



ISKCON

REGIONAL GOVERNING BODY

Founder-acarya His Divine Grace
A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada

**Euro RGB meeting
Simhacalam, Germany
May 8-9, 2024**

Total number of members: 27

Voting members: 16

Quorum: 8

Voting members present: 14

Global GBCs present: 5 (out of 6)

Non-voting members present: 6

Attendance

PRESENT – VOTING MEMBERS

GBCs

1. Bhaktivaibhava Swami (GBC for Albania, Czech Republic, Finland, Macedonia, Slovakia, Co-GBC for Bulgaria)
2. Hrdaya Caitanya dasa (GBC of Andorra, Gibraltar, Portugal, Spain, New Mayapur; coGBC of Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and France except Dole)
3. Madhu Sevita dasa (GBC of Cyprus, Italy except Villa Vrndavana and Prabhupadadesh; Malta; San Marino; Co-GBC of Belgium, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and France except Dole; Villa Vrndavana and Prabhupadadesh; and Greece)
4. Radha Krsna dasa (GBC for Hungary, Romania, Cyprus, Turkey; Co-GBC for Greece)
5. Prahladananda Swami (GBC for Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Slovenia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Poland, and Serbia; Co-GBC for Bulgaria; Sannyasa Minister)

NON-GBC MEMBERS

1. Janesvara dasa (Almviks Board; Regional Secretary for Sweden, Norway, and Denmark)
2. Krsna Ksetra Swami (Minister of the Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture)



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3. Krsna Premarupa dasa (Euro RGB Chairman, Zonal supervisor for Switzerland and Lichtenstein, chairman of National Councils of Switzerland and Germany/Austria)
4. Lalitanatha dasa (Regional Secretary for Denmark)
5. Mahendra dasa (Euro RGB 1st vice-chairman, Chair of Bulgarian National Council)
6. Parabhakti dasa (Euro RGB 2nd vice-chairman, IGPO Continental Officer for Europe)
7. Tapas dasa (Regional Secretary for Sweden)
8. Trilokatma dasa (Euro RGB chairman, Zonal supervisor for Slovakia, Albania, and Macedonia)
9. Trisama dasa (Chair of the Polish National Council)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

1. Citrarupini devi dasi (Regional Director for Europe - International Child Protection Office)
2. Devasri Radhika devi dasi (Head of Legal Department)
3. Divya-prabandha dasa (Chair of the Croatian National Council)
4. Madhava das (Regional Secretary for Spain)
5. Sankirtan das (Representative of the Czech National Council)
6. Tapo-divyam dasa (Chair of the Finnish National Council)

GUESTS

1. Vrajendra Nandana d (for the second day of the meeting)

NOT PRESENT

VOTING MEMBERS

1. Dina Sarana devi dasi (GBC of Germany-Austria-Liechtenstein + Switzerland-Dole)
2. Mahaprabhu dasa (Minister of ISKCON Communications Europe)



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NON-VOTING MEMBERS

1. Dayananda Swami (Zonal supervisor for UK)
2. Dayanidhi das (Chairman of the Greece National Council)
3. Nrsima Krsna das (Zonal supervisor for Turkey)
4. Svayam Bhagavan Keshava Maharaja (Zonal supervisor for UK)
5. Tarakanatha dasa (Zonal supervisor for UK)

MINUTES

Verses from Srimad Bhagavatam and Caitanya Caritamrta were read for the inspiration of the assembled devotees.

1. Membership

a) Composition

Trilokatma das is Euro RGB Chairman.

Mahendra d is Euro RGB First Vice-Chairman.

Parabhakti d is Euro RGB Second Vice-Chairman.

Due to Jai Nitai das' relocation to the USA, the composition of the Euro RGB EC has been changed half a year in advance.

Euro RGB thanks Jai Nitai das' for many years of wonderful and steady service in the UK and on the Euro RGB body.

Three devotees acquired the acting position: Divya-prabandha d, Madhava d, and Tapo-divyam d.

Parabhakti d was given voting rights based on his previous membership in the Euro RGB.

In the previous period, EC worked on clarifying the membership with present members and on getting representation from all European zones, so four new members were accepted over the email, prior to meeting: Sandhya dd (representative of the Dutch National Council, Mahabhavi d (Regional Secretary for Norway), Citrarupini dd (Regional director for Europe) and Sankirtan d (representative of the Czech National Council). With this meeting, their



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membership officially started. Efforts will be made to obtain representation from several countries that currently don't have it on the RGB. Additionally, there are a few countries without a devotee presence.

One devotee was welcomed as guests at the second day of the meeting, Vrajendra Nandan d (Germany).

Action point: Propose a more logical division of the European continent into zones, ensuring that smaller countries like San Marino, the Vatican, Monaco, etc., or countries with a small number of devotees, are grouped with their larger neighboring countries into zones.

b) Members' platform

Euro RGB members were reminded of the Members' platform and its functionality was introduced to the new members. Agreeing to Confidentiality Agreement and Oath of Allegiance was also done over the Members' platform.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting

EC Chairman reported that all action points from the previous Euro RGB meeting were completed.

3. Activities of the EC in the past period

Euro RGB EC regularly meets (mostly weekly) and does the administration for the Euro RGB and Euro RGB EC. In the past period the main activities of the EC were:

- Data collection - with the help of Dayarupa dd (Iceland), the data on European ISKCON projects, legal entities and devotees doing important services was collected. The new mailing list is being set up, with the plan to have several communication channels to different groups of devotees and a section on the Euro RGB website with relevant contact details
- Clarifying Euro RGB membership - reaching out to yatras that don't have representation on the RGB
- Euro RGB Budget - trying to collect all the debts made mainly throughout Covid and working with yatras in applying the new budgeting system
- Working on Rules and Regulations paper - incorporating comments from the last meeting, adding more content and discussing with relevant devotees
- Dealing with different complaints
- Working on defining future European Ombuds Office



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- Communication with the GBC EC and other GBC committees
- Working with Devasri Radhika dd on different topics of legal nature
- Preparations for the Euro RGB meeting

4. GBC Report

From this meeting on, Euro RGB members who are also GBC members will be given a slot at each meeting to report on GBC activities and update Euro RGB members of the most important topics and discussions.

Leadership succession was discussed as a standing point at these meetings, including the possibility to start European branch of GBC College.

An update on nomination of Krsna Premarupa d for a GBC member was given. The next step is to receive CPO clearance from European office which was noted by the present European director.

The situation in Northern Europe, where there is no GBC secretary, has been discussed. This absence is creating additional pressure on the Euro RGB EC, which, by the Euro RGB's decision, is acting in that function as an interim solution¹. However, the delay in finding another GBC is starting to hamper the EC's functioning, as it is now dealing with several issues that would normally be managed by a GBC.

Action point: Krsna Premarupa d will verify whether his involvement in organizing the GBC College in Europe falls within the service description of a Global Duty Officer, enabling him to assist with this initiative. He will also consult with Yadunandana Swami to determine if he wishes to be a part of the team.

Action point: GBC members present at the RGB meeting were asked to assist in expediting the process of appointing the new GBC for Northern Europe with relevant GBC bodies according to their capabilities.

5. Dividing Sweden into two regions

In August 2019, the Swedish National Council passed a decision to divide Sweden into two regions: one for city temples and the other for centres located in the countryside. As a result, they appointed two regional secretaries, Tapas d and Janesvara d. Euro RGB

¹ "As a response to the resignation of Praghosa das, the Euro RGB decided that Euro RGB EC, as an interim solution, will take up the authority in Praghosa das' zones.", Euro RGB meeting, September 2022, Radhadesh



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members expressed their support for this initiative and for the successful development of Swedish projects.

6. Rules and Regulations paper

Euro RGB members have received an updated version of the Rules and Regulations document, which includes feedback from previous discussions and new content developed by the RGB EC during this period. Several details were deliberated and finalized, including defining meeting quorum, determining the allocation of representatives from each zone, establishing the status of assisting positions, ISKCON affiliation requirements, etc.

Action point: A refined version of the document, incorporating comments from this meeting, will be sent to the Euro RGB for final review, with a three-week deadline for submitting comments. After this period, the document will be circulated among a wider group of European leaders for additional input and feedback. Furthermore, it will be shared with relevant ISKCON bodies, including the ISKCON Law Department, in preparation for presenting the paper to the GBC Body in February 2025.

7. Increasing guruship in Europe

The Euro RGB encourages ISKCON leaders in Europe, such as GBC Secretaries, Zonal Supervisors, Regional Secretaries, initiating gurus, National Councils, etc., at their discretion to identify suitable candidates who are willing to take up in the future the service of initiating gurus and arrange for their training with the assistance of the Guru service committee.

8. Ombuds office

The concept of the Ombuds Office has been presented to the entire Body by the EC members, who worked on the proposal alongside Braj Bihari Pr from ISKCON Resolve. The Office is intended to help devotees in Europe more easily resolve conflicts by providing education on various conflict resolution methods and offering practical assistance from qualified mediators.

Action point: Discuss the concept further with Prahladananda Swami, the chair of the ISKCON Dispute Resolution Department (IDRD), which includes ISKCON Resolve, to clarify the mandate of the Office and how it aligns with the global IDRD strategy.



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9. Increasing the readiness of temples for humanitarian crises

Radha Krsna Pr gave a presentation on steps that can be taken to prepare for various types of crises, such as shortages of drinkable water, food, and shelter, as well as increases in community populations. The presentation is available upon request.

10. Euro RGB Budget

An update on the Euro RGB budget was provided by the secretary. It was reported that 100% of the fees until 2018 have been collected, and for 2023/24, 50% of the fees have been collected, with 70% of countries fulfilling their pledges. The new budgeting system has been mostly successful, and it was proposed to begin consistently supporting various Offices, Departments, Ministries and projects starting in 2024/25. A proposal was made to increase budget lines, in the future, according to the inflation rate in countries of residence of devotees serving within supported Offices, Departments, Ministries and projects.

The following bodies requested regular financial support from Euro RGB: the Child Protection Office, Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture, European Property Office, Ombuds Office, and Legal Department. Additionally, ISKCON Communications Europe and ELM requested an increase in their current allocated budget.

Action point: The Euro RGB EC will prepare the proposal for the new budget allocation for the autumn Euro RGB meeting with the description of expenses.

11. Preaching strategy

Euro RGB members attended a workshop “More Devotees – Happy Devotees” on developing a preaching strategy led by Akhandadhi Pr, which received a very positive response.

Trilokatma d also gave a presentation of a successful preaching project conducted in collaboration with Mayapur.

Presentations are available upon request.



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12. Presentations

Euro RGB members attended several presentations on Offices established by the Global GBC to familiarize themselves with their work and purpose:

- Ministry of justice – presented by Campakalata dd (online)
- Leadership Conduct Office International (former PLMO) – presented by Mahavisnupriya dd (online)
- GBC Executive Support Office (ESO) – presented by Parijata dd (online)

Presentations are available upon request.

13. Reports

The following activity reports were given by the respective devotees:

- European Leaders Mela (ELM) – Parabhakti d, Member of the Organisational Team
- Internal Communications Committee (ICC) – Lalitanath d, Chairman of the Committee
- Ministry for Cow Protection and Agriculture – Krishna Kshetra Swami, Minister
- Youth Ministry – Prema Rasarnava d, Minister in Training (online)
- Book Distribution Department – Trai d, Head of the Department (online)
- Legal Department – Devasri Radhika dd, Head of the Department
- ISKCON Global Property Office – Parabhakti d, IGPO Continental Officer for Europe
- Child Protection Office Europe – Citrarupini dd, Regional Director for Europe

Action point: ICC will work on a more detailed description of the mandate of the committee and spokesperson.

Action point: Secretary will put relevant information regarding the Book Distribution Department on Euro RGB's website in collaboration with Trai d.

Action point: Youth Ministry will work on a proposal of a strategic plan on how to involve youth in leadership.