

## **Establishing the European Association for Population Studies in 1983**

Memorandum by Dirk van de Kaa, Honorary President

March 21, 2011

1. The European Association for Population Studies (EAPS) was established formally on March 31, 1983. Most individuals involved will have retired by now and/or may already have passed away. Soon the origins of the organization will become remote, hazy history. I feel an obligation to put on record the contribution a large number of European demographers made to the founding of the EAPS before I have forgotten all the details or can no longer retrace the precise sequence of events.
2. As a European demographic association the EAPS was preceded by the European Centre for Population Studies (ECPS), a scientific organisation set up in Paris in 1953. After 1969 it had its headquarters in The Hague and functioned there according to statutes last amended, I believe, on October 21, 1968.
3. Erland Hofsten (Sweden) was the last President, Günther Otto Kurt Beyer the last functioning Secretary General/Treasurer of the ECPS. Beyer had been born in Berlin on January 13, 1904, but had settled in The Netherlands just before WWII. He was highly committed to European cooperation in the field of population and personally had an abiding interest in questions dealing with refugees and international migration. It is fair to say that he kept the ECPS going against considerable odds in the then seemingly hopelessly divided Europe. So, when he died in The Hague on January 7, 1983 the ECPS was in deep trouble.
4. By letter of 15 February 1983 Hofsten appointed '*Professor Guillaume Wunsch, Louvain-la-neuve, as Secretary-General of the European Centre*', saying that the appointment was '*in accordance with the wish of the late Dr. Beyer*' and noting further that during 1982 Wunsch had already taken over certain functions of the Centre. And indeed, together with his colleague Eric Vilquin, Guillaume had helped Günther Beyer and his wife Lotty Beyer-Watermann, greatly. This particularly in regard to the timely publication of the Newsletter with its overview of recently received demographic literature.
5. Beyer stood in a special relationship with the Netherlands Interuniversity Demographic Institute (NIDI). As Secretary of the Social Sciences Council of the Royal Academy he had been very much involved in the preparation of the report that, ultimately, led to the establishment of that institute. He,

furthermore, acted as secretary to the first Board of the institute, as such he had, I believe, a hand in my recruitment as its first director, and ran the institute in the months before I could return to The Netherlands. He remained advisor to the Board for several years after that. In that capacity he introduced me to the various Government departments interested in population issues and to numerous people that mattered in academia in the Netherlands. We got along very well, had many long conversations on demographic developments in Europe, and shared very many meals.

6. Gradually he made it clear to me that he tried keeping the ECPS alive, in the expectation that NIDI would in due course accept responsibility for it. In the same vein, he hoped that I, personally, would make sure that it would not become defunct. For a variety of reasons I was hesitant to agree. But, when his health deteriorated and he fell terminally ill, I promised him to try and continue his efforts to stimulate European cooperation in the population field. I argued that in order to give that attempt a fair chance one would have to found a new organization and involve a new generation of population scientists in all European countries with a certain scholarly tradition in that field. He conceded that such a step would be unavoidable and said that he would recommend to all members of the ECPS to join that new organization. With Alfred Sauvy (France), Hans Harmsen (Germany), Edward Rosset (Poland), Nora Federici (Italy) and Vasilios G. Valaoras (Greece) as Honorary members of the ECPS that would, presumably, help giving the new body a good start in some of the largest European countries.
7. It was quite natural for me to discuss all the steps to be taken with Guillaume Wunsch. I, further, consulted Gijs Verdoes Kleijn, a notary public in The Hague to get clear advice on the formal steps to be taken according to the law of The Netherlands. It appeared, that in order to establish the new association formally one would need statutes drafted in Dutch and the written Power of Attorney of all individuals on whose behalf one was acting. Moreover, the composition of the first Council would have to be submitted so that it could accept its responsibilities from the day the deed was signed.
8. Guillaume and I went to work quickly; drafting and translating statutes, identifying colleagues whose support we were keen to have, identifying colleagues who would be valuable as members of the Council, sounding these out, and deciding on an appropriate time schedule.
9. It so happened that from 21-24 September 1982 the Council of Europe was organizing the 3<sup>rd</sup> European Population Conference in Strasbourg and that seemed to offer a very good opportunity to take decisive steps. Indeed, on 20 and 21 September 1982 eighteen colleagues signed the Power of Attorney form, and another twenty did so in the months to come. (The form and the full list of names are given in Annex I). Agreement was also reached on the contents of a transitional arrangement that would be included in the draft statutes and would, *inter alia*, give members of the ECPS the right to join EAPS *en bloc*.
10. As Beyer died before March 31, 1983 it is fair to say that, as a minimum, EAPS already had 31 members when it could begin functioning.

11. The full text of that arrangement reads as follows:

Transitional arrangement

1. The official representatives of ECPS in charge of establishing the European Association for Population Studies, shall be deemed to constitute the first Bureau of EAPS in accordance with the provisions of these statutes. Their mandate will last until the date of the official notarial registration of EAPS in the Netherlands. At that time the interim Council nominated in Strasbourg on September 21, 1982, by the members who supported the decision to establish EAPS, will assume its responsibilities.  
The members of ECPS may decide to use the right to which they are entitled on the basis of article 4a. of the statutes, in such a way as to support the establishment of EAPS by immediately joining en bloc.
2. The first Council of the Association will be composed of:
  - a. Prof. Dr Dirk Jan van de Kaa, born on the fifth of January nineteen hundred thirty three, having as address Demographic Institute ("N.I.D.I."), Postbox 955, 2270 AZ VOORBURG, President.
  - b. Prof. Zdenek Pavlik, born on the thirty first of March nineteen hundred thirty one, having as address Charles University, Albertov 6, 12843 PRAHA 2, Vice-President.
  - c. Prof. Dr Guillaume Joseph Wunsch, born on the twenty third of March nineteen hundred thirty six, having as address Catholic University Louvain, Place Montesquieu, 1, 1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Secretary-General/Treasurer.
  - d. Mrs. Dr Helga Charlotte Hedwig Höhn, born on the nineteenth of September nineteen hundred forty five, having as address Bundesinstitut für Bevölkerungsforschung, Postfach 5528, D-6200 Wiesbaden, F.R. Germany, Member.
  - e. Dr András Klinger, born on the twelfth of January nineteen hundred thirty, having as address Central Statistical Office, Keleti Karoly utca 5/7, 1525 Budapest, Hungary, Member.

12. The Power of Attorney form as signed in the autumn of 1982 by Professor Jerzy Zdzislaw Holzer of Poland and 29 other scholars representing 21 different European countries, reads as follows:



14. The original documents have at the time been handed to the notary public and, presumably, are now being kept in the archive of his successors.

### **APPENDIX: Signers of the Power of Attorney**

1	Beyer	Günther Otto Kurt	8 October 1982	The Hague
2	Blayo	Chantal	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
3	Bodrova	Valentina V.	not given	Geneva
4	Bourgeois-Pichat	Jean	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
5	Van den Brekel	Johannes Cornelis	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
6	Cagiano de Azevedo	Raimando	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
7	Cliquet	Robert Louis Rachel	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
8	Eversley	David Edward Charles	11 October 1982	Cottered
9	Gisser	Richard	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
10	Golini	Antonio	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
11	Guzevatyi	Yaropolk N.	6 November 1982	Moscow
12	Hoffmann-Nowotny	Hans-Joachim	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
13	Höhn	Helga Charlotte Hedwig	20 September 1982	Strasbourg
14	Hofsten	Erland	23 October 1982	Sundbyberg
15	Holmberg	Ingvae Valfrid	23 October 1982	Gothenburg
16	Holzer	Jerzy Zdzislaw	15 October 1982	Warsawa
17	Klinger	András	22 October 1982	Budapest
18	Macura	Milos	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
19	Majava	Allti	4 October 1982	Kerava
20	Matthiessen	Poul Christian	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
21	Minkov	Minko	23 November 1982	Sofia
22	Pavlik	Zdenek	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
23	Regnier	Claude Charles	21 September 1982	Strasbourg

24	Remiche	Bruno Marie Joseph Léopold Jean Etienne	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
25	Schmid	Josef	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
26	Sevaldson	Per	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
27	Siampos	George (Spyros father's name)	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
28	Simons	John Patrick	21 September 1982	Strasbourg
29	Trebici	Vladimir	16 October 1982	Bucharest
30	Tiago de Oliveira	José	21 October 1982	Lisboa

15. As Günther Beyer had already died at the time EAPS was established, the public notary may in the end not have been able to use the Power of Attorney as signed by him in The Hague in October 1982
16. One of the first decisions the newly empowered EAPS Council took was to appoint Nico van Nimwegen as their Executive Secretary. He has been intimately involved in the activities of the association ever since.