



REPORT ON THE UMAR GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD AT PALMA DE MALLORCA SPAIN 4-5 MAY 2018 (updated 14.12.2018)

The GA was held at the COAIB, the seat of the Balearic Islands' Section of the Spanish Architects' Association (CSCAE).

Ten out of the thirteen member sections were present, namely Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, Tunisia and Palestine. Portugal and Morocco sent apologies. There was no response from Greece.

As reported, the Greek section, SADAS-PEA, did not appear to be active anymore. At the same time, Greece is represented by the Technical Chamber of Greece (equivalent to our Warranting Board), at UIA level.

It was agreed that the incoming Bureau would take the matter up in order to identify the organisation which could represent Greece within UMAR.

Following the adoption of the agenda and the minutes of the previous GA (circulated previously), the President delivered his address in which he highlighted the lack of activity within UMAR, for which he partly blamed the socio-political and economic situations in various countries over the past five years, but mainly because of any effort by member sections to involve UMAR in their activities or to promote it in any way among its membership.

He ended his address by urging all sections to support the new Executive Board in its work.

The Secretary-General gave a brief report on his activities which consisted mainly in representing UMAR at various events organised by member sections.

The Treasurer (Tony Fenech Vella) reported that total assets amounted to ca €92600, up from €84400 at the end of the previous financial period. All member sections had paid their subscriptions except Greece.

The Assembly then considered proposals for amendments to the Statute and Regulations. The changes to the Statute affirmed Malta as the seat of registration with international non-profit status, and also retaining the bank accounts and financial assets. The need was therefore recognised to have an UMAR delegate based here for the purposes of liaising with the bank and for retaining its NGO status, for which a legal address was needed.

Another change was that a permanent General Secretariat would be set up. Until the present, the Secretariat shifted with every new Secretary-General elected. While holders of the post would still change with every election, the proposal aimed at retaining a 'fixed address' for the purposes of communication and administration. This office would be selected for a renewable term of six years as decided by the General Assembly.

Other changes, apart from deletion of clauses which did not apply anymore due to the changes to UMAR's structures, were the reduction of the re-eligibility of Bureau members from twice to once, and timeframes for the presentation and dissemination of reports prior to Assemblies.

The Assembly then discussed the proposed revisions to the Summer School regulations (circulated previously).

The Assembly then proceeded to elect the new Executive Bureau with the following result.

President - Wassim Naghi – Lebanon
Vice-President – Juana Canet Rossello – Spain
Secretary-General – Iman Osama Abdel Gawad - Egypt
Treasurer - Lilia Canarella – Italy
Member – Natalina De Costa – France.

The major change in the composition of the Bureau is that for the first time, women were elected, and in fact, apart from the President, all the other Bureau members are women.

(update 14.12.18)

The report by Tony Fenech Vella, the outgoing UMAR Treasurer, is attached herewith. Essentially it supports the contents of the main report but includes observations and comments on the activities of the Bureau itself.

There are signs that activity is already increasing, at least by the regenerated website and FB page, and coverage of some international events. UMAR has also participated in a workshop run by the UIK University in Tunisia in July. While such activities help raise UMAR's profile, news is still lacking on a programme of events which UMAR plans to organise itself.

The next Bureau meeting is scheduled for February 2019 in Cyprus. Hopefully there will be news on what is planned for the next triennial following this meeting.

David Pace



December 13, 2018

REPORT on Activities of UMAR Bureau (Yr 2018)

There were 5 Bureau meetings held this year, 3 by the outgoing Bureau and 2 by the one newly elected at the General Assembly in May 2018 at Mallorca.

The first three were respectively held on the 9th January, on the invitation of the UIA, the Union of International Architects at its offices in Paris, on the 16th February in Beirut at the offices of the Beirut Order of Architects in the House of Engineers and the on the 4th May in Mallorca, at the seat of COAIB, as guests of the Spanish order CSCAE. The primary items on the Bureau's agenda were the preparation for the oncoming elective General Assembly and also the finalization of the setting up of a permanent secretarial office.

Both items are heavily interlinked in the Bureau's program to regenerate UMAR's modus operandi in order to move forward from a rather static organization to modern and meaningful one and seek new ways of operating. The need for a more permanent office as a central point of communication was identified as being a fundamental starting point. It therefore immediately considered positively an offer, in September 2017, by the Lebanese Chamber of Engineers and Architects of a fully equipped office, together with a fully covered expenses of a part time secretary for a committed period of six (6) years. At the February meeting, the premises was shown to the Bureau and an agreement was signed to this purpose.

The wave of change also effected the Bureau as, for the first time ever in UMAR's 24 years of existence, not only one but four women were elected as members; leaving only one male, Wasim Naghi, as President.

The new Bureau met on the 6th May in Mallorca, just after the election, to determine its road map which primarily kept onto the track established by the previous group and set about putting the new setup together, by organizing a new interactive website, and setting up physically the new office by bringing together all the information about UMAR and its activities under one roof.

The new composition of the Bureau is as follows:

Name	Post	Nationality
Arch Wassim Naghi	President	Lebanese
Arch Juana Canet	Vice President	Spain
Dr Iman O. Gawad	General Secretary	Egypt
Arch. Carmela Cannarella	Treasurer	Italy

Arch. Natalina De Costa	Member	France
Dr Andre Bekhazi	Past President	Lebanon

At its second meeting, held on the 24th October in Beirut, the Bureau officially visited and inaugurated the new office. At this meeting, I was invited as outgoing Treasurer, along with the other members of the previous Bureau, to iron out the transition period. The Bureau also confirmed the decision taken at the General Assembly to retain its seat of registration and its banking facilities in Malta. I also accepted the offer to retain a post of Assistant treasurer to act as local representative of UMAR, a post which ideally would be retained by a member of KTP, not necessarily its designated delegate but which, in case of no commitment from KTP, could be handed over to a Maltese citizen of confidence such as an Auditor or Lawyer.

Anthony Fenech Vella



UMAR BUREAU - Beirut, 24th October

In photo from left to right: A. Fenech Vella, N.de Costa, Dr I. Gawad, L.Cannarella, J.Canet, W. Naghi, Dr A. Bekhazi, N.Mutlu, F.Llisterra



UMAR- Inauguration of new office in Beirut 24/10/2018

From left : A. Fenech Vella, N. Mutlu, Dr A. Bekhazi, W. Naghi, J. Canet, Dr I. Gawad, N.de Costa, L. Cannarella