

1st Annual General Meeting of the European Demidoff Foundation on Monday, 11 December 2023 with seat in Lugano, Switzerland

Date and time:	Monday, 11 December 2023 at 10AM
Place:	Lugano, Switzerland
In attendance:	Alexander Borovikov, Kristiina Demidoff, Alexandre Tissot Demidoff
Guests:	To be Confirmed
Head of the meeting:	Alexandre Tissot Demidoff
Keeper of the minutes:	Alexandre Tissot Demidoff

Agenda items:

1. The members of the European Demidoff Foundation (EDF) exceed 100 and are located around the world. As such, it is not practical to expect all members to attend by Zoom the 1st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, 11 December 2023. We are in regular contact with our members, many in person, who express their full support for the activity and initiatives of the EDF.
2. There are no financial statements of the EDF to approve.
3. Progress with opening an EDF Bank Account in Switzerland moves slowly. There has been no response from MIGROS Bank after more than one month. Bank Cler was contacted last week to commence the application process to open a commercial bank account. It is essential to have a dedicated EDF bank account to receive donations and fees.
4. We continue to seek a suitable candidate to fill the open role of Treasurer and here in Switzerland. Unfortunately, the candidates interviewed to date have been found to be unsuitable. New interviews are planned for early in the new year.
5. Well over five voting members of the EDF, so satisfying the requirements for a quorum, voted at the AGM to approve 'the review of activities held in 2023' and to approve for re-election, for a subsequent one year term of office, the current President, Alexandre Tissot Demidoff; Vice-President, Kristiina Demidoff; and Ambassador, Alexander Borovikov.
6. Shown below is a review of programmes and activities held in 2023:
 1. To start, the EDF is structured as an independent, 'not-for-profit' Swiss Association, so without corporate relationship or subservience to any other entity. We explicitly refrain from engagement in any political activity as well as to associate with any group that so engages.
 2. The president of the EDF attended the 'Zurich Crypto Conference' on Monday, 16 January to investigate the use of Non-Fungible Tokens (NF's) as a fundraising tool. Unfortunately, NFT's remain an immature market. An effective campaign also requires tens of thousands of supporters that we do not have. However, this tool continues to deserve attention as a possible source of fundraising for the EDF.
 3. The EDF co-hosted with Damon De Laszlo a fundraising evening on 21 February in support of the 'Sunflower Programme' of St. Gregory's Foundation at Albany's House in London in the company of HRH Prince Michael of Kent. Our distinguished guests numbered thirty. They included four members of *Aristocrazia Europea* led by Contessa Giulia Farneti Merenda Salecchi, daughter of the group's President, Count Guido Farneti Merenda Salecchi. The Countess was joined by Count Pietro Veniamin Andreevic Stramezzi, Prince Viktor Mansur

Timur Askar di Turan, and Knight Giancarlo Parrini. Unfortunately, Contessa Mandilosani Lali Panchulidze Aznauri, Vice President of *Aristocrazia Europea*, was not able to attend due to an unexpected, last minute travel challenge. The event was an overwhelming success that raised nearly £7,000.

4. A 'Demidoff Day' was organised in Turin, Italy on 30 March '23 by the historian, Michail Talalay, and the president, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the birth of Princess Aurora Pavlovna Demidoff (1873-1904). Attending were extended family members, Count Luigi di Noghera and his wife, Sonia. We were joined by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, together with other public officials and special guests. EDF members who joined us from overseas were Suzanne Louvel Karamzine (Paris) and Alina Toukallo (Zurich). Also in attendance were members of *Aristocrazia Europea*. The group toured *Villa Castel Bria*, located in Gassino Torinese, the palace where Aurora lived with her second husband, Conte Nicola di Noghera, and where their four children were raised. Following the visit we were welcomed by padre Ambrogio to the *Chiesa Ortodossa Russa di San Massimo* where a presentation on the 'Life of Aurora' was presented to the audience. A religious service then followed. It was an overwhelming success.
5. The president attended a dinner reception of the 'Romanoff Foundation' in London on 11 May where the special guest was the author on Imperial Russian History, Dr Helen Rappaport. One of the many highlights of the evening was meeting Prince Nikita Lobanov-Rostovsky. We met again in London on 13 June and have continued to stay in regular and close contact.
6. The president presented at the ACEI Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, USA, on 27 June. The presentation was on the founding of the Art Institute of Chicago that was based on the 1890 Demidoff private sale of paintings. The academic paper was co-written with Paul-Louis Durand-Ruel and accompanied by associated images of the paintings sold. It was a well-received presentation that now appears on <https://independent.academia.edu/AlexandreTissotDemidoff>.
7. The EDF directors hosted the attendance of Alfira Danilova, some of her students, and friends, in Florence from 19 to 23 July. Unfortunately, the Princess Maria Pavlovna Demidoff commemorative event involved a last-minute change of date. This led most of our overseas guests to cancel their attendance. We also missed Alfira and her group at various arranged activities during the weekend. On the other hand, the group was warmly welcomed for an *aperitivo* on the first evening and, on the following day, a museum visit and a guided tour of the *Church of the Nativity of Christ and St. Nicholas the Wonderworker* and its many Demidoff treasures. Regardless of a series of challenges confronted, the EDF received high praise for their efforts in hosting our friends from Russia.
8. The president participated at the annual 10K Charity Run in Venice with the directors, trustees, and friends of the UK Charity, Prospero World. The relationship with Prospero World is important given their expertise in fundraising for charities around the world. We were delighted to see many of our friends from Prospero World, once again, at the Anastasia Lopoukhine Art Exhibition at the end of November in London.
9. The EDF vice-president developed a positive and effective working relationship with Dr. Jaana Af Hällström of the Deaconess Foundation in Helsinki. Plans are now moving forward to hold a commemorative event for Aurora Stjernvall Demidova Karamzine in Helsinki for sometime in August '24. Discussion also are on-going between EDF academic member, Jukka Aminoff, and the Finnish Minister, Kai Mykkanen, concerning the restoration of Aurora's mansion in Espoo. It is planned to use this venue for an EDF event in the future.
10. At the Board meeting held on 25 September '23, Michail Talalay's proposal was approved to receive sponsorship from the EDF for the publication of his forthcoming book on Anatole Demidoff's 1837 Voyage to Southern Russia. The book is expected to publish sometime in 2024.

11. The EDF Ambassador is moving forward to develop a proper EDF website and has identified an excellent IT resource. Alfira Danilova continues to support the EDF and our presence on the website, 'Age of Aurora'. However, there is a risk that she may be forced to cease the relationship since the EDF could be viewed as an undesirable European affiliation on the part of her superiors and government officials. We do not wish to create any kind of trouble for Alfira. As such, the directors agree to move forward with the creation of our own, proper, EDF website and with a scheduled launch in early 2024.
12. The president attended the birthday party in Morcote, Ticino of EDF member, Alina Toukallo, on 14 October. The many guests primarily were Russian or with Russian connections and ancestors. It was a most agreeable event where the EDF gained a number of quality new members. The EDF directors do thank Alina and her husband, Uei, for their steadfast support.
13. The president attended a meeting in Milan on 17 October with Nicholas Kolarz, chair of St. Gregory's Foundation and Avv. Giancarlo Parrini. We discussed mounting a fundraising event in Milan for sometime in 2024. We now look forward to directly supporting any such event that most likely takes place in October / November '24.
14. The final 'Demidoff Days' of the year took place on 1 and 2 November in Genoa that, once more, was organised by Michail Talalay and supported by the president. The event was held to commemorate the anniversary of the wedding of Princess Aurora Pavlovna to Conte Nicola di Noghera on 4 November 1897. It also was an occasion to meet extended Demidoff family members, Prince Roberto Troubetzkoy Hahn and his family. The EDF also developed close relations with the presidents of '*Lanterna di Genova*' and '*Casa Russa*' who wish to partner on future events. On the second evening we were warmly welcomed by padre Marian Selvini of *Chiesa di San Giorgio* where a presentation, 'Aurora Pavlovna Demidoff: Unfortunate in Love?', was presented to the audience. A religious service then followed. It was an overwhelming success.
15. The EDF were delighted to host the Art Exhibition of extended Demidoff family member, Anastasia Lopoukhine, in London on 30 November at 'Gallery Different'. This was in response to a request from Anastasia's mother, Irene Commeau, to see if we could support her daughter's show in London. In the end, this was an overwhelming success with the event attended by over 30 guests including oversea guests from Switzerland and from *Aristocrazia Europea*. The EDF gained widespread positive attention for its engagement.
16. The president attended a 'gala dinner' in Milan on 5 December that was organised by Avv. Giancarlo Parrini and where around 70 guests were in attendance. It was an opportunity to present the work of the EDF to various company founders and executives as well as to learn about their emerging businesses. This is expected to lead to new members and possible fundraising opportunities in the new year. We also hope that the important new business contacts, who are based in Ticino, will assist in helping the EDF find a suitable Treasurer.
17. Membership in the EDF presently numbers 109 and continues to grow, and nearly each week, with members located around the world.