

## Annual General Meeting of the European Movement UK, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Agenda, motions, and key resources

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## I. Agenda

- A. Welcome by Lord Andrew Adonis, Chair of the European Movement UK (1pm)
- B. European Movement UK Elections 2021 (1.05pm)
  - 1. Declaration of Results
  - 2. 'The way forward for the Movement': address by newly elected Chair, with contributions by newly elected Vice-Chairs and followed by discussion
- C. Ordinary business (1.20pm)
  - 1. Minutes of the AGM on Saturday 28 November 2020: to approve; matters arising
  - 2. In Memoriam
  - 3. Presidency of the Movement
  - 4. Q&A on written reports (to be circulated in advance)
    - a) *Report from CEO: Anna Bird*
    - b) *Treasurer's report and approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021: Clare Moody*
    - c) *International report: Richard Morris*
    - d) *Branches Forum Chair report: Yvonne Wancke*
    - e) *YEM report: Julius Lajtha*
    - f) *Annual Report on Activities: Andrew Adonis*
- D. Resolutions & Motions (1.45pm)
- E. Any Other Business (previously notified)
- F. Close (2.30pm)

***Followed by a National Council meeting from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.***

## II. Motions

### A. Motion: The EM is an all-party and no-party movement

**Proposer:** John Bland

**Second:** Ian Berridge

**Summary:** [Summary submitted was identical to the motion text.]

**Motion text:** The European Movement UK reaffirms its commitment to be an all-party and no-party movement which neither promotes nor excludes any individual on grounds of their political affiliation. Nor should the European Movement UK seek to support or form an alliance against any political party or group. In order to build a mass movement and to win the next referendum, we call upon the European Movement leadership in particular to safeguard necessary political impartiality and not to support or advocate any political party or purpose which may be construed as politically partisan.

### B. Motion: Posting of the national code of conduct on the EMUK national website

**Proposer:** Nick Hopkinson

**Second:** John Bland

**Summary:** The revised European Movement UK Code of Conduct, agreed by the National Executive in July 2021 and reaffirmed in September 2021, should be posted with immediate effect on the European Movement UK national website. The only addition to the agreed Code of Conduct from the text agreed by the National Executive is a reference to the Senior Independent National Council Member (if the previous motion is passed) in the third last paragraph.

**Motion text:** The revised EMUK Code of Conduct (see below), agreed by the National Executive in July 2021 and reaffirmed in September 2021, should be posted with immediate effect on the EM national website. The only addition to the agreed code of conduct from the text agreed by the National Executive is a reference to the SINC (if the previous motion is passed) in the third last paragraph.

**Implied actions:** The National Executive would adopt the proposed Code of Conduct found in Appendix D under Section III 'Appendices', and post it on the European Movement UK's website with immediate effect.

### C. Constitutional Amendment: Bridging divides: EM European Movement UK mass membership for everyone regardless of age, health, or income.

**Proposer:** European Movement Merseyside

**Summary:** With 3.8 million low income (below 60% of median income) households in arrears and families across the UK hit by cuts in Universal Credit, EM European Movement UK should show solidarity by cutting membership fees for those on low income. EM UK should immediately introduce a low income annual membership flat fee of £5 per year to ensure no one is left behind due to age, health, or income.

**Motion text:** Recognising that after abolishing it the EM European Movement UK has reinstated the low income membership category following the previous request of EMM European Movement Merseyside; Welcoming EM UK moves to embrace a OMOV One Member, One Vote mass membership model that respects every member on an equal basis; Urging EM UK to ensure no member feels left behind or excluded from decision-making and policy-shaping; Supporting moves to make EM UK as diverse, equal and inclusive as possible by overcoming the Digital Divide plus removing any age, income and health barriers; Highlighting the continuing need for our Movement to reach out to marginalised communities and not ignore or discriminate against their needs as:

- Recent JRT Joseph Rowntree Foundation research reveals 3.8 million low income households are in arrears with household bills;
- Cuts in Universal Credit risk pushing at least 500,000 below the breadline;
- 14.5 million people in the UK face relative poverty after housing costs (22%), including about 4.3 million children (31% - or nine pupils in every class of thirty across the country);
- 1.74 million children (nearly 21% - including 1 million aged between four and eleven) receive free school meals;
- Over one million people in the UK do not have bank accounts and consequently pay a poverty premium;
- Around 1.5 million households do not have access to the internet according to Ofcom data.

Therefore we call on EM UK to show solidarity by cutting annual membership fees for those on low income and immediately introduce a low income flat membership fee of £5 per year payable by cash, cheque or postal order to ensure no one is left behind regardless of age, health, or income.

**Implied changes to the Constitution:** [This would require changes to the Constitution. The proposer did not specify the changes to the Constitution that would be required.]

***Note: this motion proposes to amend the European Movement UK Constitution, and requires a three-fourths majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting to pass (23.1).***

D. Constitutional Amendment: Preventing Conflicts of Interest at the European Movement UK national level

**Proposer:** Carol Weaver

**Seconded:** Dave Rowen

**Summary:** Conflicts of interest at the national level have undermined the ability of the EMUK to function effectively over recent months and our ability to lead and win the next referendum. To avoid future conflicts of interest, any person holding the post of Chair, Vice Chair or other officer of EMUK at national level must resign this position if they simultaneously hold the position of national Chair/Leader or Vice Chair/Deputy Leader of another political organisation.

**Motion text:** Conflicts of interest at the national level have undermined the ability of the EMUK to function effectively over recent months and our ability to lead and win the next referendum. To avoid future conflicts of interest, any person holding the post of Chair, Vice Chair or other officer of European Movement UK at national level must resign this position if they simultaneously hold the position of national Chair/Leader or Vice Chair/Deputy Leader of another political organisation. For clarity: i. 'political organisation' includes political parties as well as pro-EU/anti-Brexit campaigning groups; ii. 'officer of the European Movement UK' refers to all voting members of the National Executive; iii. this motion only affects executive positions not presidents or patrons; iv. the motion refers to the national leadership of other political organisations regardless of actual title.

**Implied changes to the Constitution:** [This would require changes to Section 8 of the Constitution. The proposer did not specify the changes to the Constitution that would be required.]

**Note:** *this motion proposes to amend the European Movement UK Constitution, and requires a three-fourths majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting to pass (23.1).*

E. Constitutional Amendment: Creating a Senior Independent National Council member (SINC)

**Proposer:** Nick Hopkinson

**Seconder:** Helen Gibbons

**Summary:** The National Council will appoint a neutral Senior Independent National Council Member charged with ensuring the Chair and National Executive follow good governance principles. They will not have any line management role. The Senior Independent National Council Member, who sits on the National Council, will ensure National Executive relationships with key actors work, and will act as an additional informal channel for major concerns of members, branches and stakeholders. That might involve, if necessary, chairing at their discretion part of a meeting, or sub-committee, of the National Council at which the Chair (and possibly National Executive members) are not present.

The Senior Independent National Council Member will present a report to the Annual General Meeting and *ad hoc* to the Senior Independent National Council Member. The Senior Independent National Council Member role will be included in the European Movement UK Constitution as outlined above, and their contact details will be posted on the national website.

**Motion text:** There has been a longstanding need to ensure proper scrutiny of the actions of the Chair and of the National Executive (NE). In order to do so the post of independent chair of National Council (NC) meetings was created, but this post itself was seen as problematic. The need to ensure proper accountability and transparency of the NE to optimise the EM's functioning remains. In line with widely accepted current best practice in the corporate and other sectors (reference: Senior Independent Directors - Prism Cosec <https://prismcosec.com> › media › prism-briefing-s...), the creation of a neutral Senior Independent National Council member (SINC) would allow any major disagreements within the movement to be handled confidentially and impartially. Such a post could help improve the working and success of the EMUK, the effectiveness and impact of the NE itself, minimise any internal tensions, and reduce the risk of those tensions spilling over into the public domain which might discredit the EMUK. The SINC will be appointed by the NC at the beginning of its two year term, and be charged with ensuring the Chair of the Movement and the NE follow good governance principles: it is participatory, consensus oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive, and follows the rule of law. Good governance is responsive to the present and future needs of the organisation, exercises prudence in policy-setting and decision-making, and that the best interests of all stakeholders are taken into account (Source: Governance Pro© ). The SINC, who will sit on the NC, will not have any line management role. S/he will ensure the NE's relationships with key actors work, and will act as an additional informal neutral channel for the major concerns of members, branches and stakeholders. That might involve, if necessary, chairing at his/her discretion part of a meeting, or a sub-committee, of the NC at which the chair of the EMUK (and possibly the NE) are not present to discuss any matters of concern. The SINC will present a report to the Annual General Meeting, and *ad hoc* to the National Council. The SINC role will be included in the EMUK Constitution as outlined above, and his/her contact details will be posted on the EMUK national website.

**Implied changes to the Constitution:** [Changes to Section 7 of the Constitution would be required to give effect to this motion. The proposer did not specify the changes to the Constitution that would be required.]

**Note:** *this motion proposes to amend the European Movement UK Constitution, and requires a three-fourths majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting to pass (23.1).*

## F. Constitutional Amendment: Implementing the Branches Affiliates and Regional Networks ('BARNS') report recommendations without delay

**Proposer:** European Movement Oxford Region

**Summary:** The European Movement UK Annual General Meeting in 2020 mandated the Branches Forum Chair to convene a panel and conduct a review of branches and affiliates for the purpose of strengthening European Movement UK's local and regional governance and delivery. The opinions of the Chairs of 91 local groups (almost 100% of active branches and affiliates) were listened to at length and depth over a period of months and the Branches Affiliates and Regional Networks ('BARNS') report was produced. The report *inter alia* recommended the scrapping of regional representatives on the National Council, greater representation of branches and affiliates on the National Council, and the creation of regional hub branches. A clear majority of both branches and affiliates agreed with the 'BARNS' conclusions yet the Chair and Vice-Chair have blocked them. In order to demonstrate that European Movement UK is a rules-based, democratic organisation, the BARNS recommendations need to be implemented without delay.

**Motion text:** The European Movement UK Annual General Meeting in 2020 mandated the Branches Forum Chair to convene a panel and conduct a review of branches and affiliates for the purpose of strengthening European Movement UK's local and regional governance and delivery. The opinions of the Chairs of 91 local groups (almost 100% of active branches and affiliates) were listened to at length and depth over a period of months and the Branches Affiliates and Regional Networks ('BARNS') report was produced. The report *inter alia* recommended the scrapping of regional representatives on the National Council, greater representation of branches and affiliates on the National Council, and the creation of regional hub branches. Of the 70% of all groups (whether active or inactive) responding, 72% of branches and affiliates agreed with the further 'BARNS' recommendation that there be a small distinction between branches and affiliates. Many affiliates wanted a looser relationship with the European Movement UK and did not wish to be forced to be considered European Movement UK branches. Yet contrary to the evidence, the Chair and Vice Chair rejected the wishes of the vast majority of local groups responding. In order to demonstrate that European Movement UK is a rules-based, democratic organisation and has the strongest possible grassroots base, the timely and purposeful 'BARNS' recommendations need to be implemented in full without delay.

**Implied changes to the Constitution:** [This motion would require numerous amendments to various sections of the Constitution. The proposer did not specify the changes to the Constitution that would be required.]

**Note:** *this motion proposes to amend the European Movement UK Constitution, and requires a three-fourths majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting to pass (23.1).*

## III. Appendices



## A. Current Constitution of the European Movement UK

The current Constitution of the European Movement UK [can be accessed by clicking here.](#)

## B. Proposed Code of Conduct (see Motion B)

The national website introduces the European Movement (Movement) as: “an independent, cross-party organisation committed to the closest possible relationship with the EU, including rejoining it step by step. We draw our strength from our members, supporters and volunteers”.

This applies as much to the internal working of our Movement as to our relationship with entities and individuals from outside our Movement. As a grassroots organisation it is vital we create an environment where members, supporters and volunteers feel comfortable and welcome to campaign on a topic we are all passionate about, i.e. the UK and its relationship with the EU.

As a member, supporter or volunteer you have the right to be treated fairly, equally, and within the bounds of the rules. You also have the responsibility to behave in a way that does not negatively impact other members, staff, volunteers, people who interact with the Movement in a professional capacity, or the Movement’s reputation.

We encourage robust and passionate debate on the EU both internally as with external partners and the general public. We also expect our members to behave lawfully and honestly, to be sensitive to other people’s feelings and respect their right to have and express different views to their own.

Our responsibilities as Movement members apply not only to our personal conduct but also to all communications, including electronic such as e-mail and all social media and all forms of media. It also applies to telephone and video calls, such as Zoom, where privacy and defamation considerations can arise. Video proceedings should not be reproduced and this will be stated beforehand.

Here is a checklist of questions you should ask yourself as you act internally or externally:

- Could what I am intending to do or say or write (in any format) be taken as intimidation, harassment or bullying?
- Am I acting in the Movement’s best interests?
- Am I declaring all my relevant interests if asked to make such a declaration?\*
- Is what I am doing compliant with electoral law?
- Is what I’m doing compliant with data protection law and the Movement’s data usage rules?
- Are my actions sensitive to diversity, i.e., gender, ethnic background and sexual identity?
- Is what I’m doing in line with our constitution and rules?

If you are unsure about any of these then take advice before acting. Your local branch officers and European Movement HQ staff are there to help and interpret. They can act as sounding boards for any action. They are there to support you and offer appropriate sources of expertise. Upon



preliminary soundings, any formal complaint can be lodged with the National Secretary and the Senior Independent National Council member (SINC).

We do need to make it clear that behaviour which is unlawful, dishonest, deceitful, violent, or threatening will constitute bringing the Movement into disrepute, will constitute grounds for disciplinary action under the Constitution of the European Movement. We should also remind you that the Movement reserves the right to refer any breach of this code of conduct which breaks the criminal law to the police rather than/as well as dealing with it under this code of conduct.

Our hope is that we never have to do this. With your support we can challenge others who seem to be acting against the spirit of this code and support those who are role models. In this way we can ensure that we encourage the best in ourselves to thrive and grow.

Members of the National Executive and National Council shall be required to submit a list of officer roles held in political parties, other pro-European organisations and any major (potential) suppliers to the national Secretary. Gaps in the interests register will be referred to before each meeting.

#### C. Minutes of Annual General Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Minutes of last year's AGM [can be read by clicking here.](#)

#### D. Minutes of the Special General Meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Minutes of the Special General Meeting in September 2021 [can be read by clicking here.](#)

## IV. How the meeting will work

### A. Joining the meeting

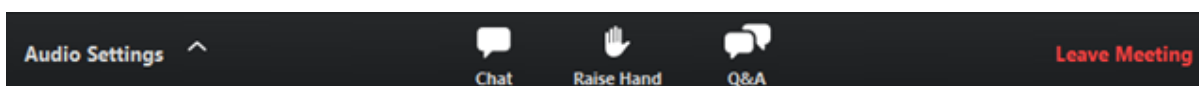
To join the meeting you will need to click the unique link that will be e-mailed to you by Zoom on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This link will only work on one device at a time, so don't share it with anybody else otherwise you may not be able to join the meeting.

The meeting will begin at 13:00, but you will be able to log on to zoom and enter the waiting room from 12:45.

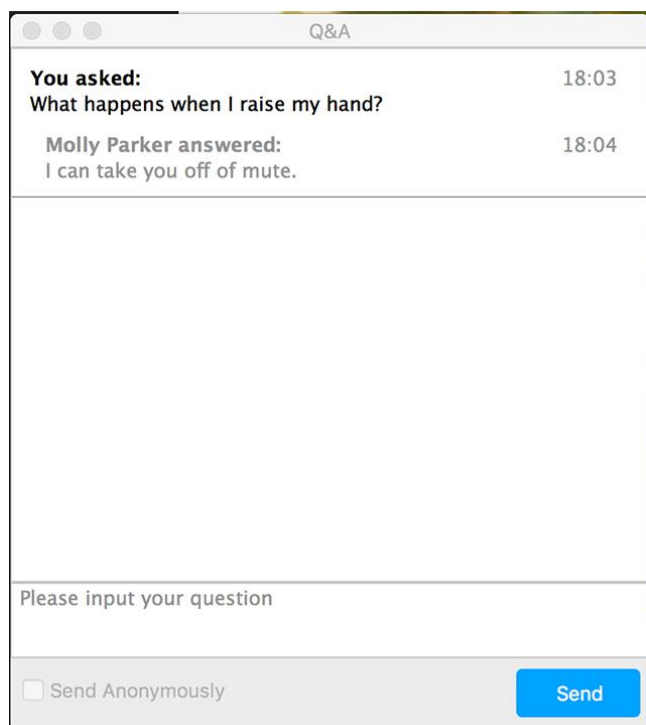
### B. Asking a question

Due to the large number of people that are expected to attend the meeting you will not be visible on screen when you join, and you will not be able to speak unless you are unmuted by an organiser.

If you would like to ask a question during the meeting please use the Q&A feature, which can be found by moving your mouse to the bottom of your screen (see below).



A box will appear where you can enter your question. It will look like the photo below.



Some questions will be answered within the Q&A tab, and we will also invite some members to join us on camera to ask their question in person.

Should you be chosen to ask your question in person then a message will appear on your screen inviting you to share your audio and video. Click on “approve” and you will appear on screen after a couple of seconds.

### C. Voting during the meeting

During the meeting you will be given an opportunity to vote on various motions that have been proposed by members, and on the amendments that are proposed to the European Movement Constitution.

The voting will take place using Zoom’s pooling feature.

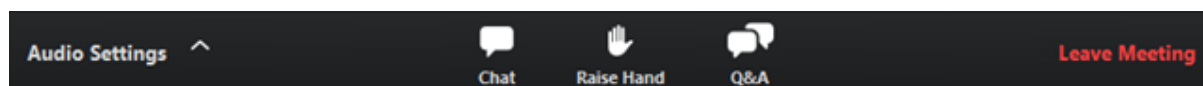
A message will appear on screen asking you to select whether you approve or reject the specific motion or amendment being voted on. Simply select your preferred response, and click the “submit” button to register your vote.

We will hold a practice poll at the start of the meeting so that everybody is familiar with the process.

#### D. If you have any problems

In advance of the meeting, should you have any problems or questions then you can e-mail [events@europeanmovement.co.uk](mailto:events@europeanmovement.co.uk) and we will be happy to help.

During the meeting you should use the chat function, which can be found next to the Q&A function at the bottom of your screen, to send a message to one of the hosts of the meeting.



We will demonstrate the chat, Q&A, and polling features at the start of the meeting to make sure that everybody is familiar with the system.