

**PROCESS TIMELINE OF THE “PROPOSED STRUCTURE AND FINANCE FOR A EUROPEAN OPERATION AS PART OF HUMANIST INTERNATIONAL”
by the EHF Transition Commission**

Dear members,

Regarding the future of EHF you have received:

- a Decision Recommendation of the Board of the EHF to the GA 2021;
- Annex 1: The adopted motion by the 2020 GA on a new structure of EHF
- Annex 2: “Proposed structure and finance for a European operation as part of Humanists International”, agreed upon by representatives of the Humanists International board and the EHF Transition Commission;
- Annex 3: Recommendations for further discussion and implementation of the proposal;

“The proposal for the structure and finance of the European operation within Humanists International” is the result of a period of intensive - and at times challenging talks - between the delegation of Humanists International (HI) and the Transition Commission (TC) of EHF .

In addition, and in tandem with the CEO of HI, the TC had consultative talks with 5 of the larger and financially strong members of both EHF and HI.

It was not an easy process, but then again it is the future of the European humanist movement that is at stake here. Moreover coming to an agreement on the framework for a new structure and finance for the European work is only a first step in the process. Much needs to be discussed and made concrete before we - European members of EHF – can actually dissolve our organization with an easy heart.

Nevertheless as Transition Commission (TC) we are pleased that we unanimously can present you a proposal that we find promising for the future and that to our mind comes as close as possible to the motion adopted at the GA 7 November 2020.

In order for you to be able to assess the proposal (not all member organizations have been involved in the process and/or are represented in EHF Board) the TC would like to give you some insight in the timeline of the process that took place after the GA resulting in this positive proposal.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROCESS

Delegation of Humanists International (DHI):

Andrew Copson - president HI

Anya Overmann - President of Young Humanists International

Gary MacLlelland - CEO HI

Transition Commission (TC)

Michael Bauer – President EHF

Lone Milkaer – Vice President EHF

Kaja Bryx– Board Member EHF

Ineke de Vries - Board Member EHF

Neil Anderson – Chair European Humanist Professionals

TIMELINE OF THE PROCESS

7 November 2020

Adoption of the Motion “ A new structure for EHF” by the GA 2020

5 december 2021 EHF Board meeting

The board decides that the President Michael Bauer and the two Vice Presidents Lone Milkaer and Patrik Lindenfors will meet HI for an exploratory meeting on future coöperation.

22 January 2021

Exploratory meeting between the delegations of HI and EHF.

25 January 2021

Based on the meeting January 22 DHI sends a working document, “Heads of Terms, a written and agreed basis for any future cooperation by HI and EHF”,

7 February 2021 EHF Board meeting

The Board is surprised about the detailed “Heads of Terms” written in the name of both HI and EHF, considering the perceived exploratory nature of the meeting on 22 January. The president and the vice-presidents confirm that the “Heads of Terms” was understood by the EHF delegation as a HI proposal for discussion and not an agreed document.

A Transition Commission is established to enter the negotiations with HI.

The C-EHP will be approached to participate in the Commission considering the importance of this network for the European humanist movement.

The board would also like a participant from EHF members who are not also a member of HI, e.g. board member Kaja Bryx.

It is decided that the TC will invite the larger and financially strong EHF members to consult them on the future of EHF and to explore their willingness to invest financially in European humanism.

13 February 2021

The HI board endorses the “Head of Terms” document.

7 March 2021

EHF Board meeting decides that Kaja Bryx and Neil Anderson are added to the TC.

The Board agrees on a Mission statement for the TC and a timetable for the process towards the EHF GA 29 May 2021

7-9 March 2021

The TC sends out an invitation for a consultative meeting and a joint meeting to discuss the best route to take for EHF to:

- Humanist-Etisk Forbund (Norway),
- Humanistisch Verbond (Netherlands),
- Humanist Society Scotland, Humanists UK,
- De Mens Nu (Belgium),

- Humanistisch Verband Deutschland-Bundersverband (Germany),
- Centre d'Action Laique (Belgium)

In the invitation the TC explains that discrepancies between the “Head of Terms” document and the conditions of the GA Motion, which make it necessary to develop two scenario’s: EHF as part of HI or a continuation of an independant EHF.

11 March 2021

The TC is informed that HI has sent the invited MO’s a letter stating that HI regrets the invitation letter of the TC. HI reacts to the content of this invitation by explaining the HI position on the future of EHF.

11 March 2021

The TC receives word from the Humanists UK that they have taken the initiative to have a meeting with some of the invited MO’s before the consultative talks with the TC and HI.

14 March 2021

The TC sends an e-mail to the participants of the invited MO’s stating they regret the course of events, that they have invited HI for a meeting to discuss directly with the TC the misunderstandings arose.

16 March 2021

The TC sends an update on the course of events to the EHF Board.

19 March 2021

Meeting between HI delegation and EHF TC during which various misunderstandings are clarified. In the interest of the future of the European humanist movement and of an open and transparent negotiation process it is decided that HI will participate in the consultative talks with the larger MO’s in order to come to a joint proposal. Moreover the participating MO’s are a member of both EHF and HI.

24 March 2021

The TC informs the invited MO's on the outcome of the meeting with HI which took place in an open and constructive way and on HI's participation in the consultative talks.

14 April 2021

The TC receives the results of the meeting organized by Humanists UK with The Humanist-Etisk Forbund (Norway), De Mens Nu (Belgium), Humanist Society Scotland, Humanistische Vereinigung (Germany). The results are put down in a document called " Large European humanist MO's core requirements for future humanism in Europe". These MO's prefer one umbrella organization active in Europe.

21 April – 6 May 2021

Consultative talks take place with Humanist-Etisk Forbund (Norway), Humanistisch Verbond (Netherlands), Humanist Society Scotland, Humanists UK, De Mens Nu (Belgium), Humanistisch Verband Deutschland-Bunderversband(Germany). Centre d'Action Laïque does not react on the invitation and the proposed joint meeting did not take place.

To prepare the ground for these talks the TC has written a "Proposed structure and finance for a European section of Humanists International" based on the Board mission statement, the "Heads of Terms" and the outcomes of the various previous meetings. This document is sent to all of the participants together with core requirements of the large MO's.

30 April 2021

Based on the meetings and consultative talks HID sends a working document to the TC called " Proposed structure and finance for a European operation as part of Humanist International"

3-6 May 2021

The TC works on joint amendments to the working document which are sent to the HID on 6 May.

7 May 2021

Meeting between HID and the TC to finalize and agree on a joint proposal for the finance and structure of the European operation within HI. Large agreement and an agreed document (“the joint proposal”) achieved.

11 May 2021

The TC sends the joint proposal (of HI and the TC) to the EHF Board including an annex with items for further discussion on the proposal during the EHF GA on 29 May 2021 and the HI GA in August 2021

11 May 2021

EHF Board meeting in which it is decided to present:

- the joint proposal at the GA together with a Recommendation of the Board to adopt this proposal;
- the points for further discussion and concretization of the proposal;
- a timeline of the process that lead to this joint proposal.

NUMBER OF MEETINGS

During the period February 7 and May 9 the TC had 7 zoom meetings, 5 meetings with an MO and 2 meetings with the HI delegation.

Next to these meetings there was frequent contact among the members of the TC by telephone, e-mail and app exchange and contact with the CEO of HI/delegate HI.

14 May 2021

Transition Commission

Michael Bauer, Lone Milkaer, Kaja Bryx, Ineke de Vries, Neil Anderson