



Special General Meeting of the European Movement UK, 11th September 2021

Agenda, motions, and key resources

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I. Agenda

- A. Consideration of the draft constitution and proposed motions and amendments
- B. Update on the work of the European Movement

II. Motions

A. A revised constitution for the European Movement

Proposer: the National Executive.

Motion text: It is proposed to revise the constitution of the European Movement UK. The proposed revised constitution [can be found by clicking here.](#)

1. Amendment 1: Chairing of Meetings of the National Council

Proposer: Richard Morris

Secunder: Dominic Grieve

Summary: My proposed amendment ensures that meetings of the National Council are normally chaired by the Chair of the Movement.

Irrespective of personalities, the current provision for a separate Chair of National Council meetings divides authority, is liable to provoke disunity and undermines the leadership rôle of the Chair of the Movement. It is also unnecessary, since the Chair of the Movement is in any event fully accountable to the National Council, as well as to the National Executive and the Members.

Following a wide-ranging and rigorous search, amongst many distinguished candidates, by an experienced selection committee, the Chair of the Movement was elected by the National Council itself. The core criterion for selection and election was leadership skills. It is both incongruous and damaging to the European Movement if our leader does not chair its principal policy-making body.

Motion text: To amend Clause 7.11 of the proposed new Constitution so it reads:- "Meetings of the National Council will be chaired by the Chair of the Movement. If the Chair of the Movement is not available then a member of the National Council will be elected to chair the meeting. The Chair (or substitute Chair) of any National Council meeting shall have a deliberative and a casting vote."

To make consequential amendments to Clause 7.12 so as to give effect to this amended Clause 7.11.

2. Amendment 2: Amendments to Articles 9 and 11: Branches and Affiliates

Proposer: David Rowen

Secunder: Nick Hopkinson

Summary: There have always been both branches and affiliates. Of 91 groups interviewed during Phase 1 of BARNs 49 claimed to be affiliates and 42 claimed to be branches. For the BARNs Phase 2 Branch/Affiliate Proposal, 52 were in favour and 21 against. Those against did not deny the existence of both types of group but were not in favour of the proposed criteria for distinction. Consequently the National Executive chose to shelve the proposal pending a later review of the specific details of the respective draft MOUs. While branches see themselves as an integral part of the EM's structure, there is a long-standing preference of affiliates to be associated with the EM while retaining a degree of independence.

Motion text: In section '9. The Branches Forum', all references to the 'Branches Forum' shall be amended to say 'the Branches and Affiliates Forum'. The wording 'each affiliated branch' shall be removed and replaced with 'each branch and affiliate'. References to 'chair of a branch' shall be amended to say 'chair of a branch or affiliate'.

Remove section '11. Branches', and insert new section '11. Branches and Affiliates':

"11. Branches and Affiliates

11.1. There may be local groups of the European Movement which shall either be branches or affiliates (whether or not incorporated) as shall have been recognised as branches or affiliates by the Movement according to the following procedure 11.2.

11.2. To remain eligible for recognition, branches and affiliates shall sign a respective Memorandum of Understanding with the National Council. The articles of these memoranda may be subject to amendment at any time with the approval of the National Council and without further recourse to the constitution.

11.3. The recognition and withdrawal of recognition of a branch or an affiliate shall be by decision of the National Council in consultation with the Chair of the Branches and Affiliates forum

11.4. Local groups wishing to become either a branch or an affiliate shall inform the Chair of the Branches and Affiliates Forum and shall furnish such information as may be required to demonstrate the matters referred to in the respective Memorandum of Understanding. The Chair

of the Branches and Affiliates Forum shall make a recommendation to the next meeting of the National Council concerning the application.

11.5. The branch or affiliate shall notify to the Chair of the Branches and Affiliates Forum any change in its status, activities and/or constitution and shall, when required to do so, furnish to the chair such information as the chair may reasonably require to demonstrate continued eligibility as a branch or an affiliate of the Movement.”

3. Amendment 3: Amendment to 9.3: ex officio functions of Branches Forum Chair

Proposer: Richard Jones

Seconder: Jill Hanna

Summary: A non-substantive amendment, reflecting 7.3e and 8.2f, which list the Chair of the Branches Forum as a voting member of respectively the National Council and the National Executive. But the last sentence of 9.3 says only that "The Chair of the Branches Forum shall, for so long as they hold that office, be a member of the National Executive."

Motion text: In section 9.3, remove:

“The Chair of the Branches Forum shall, for so long as they hold that office, be a member of the National Executive.”

And insert new:

“The Chair of the Branches Forum shall, for so long as they hold that office, be a member of the National Council and the National Executive.”

4. Amendment 4: Amendment to 9.2: correction of title Chairman to Chair

Proposer: Richard Jones

Seconder: Jill Hanna

Summary: The draft revised Constitution has replaced Chairman with Chair throughout except in the first sentence of 9.2.

Motion text: In section 9.2, remove “Chairman” and insert “Chair”.

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 revised Constitution of the European Movement UK

The proposed revised Constitution, referenced in Motion A ('A revised constitution for the European Movement') [can be accessed by clicking here.](#)

C. Explanatory note on proposed changes to the Constitution

Many of the changes are to ensure that the document is gender neutral (e.g. changing chairman to "chair", "he" to "they" etc) in line with our diversity policy. Diversity has also been added as a principal objective at the beginning. Further changes are to layout and language without changing meaning.

The changes which are proposed by the National Executive for the SGM give effect to the National Council's wishes to:

1. Expand the National Council to make governance more inclusive of the membership as a whole
2. Include realistic representation from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales
3. Enable the National Council to embrace greater diversity and highlight EM's commitment to diversity in our objectives
4. Ensure that the Chair of EM and the two Vice-Chairs are elected by the membership as a whole and that they and the Treasurer and Secretary nominees have a degree of support from within the National Council
5. Clarify any ambiguities as to elections (including moving from postal ballot to electronic voting)
6. Enable meetings to be hybrid ie a mixture of physical and virtual participation so as to ensure that members are not excluding through geographical or financial difficulty in attending meetings in person
7. Safeguard against entryism by requiring membership voters to have been members for at least one month prior to the meeting at which the elections take place
8. Clarify the beginning and end of elected terms of office.

The main amendments are in:

- a) Art.6.18 hybrid meetings,
- b) Art.7 expanded National Council, including removing the restriction that the Chair of the NC cannot be a member of the NE so as to remove that discrimination
- c) Art.8.2, [i] addition of Diversity Officer,

- d) Art.10.6 members need to be in good standing for at least one month to be eligible to stand for election, to vote at general meetings and to participate in ballots for the officers and National Council – a safeguard against last-minute entryism,
- e) Art.14 election of Chair and two Vice-Chairs by the membership as a whole and not just the National Council as well as the removal of the limit on the number of Vice-Presidents and that principal officer nominations must be supported by at least 10 members of the National Council,
- f) Art.15 increasing the representatives of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales,
- g) Art 16 electronic voting
- h) Art. 21 a technical amendment to ensure that the membership has the same meaning in both our Constitution and the Memorandum & Articles of the company
- i) and, at the end as annexes, the various codes etc.

Keith Best
Secretary, European Movement UK
09/08/2021

IV. How the meeting will work

A. Joining the meeting

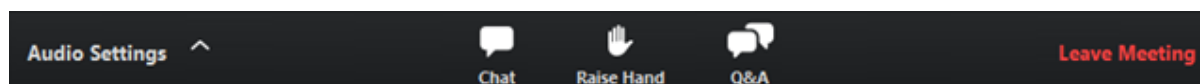
To join the meeting you will need to click the unique link that will be e-mailed to you by Zoom on Wednesday 08 September. This link will only work on one device at a time, so don't share it with anybody else otherwise you may not be able to join the meeting.

The meeting will begin at 1pm, but you will be able to log on to zoom and enter the waiting room from 12:45.

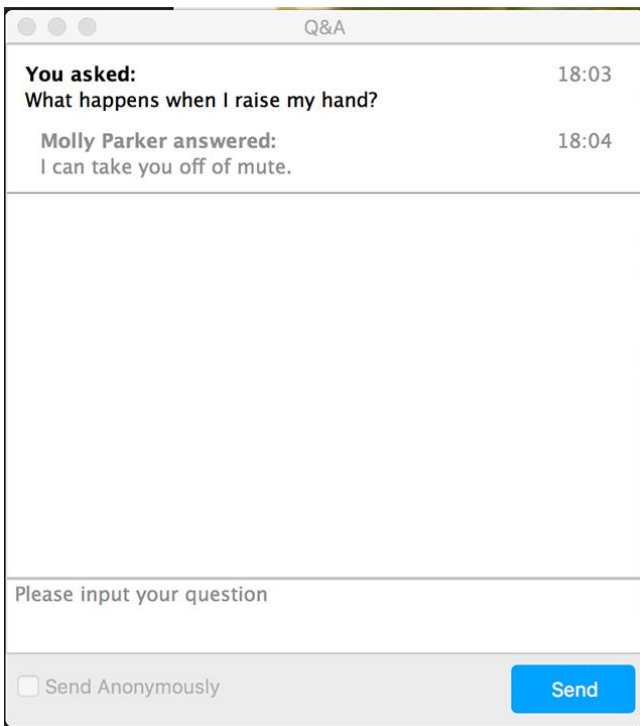
B. Asking a question

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.

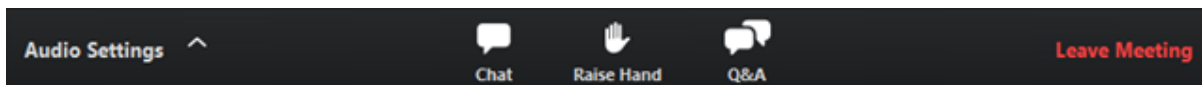
A message will appear on screen asking you to select whether you approve or reject the specific motion or amendment being voted on. Simply select your preferred response, and click the “submit” button to register your vote.

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 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.