

EUROPEAN AREA COMMITTEE

1973 ANNUAL REPORT

(January - October 1973)

I. INTRODUCTION

The first 10 months of 1973 still represented, for the European Area Committee, a time of transition as it had been agreed that the new European Area Secretary, Mr. Egon Slopianka, would take over his responsibilities in October 1973. During this interim period, Mr. Jean-François Reymond continued to serve the Committee on a part time basis.

The Secretary General of the World Alliance later on designated Mr. Reymond as the liaison person between the World Alliance and the E.A.C.

II. MEETINGS OF THE EUROPEAN AREA COMMITTEE

In 1973 the European Area Committee met twice. The first meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17/18 February and the second meeting took place in the YMCA Centre Ernst Sillem Hoeve, Netherlands on 29th October.

Minutes of these two meetings have been circulated.

III. COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE

The same officers are still in charge of the E.A.C. namely:

Chairman:	F. Albert Schwarz, Germany
Vice-Chairmen:	Robert B. Jack, Scotland
	Max Brüllmann, Switzerland
	Anders Hammar, Sweden
Treasurer:	No formal appointment has been made so far.

IV. LEGAL STATUS AND LOCATION OF THE SECRETARIAT

In order to be registered in Germany, it was necessary to form an "Association for the promotion of YMCAs in Europe". Its statutes were approved by the E.A.C. in October 1973 and its officers were appointed. For the sake of simplification they are the same as those of the European Area Committee (see above). The Constitution of this new Association was already sent out to all European YMCA Movements.

In accordance with decisions taken previously, the European Area Secretariat is now located in Kassel thanks to arrangements made with the German National Council.

V. PROGRAMME

To our greatest regret, the Study Week planned for Easter 1973 had to be cancelled as not enough registrations were received.

With regard to the Consultation on Buildings and Furnishings, which took place in England, the Geneva YMCA was the only association which had indicated some interest for this meeting but could not participate in it.

However, the E.A.C. was successful in organising a Consultation on "Challenges in Intermovement cooperation" which took place on 30/31 October 1973 in the YMCA Ernst Sillem Hoeve Centre, Netherlands. This Consultation was attended by about 15 participants representing 6 National Movements.

Preparations for the Joint YMCA/YWCA Young Adult Conference to take place in 1974 have been going on.

VI. FINANCE

At the 1973 Meeting of the E.A.C. the Committee approved a "Memorandum of Understanding" prepared by the World Alliance. This document, later on also approved by the President's Committee of the World Alliance, indicated clearly the financial situation coming out of the dissolution of Mainau.

As of 1 January 1974, the E.A.C. accounts will no longer be in the hands of the World Alliance and the E.A.C. will be directly responsible for them.

VII. ERNST SILLEM HOEVE CENTRE

At the time of the last meeting of the E.A.C. (October 1973) it had been reported that:

1. A larger project where funds would come mostly from Trade and Industry had to be abandoned on the advice of experts.
2. A more realistic approach was developed along the lines of European cooperation which would not set up a large centre but aim at a phased development based on available financial resources. This meant an extension of the existing facilities at the Sillem Hoeve Centre in order to suit also international programmes. The development was planned in 3 phases to the total amount of 2,4 mill. hfl, (Dutch Guilders):

1st phase: building of an additional dormitory

2nd phase: building of dining hall, offices etc.

3rd phase: remodelling the actual Sillem Hoeve Centre

On the financial side there has been an encouraging development where a government subsidy of 750,000 hfl. and funds raised of 400,000 hfl. provided a good basis to start from. With a mortgage of 900,000 hfl. the amount of 350,000 hfl. has still to be raised.

VIII. COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN AUTHORITIES

(see Mr. Slopianka's report October-December 1973).

IX. ASSOCIATED BODIES

A. Advisory Committee on Physical Education

B. European YMCA Camping Group
(see reports available in your folders)

C. European Fellowship of YMCA Youth Workers

The 17th Conference of the European Fellowship of YMCA Youth Workers scheduled to take place in Göteborg, Sweden, on 24-28 April 1973 had to be cancelled.

The next meeting will probably take place in 1974 in the Ernst Sillem Hoeve Centre.