their work and for hosting us in Amsterdam, and thanks the palantypists for doing a great job.
- Alper, Vice-President, thanks SH-Jong, everyone who came for the AGM, EFHOH and IFHOH, and Ece for her time as Secretary. He is looking forward to next year and to electing a new President and Vice President.
- Heikki Niemi, IFHOH, thanks IFHOHYP for being invited and taking part in the youth work. As he and Lidia were the last delegates from IFHOH and EFHOH, they are very proud.
- Lidia Best, EFHOH, underlines that IFHOHYP is the future and EFHOH want to support them. She also invites everyone who's interested to EFHOH's AGM 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 in Paris.
- Ece thanks Rasmus for his duties as chairperson.

24. Closing the Annual General Meeting

The AGM is closed at 15:33.



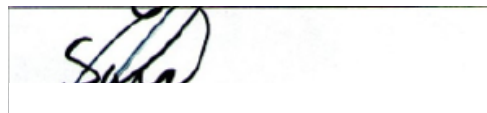
Rasmus Draklander, Sweden  
**AGM Chairman**



Astrid Fejrø, Denmark  
**AGM Secretary**



Camilla Mattjus, Finland  
**AGM Secretary**



Sara Kwekkebom, Netherlands  
**Minutes Inspector & Vote Counter**



Berke Yetisgin, Turkey  
**Minutes Inspector & Vote Counter**