



EAI
EUROPEAN
ASTROBIOLOGY
INSTITUTE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING – EAI

18 June 2020, Virtual Meeting (Zoom)

Participants

ESF

Emmanouil Detsis, ESF

Jonas L'Haridon, ESF

Justen Russell, ESF

Mariette Vandermersch, ESF

EAI and guests

Wolf Geppert, Chair of EAI, Stockholm University, Sweden

John Brucato, Vice Chair of EAI, INAF-Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri, Italy

Muriel Gargaud, Vice Chair of EAI, University of Bordeaux, France

Andreas Elsaesser, Free University Berlin, Germany

Antonello Provenzale, CNR, Italy

Adrienne Kish, MCAM, France

Andjelka Kovacevic, University of Belgrade Serbia

Aurélie Marchaudon, IRAP CNRS, France

Akos Kereszturi, Konkoly Observatory, Hungary

Barbara Cavalazzi, University of Bologna, Italy

Bryana Henderson, JPL – NASA, United Space

Carlos Briones, CAB, Spain

Cecilia Ceccarelli, University of Grenoble, France

David Benoit, University of Hull, United Kingdom

David Dunér, Lund University, Sweden

Dennis Höning, VU, Netherland

Doris Breuer, DLR, Germany

Emmanuelle Javaux, University of Liège, Belgium

Erik Persson, Lund University, Sweden

Ewa Szuszkiewicz, University of Szczecón, Poland

Frances Westall, CNRS, France

Gesa Bertrang, MPIA, Germany

Giovanni Vladilo, INAF, Italy

Iaroslav Lakubivskyi, University of Tartu, Estonia

Ina Catalina Plesa, DLR, Germany

Jean-Pierre de Vera, DLR, Germany

João da Silva Madruga, IITAA - University of Azores, Portugal

Joël Groeneveld, FNRS, Belgium

Jose Antonio Rodriguez-Manfredi, CAB, Spain

Jose A. Caballero, CAB – CSIC, Spain

Josep M. Trigo, UAB – CSIC, Spain

Julie Novaková, Charles University, Czech Republic

Karen Olsson-Francis, Open University, United Kingdom

Katarzyna Walczewska-Szewc, Nicolaus Copernicus Torun University, Poland

Keyron Hickman-Lewis, CNRS, France

Kirsi Lehto, University of Turku, Finland

Kristina Beblo-Vranesevic, DLR, Germany

Lena Noack, Free university Berlin, Germany

Mickael Baqué, DLR, Germany

Nigel Mason, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Paul Wesselius, University of Groningen - RUG, Netherlands

Petra Rettberg, DLR, Germany

Solmaz Adeli, DLR, Germany

Riho Mõtsep, University of Tartu, Estonia

Ruth-Sophie Taubner, University of Vienna, Austria

Thomas Henning, MPIA, Germany

Véronique Vuitton, CNRS – University of Grenoble, France

Viatcheslav Kokoouline, UCF, United States

Victor Parro, CAB, Spain



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING – EAI

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Vinciane Debaille, University of Liège,
Belgium

William Irvine, University of Massachusetts at
Amherst, United States

Yiannis Tsamis, Open University, United
Kingdom

Zita Martins, Instituto Superior Técnico (IST),
Portugal

A total of 55 persons participated to the General Assembly.

Opening of the Meeting

Wolf Geppert opened the meeting thanking every participant for their presence.

The meeting agenda was adopted by the participants.

Election of Assembly Meeting President: Wolf Geppert was elected

Election of Meeting Secretary: Emmanouil Detsis was elected

Election of Vote Counters: Emmanouil Detsis and Mariette Vandermersch were elected.

The voting platform (through Zoom) is working as intended for the most part although a few participants were not able to vote directly on the platform. It has been decided that the voters who couldn't vote on the platform will send their vote to Emmanouil Detsis by email.

Wolf Geppert announced the list of Voters:

- FNRS, Belgium – Joël Groeneveld
- ULB - Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium – Vinciane Debaille
- Liège University, Belgium – Emmanuelle Javaux
- Charles University, Czech Republic – Julie Novaková
- University of Tartu, Estonia – Riho Motlep
- Turku University, Finland – Kirsi Lehto
- CNES, France – not represented
- CNRS, France – Véronique Vuitton, Aurélie Marchaudon
- University of Bordeaux, France – Muriel Gargaud
- UPEC - University of Paris-Créteil, France – not represented
- University of Paris Sorbonne, France - Anne le Seach
- DLR - German Aerospace Center, Germany – Petra Rettberg and Jean-Pierre de Vera
- Free University Berlin, Germany – Lena Noack, left 17:09, Andreas Elsässer for the last vote
- MPAI - Max Planck Institut für Astronomie, Germany – Thomas Henning for the first vote, Gesa Bertang for the rest
- Konkoly University, Hungary – Akos Kereszturi
- INAF - Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica, Italy – John Brucato, Giovanni Vladilo
- University of Tuscia, Italy – Silvano Onofri
- IGG-CNR - Istituto di Geoscienze e Georisorse, Italy – Antonello Provenzalle
- University of Szczecin, Poland - Ewa Szuszkiewicz
- NCU - Nicolaus Copernicus University Torun, Poland – Katarzyna Valtzescawca
- IITAA - Instituto de Investigação e Tecnologias Agrárias e do Ambiente, Fundação Gaspar Frutuoso, University of the Azores, Portugal – João da Silva Madruga

- CAB - Centro de Astrobiologia, Spain – Victor Parro and Carlos Briones
- Stockholm University Astrobiology Centre, Sweden – Wolf Geppert
- Lund University, Sweden – Erik Persson
- Open University, United Kingdom – Karen Olsson-Francis
- University of Kent, United Kingdom – Nigel Mason
- **Grenoble University (UGA)** – Cecilia Ceccarelli for the first vote, Veronique Vuitton for the rest.

Wolf Geppert warned the few member entities who didn't send their MoU yet that they will not be able to vote for the next General Assembly. For the current meeting, votes from members without an MoU are still included.

Josep M. Trigo, indicates that the Universitat Autònoma of Barcelona (UAB) is a potential new member for the EAI. The EAI welcomes them.

Report of Activities 2019

Wolf Geppert presented the activities for 2019. He highlighted that for the Tartu workshop, no EAI money was used.

Board of trustee Members comments on the 2019 activity report:

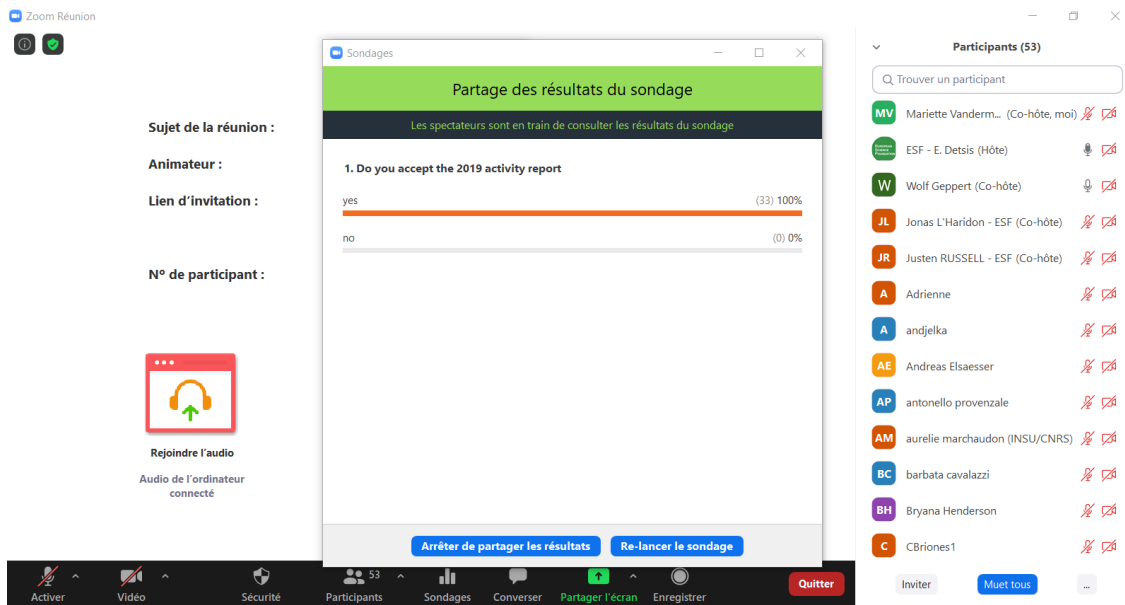
Aurelie Marchaudon transmitted the message that the EAI has had a great start and community seems very enthusiastic. She congratulated Wolf Geppert, ESF and the members of EAI for the great outcome of the first year of the institute.

Frances Westall indicated that she was impressed by the activity and numerous events organized by the EAI.

Joël Groeneveld expressed that FNRS is happy to see large participation of Belgian in the EAI.

Wolf Geppert highlighted that, although EAI cannot work under “juste retour”, it will always try to be as fair as possible. He indicated also that EAI will aim to get as much cofounding as possible, so institutes will get more out of the EAI than they put in. He mentioned that EAI and BEACON had quite a lot of Belgian presence.

The activity report was accepted by the General Assembly by 35 votes for yes (including 2 by email).



Sujet de la réunion :

Animateur :

Lien d'invitation :

N° de participant :

Rejoindre l'audio
Audio de l'ordinateur connecté

Partage des résultats du sondage
Les spectateurs sont en train de consulter les résultats du sondage

1. Do you accept the 2019 activity report

Response	Count	Percentage
yes	33	100%
no	0	0%

Arrêter de partager les résultats | Re-lancer le sondage

Participants (53)

- MV Mariette Vander... (Co-hôte, moi)
- ESF - E. Detsis (Hôte)
- W Wolf Geppert (Co-hôte)
- JL Jonas L'Haridon - ESF (Co-hôte)
- JR Justen RUSSELL - ESF (Co-hôte)
- A Adrienne
- A andjelka
- AE Andreas Elsaesser
- AP antonello provenzale
- AM aurelie marchaudon (INSU/CNRS)
- BC barbata cavalazzi
- BH Bryana Henderson
- C Cbriones1

Activer | Vidéo | Sécurité | Participants | Sondages | Converser | Partager l'écran | Enregistrer | Quitter

Report of the Host Organisation

Emmanouil Detsis presented ESF activities, mentioning the objective to automatize the treatment of the payments and invoices for next BEACON event.

Frances Westall congratulate the work done by ESF regarding BEACON management

Wolf Geppert confirmed the interest of having an automatic system to deal with the payments and contributions for next BEACON to avoid excessive workload for the ESF.

Akos Kereszturi asked ESF if they could help by future H2020/Horizon Europe proposal opportunities.

Emmanouil Detsis confirmed the interest of ESF on this and ESF would be happy to identify any possible interesting calls to the community.

Nigel Mason also suggested to hold webinars to prepare for big European calls, which is also an action to be explored by the Europlanet 2024 RI.

He also mentioned that there might be regional grants that can be applied, and these funds need some preparation as well.

Karen Olsson-Francis mentioned that, given the experience of ILAST, EAI needs a mechanism in place, especially for the big grants. A strategic approach, notably in identifying key participants, is mandatory if EAI wants to participate to European funding.

Frances Westall mentioned that there have been several attempts for an ITN in astrobiology without success. Cecilia Ceccarelli reminded that EAI has no non-academic company as member. One of the goals of ITNs is to expose the students to non-academic world. Nigel Mason also concurred that Horizon Europe is very industry focussed and new economy derive so industry partners are needed.

- **Urgen taction at Management Committee level: The EAI should investigate the possibility for a funding bulletin to be issued by the funding and policy working group. The mailing list for this initiative also needs to be validated. The initiative should look at big European grants but also take into consideration regional grants that might be available. A strategic approach needs to be discussed. Schemes of how to get information, how to organise to apply, either as EAI or individuals.**

Action Plan for 2021

Wolf Geppert presented the action plan for 2021.

Karen Olsson-Francis informed the participants that the astrobiology research community in India is trying to establish itself. She wondered if they should facilitate connections with them. Jose A. Caballero agreed on that point.

Frances Westall also mentioned that the Japanese Astrobiology Society will come to conference of EANA (European Astrobiology Network Association).

Board of Trustees comments:

Frances Westall commented that the actions for 2021 is quite impressive and holistic, indicating a lot of work done behind the scene. She congratulated EAI on the planned cooperation with EANA.

Aurelie Marcaudon joined Frances Westall on the comments and congratulated the EAI on the proposed action plan.

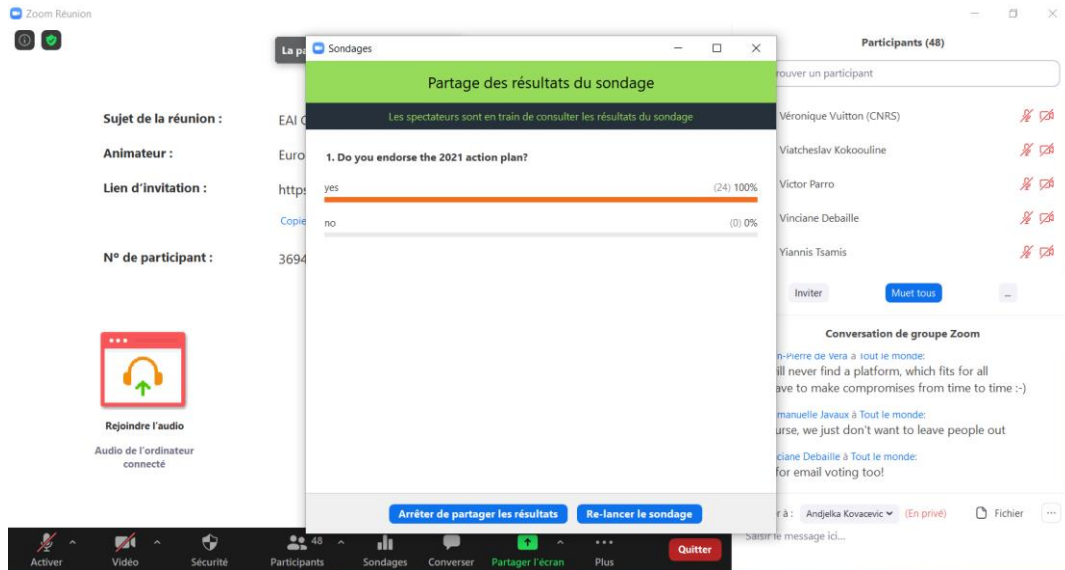
Thomas Henning had to leave the meeting and gave the vote to Gesa Bertrang.

Public discussion on action plan:

Regarding online workshops and the tools to facilitate them. Several participants brought up Zoom safety issues and the fact that organizations have banned the use of the Zoom platform. Several tools were proposed instead (WebEx, MS-Teams), but some institutions also forbid those.

- **Regarding online workshops platforms: discussion to be left for the Management Committee on the online platform to use. ESF can provide advice to the workshop organisers.**

The action plan was accepted by the General Assembly by 27 votes for yes (including 3 by email).



Budget

Wolf Geppert introduced the budget of the EAI

Ruth Taubner asked if the AbGradE event will be funded again by EAI next year for some participants.

Wolf Geppert said that EAI is generally not allowed to fund people outside the EAI institutions, with the exceptions of speakers at events and teachers at summer schools. He asked the number of participants that would need to be funded.

Ruth Taubner estimated that they would need around 5000€. This amount was included in the budget.

→ **AbGradE should prepare a budget for the EAI management committee for approval.**

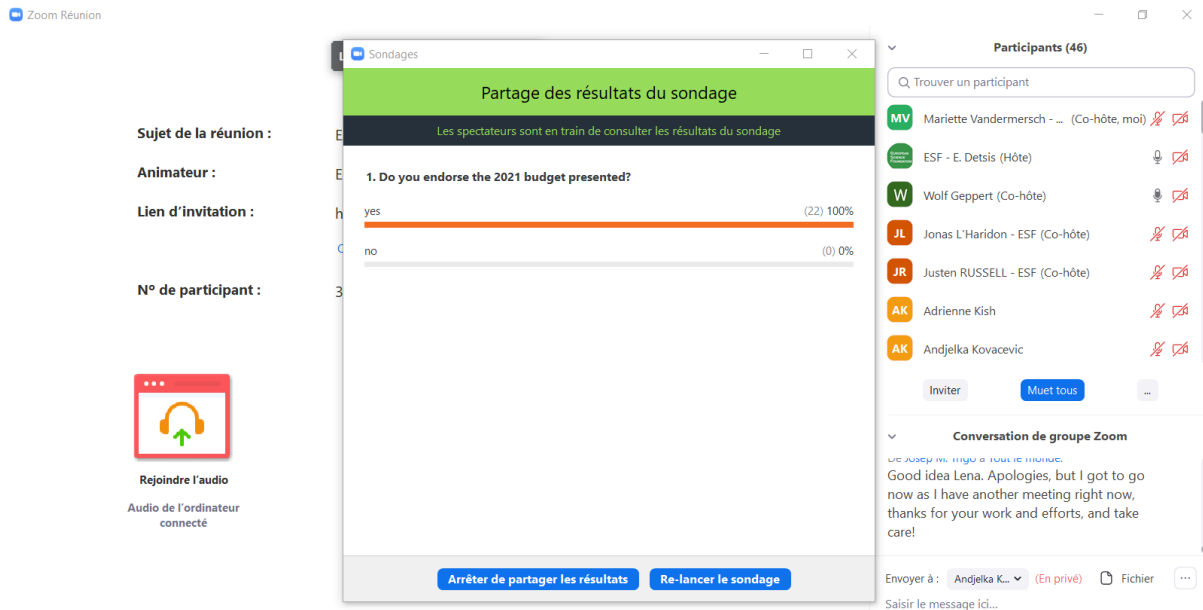
Lena Noack asked if it would be possible to have an annual call for EAI support (few k€) for training schools and workshops that are not organized by EAI

→ **It was decided that participating institutions can suggest some meetings to organise and get funding from EAI. The deadline for 2021 proposals is set to the end of the year 2020.**

The management committee will discuss and then include a budget item for 2021 for the potential funded events. The General Assembly in 2021 will have the final say on which events get funded or not. Lena Noack suggested to send a reminder to the EAI members before the end of the deadline

Frances Westall advised to use a rolling scheme or similar in order to maintain a balance between working groups, sections, projects, etc., because it will probably not be possible to fund everything at once.

The General Assembly endorsed the 2021 budget presented by 25 votes for yes (including 3 by email)



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting window with a poll titled "Partage des résultats du sondage". The poll question is "1. Do you endorse the 2021 budget presented?". The results show 22 "yes" votes (100%) and 0 "no" votes (0%). The participants list on the right shows 46 participants, including Mariette Vandermersch, ESF - E. Detsis, Wolf Geppert, Jonas L'Haridon, Justen RUSSELL, Adrienne Kish, and Andjelka Kovacevic. A chat window at the bottom right shows a message from Andjelka K. saying "Good idea Lena, Apologies, but I got to go now as I have another meeting right now, thanks for your work and efforts, and take care!".

Election of Management Committee Members

Wolf Geppert did a short presentation of himself and invited the new members to the management committee to do the same:

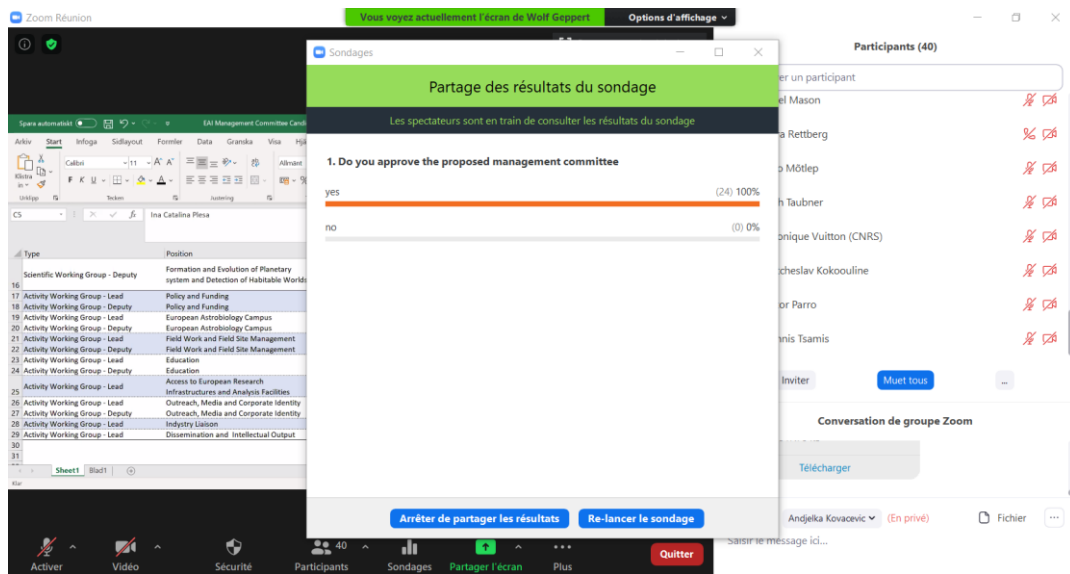
- Ina (Catalina) Plesa: Postdoc at DLR, Focus on Mars and Venus, investigating thermochemical evolution of interior and connection to atmosphere and habitability.
- Dennis Höning: post Doc at Free university Amsterdam, geophysicists, interior of earth like planets and habitability. Interest in the evolution of planets and the issues with biology.
- Jose Antonio Rodriguez Manfredi: present at the beginning of the meeting, but already left at this moment of the meeting.
- Yannis Tsamis: PhD in astrophysics in UCL, business developer manager in OU, in the astrobiology working group. Chemical properties of protoplanetary disks. MC fellowship at ESO in 2010, various roles in UKMET office.

Joël Groeneveld approved the membership candidates before leaving. He also mentioned that he votes in favour of the whole Management Committee

Wolf Geppert asked if someone wanted to stand as candidate for any position (others than the ones previously presented). None stepped forward.

Wolf Geppert asked for any objections to approving the management committee en bloc. No protest was raised.

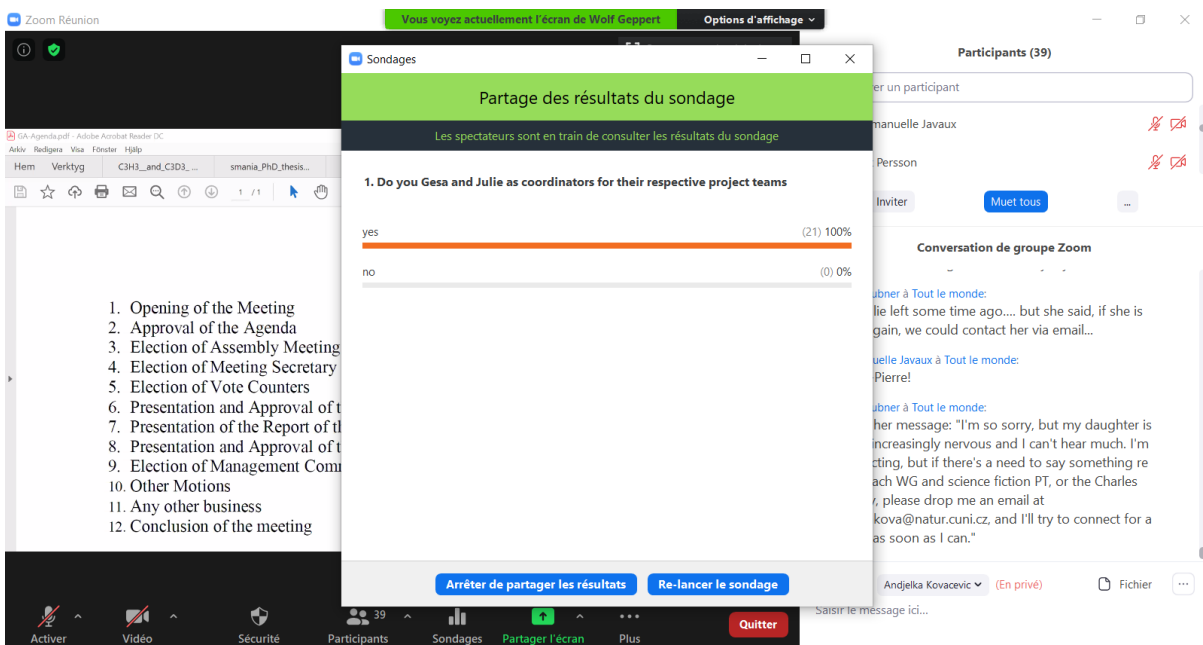
The General Assembly approved the proposed management committee by 27 votes for yes (including 2 by email and the vote of Joël Groeneveld)



Wolf Geppert exposed the candidatures for project teams, and the two candidates introduced themselves:

- Gesa Bertrang, MPI for Astronomy, Germany as a co-coordinator for the working group “Protoplanetary disks and their physical and chemical processes”, setting up the group to understand the very early steps of planet formation.
- Julie Novaková, Charles University Prague, Czech Republic as a coordinator of the working group “Science Fiction as a tool for Astrobiology outreach and Education”

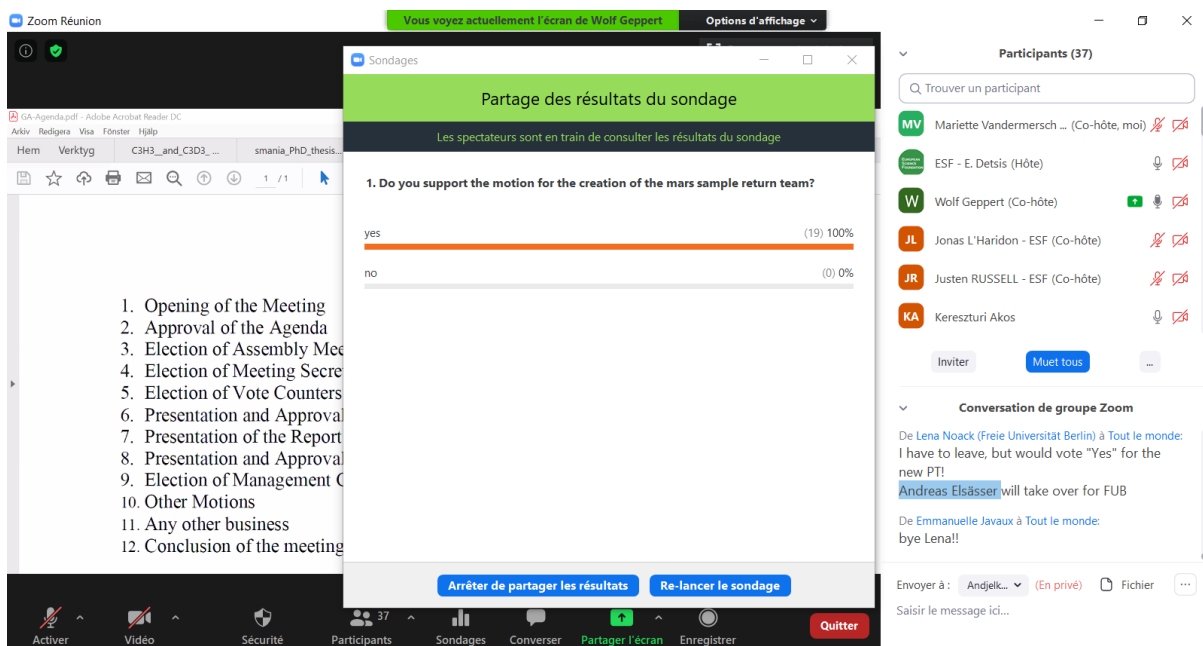
Gesa Bertrang and Julie Novakova were endorsed as coordinators for their respective project teams by 21 votes for yes.



Other Motions

The chair brought forth a motion for the Creation of the project team on Mars Sample Return. Akos Kereszturi presented to the participants that there has been a lot of interest to the topic and strong support and ideas for the project team.

The General Assembly endorsed the creation of the project team on Mars Sample Return 19 votes for yes and 2 yes via email



The screenshot displays a Zoom meeting interface. In the foreground, a poll window titled 'Partage des résultats du sondage' is active. The poll question is '1. Do you support the motion for the creation of the mars sample return team?'. The results are: 'yes' (19) 100% and 'no' (0) 0%. Below the poll, there are buttons for 'Arrêter de partager les résultats' and 'Re-lancer le sondage'. In the background, a meeting agenda is visible with the following items:

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Election of Assembly Meeting Secretary
4. Election of Meeting Secretaries
5. Election of Vote Counters
6. Presentation and Approval of the Report
7. Presentation of the Report
8. Presentation and Approval of the Report
9. Election of Management Committee
10. Other Motions
11. Any other business
12. Conclusion of the meeting

→ **The new formed project team on Mars Sample Return to nominate a coordinator for the next GA.**

Any Other Business

Emmanuelle Javaux reminded the participants on the AbSciCon for next year.

Wolf Geppert added that he hopes that BEACON will, in distant future, reach the level of attendance of AbSciCon,

John Brucat, informed the community that Italy is organising a workshop on Mars Sample Return for the Italian community in October, funded by INAF (in Italian). He encouraged Italian organisations to participate. The first meeting will be in English (one day), and a second meeting will be organised in 2021. John Brucato will inform the institute if there is room for non-Italians.

Wolf Geppert closed the meeting at 17:20.