

## 2nd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 22 November 2024 of the European Demidoff Foundation with seat in Lugano, Switzerland

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Date and time: Friday, 22 November 2024 at 10AM

Place: Lugano, Switzerland

In attendance: Alexander Borovikov, Kristiina Demidoff, Oliver Spörri, Alexandre Tissot Demidoff

Members: 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 2nd Annual General Meeting (AGM). However, we do expect sufficient numbers to attend to constitute a quorum to ensure that any and all proposed motions and amendments are considered for approval. Moreover, 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. Approval is requested by the Members of two proposed Amendments (see attached):
  - a. Change in name from the 'European Demidoff Foundation' to the 'European Demidoff Association'. It is no longer considered feasible that the EDF over the near to medium term will become a proper Swiss Foundation. Changing the entity name to the 'European Demidoff Association' (EDA) thus aligns with our existing, current legal status. The EDA will then need to secure exemption to register with the Commercial Register in Ticino.
  - b. Approval for Oliver Spörri to join the EDA board of directors in the capacity of director of Marketing & Social Media.
4. It is believed that the change in legal name will facilitate the EDA bank opening process. It is not possible to receive donations or fees without a proper business bank account in place.
5. We continue to work to fill the vacant role of Treasurer and here in Switzerland. Unfortunately, the candidates interviewed to date have each been found to be unsuitable.
6. The members of the EDF are requested to view for approval the overview of this recent year's activities as presented below as well as the re-election of the existing President, Alexandre Tissot Demidoff; Vice-President, Kristiina Demidoff; and Ambassador, Alexander Borovikov, for a subsequent one year term of office in 2025. Oliver Spörri is not subject for re-election.
7. Review of programmes and activities held in 2024:
  1. The EDF, now to be know as the European Demidoff Association (EDA), is structured as an independent 'not-for-profit' Swiss Association so without any corporate relationship to any other legal entity.
  2. A visit was organised to the Pietro Canonica Museum Room in Stresa, Italy to view the marble bust of Princess Maria Pavlovna Demidoff. Joining the president was extended Demidov family member, Prince Roberto Troubetzkoy, and his wife Giovanna. It was wonderful to be

greeted by the Mayor Marcella Severino, museum curator, Dr. Thea Tibiletti, and their other colleagues, who generously presented their expertise at the Museum Room as well as at the nearby Palazzo Ducale. It was a surprise to find a plaster cast by Canonica of Princess Elizabeth of Greece and Denmark during our visit. The image was shared with the Princess's living descendants who promptly agreed to join our group on a return trip to the Museum Room. Our group then visited the nearby, Museo Paessagio, that was the former residence of the sculptor, Prince Paolo Troubetzkoy. It is now a splendid museum that showcases many of the artists' many works of art. It was a most moving and enjoyable visit to Stresa, Italy.

3. The president participated at a two-day festival in celebration of the arts and culture took place on 2nd and 3rd March in Genoa, Italy. The first event took place on Saturday morning, 2 March, at the grand, '*Circolo Unificato dell'Esercito di Genova*', located in central Genoa. This was organised by '*Russkij Dom A. Cechov* (Piemonte)' so led by Mrs. Daria Belokrylova-Beccaria, together with Mrs. Irina Kovalyova, President of '*Laterna di Genova*', and Mrs. Larisa Smirnova, President of '*Casa Russa Arti Erzia*', amongst others. The dignitaries in attendance included Mrs. Maria Vedrinskaya, Consul General of the Russian Federation to Genoa, and Mrs. Dina Kotelnikova-Raimondi, Ambassador of Genoa Worldwide. The president presented the romantic love story of Maria Pavlovna Demidoff, Princess of San Donato (1877-1955) and Prince Semyon Abamelek-Lazarev (1857-1916). This included images from private collections as well as unpublished diary entries. On the following day, a series of events took place at '*L'Anima Russa*'. Those in attendance received the presentation on the romantic love story between Princess Maria Pavlovna Demidova and Prince Abamelek-Lazarev. In the end, this was a most successful and enjoyable two-day festival in Genoa.
4. On Saturday afternoon, 9 March 2024, the president was kindly invited by Alina Toukallo to attend a reception at their residence in Zurich to present on the work and direction of the EDA. The presentation was warmly welcomed based on the many words of encouragement and support received. The evening also provided an opportunity to make new contacts and friends. Amongst others, Prince George Yourievsky and Alexander Lindemann were in attendance, who each agreed to support a fundraising event in Zurich for St. Gregory's Foundation, a charity target of the EDA. The president further met Igor Petrov of SwissInfo.ch. It was also wonderful to meet the artist, Natalia Weber as well as Vera Jackson who have become good and close friends of the EDA. All in all, a most successful networking event.
5. A return to the Pietro Canonica Museum Room in Stresa, Italy took place during the Easter holidays on Wednesday, 3 April 2024. Joining us were various extended Demidoff family members including, for the first time, Count Ignaz and Countess Robinia zu Toerring-Jettenbach. It was an opportunity for Ignaz to view the plaster cast by Canonica of his grandmother, Princess Elizabeth of Greece and Denmark (1904-1955). The discovery of the plaster cast, that was made during the earlier visit to the Canonica Room, initiated a search to locate the current whereabouts of the original marble busts of Princesses Elizabeth and of her elder sister, Olga. These were made by Canonica in 1910 while on his visit to Russia. Unfortunately, there has been progress in locating the originals to date. Further joining our group were extended Demidoff family members, Count Luigi di Noghera and his wife, Countess Sonia, together with Prince Roberto Troubetzkoy Hahn and his wife, Princess Giovanna. We also were delighted to be joined by our friend from Lugano, Serafina, and family. Professor Lucia Tonini of Florence joined our group and provided a most informative and enjoyable presentation on Princess Maria Pavlovna Demidoff. Following various presentations, our group took a short ferry ride to *Isola Bella* for a private viewing of the Borromeo Palace. We were most grateful to Countess Robinia zu Toerring-Jettenbach for making this special visit possible. In the end, this was a most rewarding cultural excursion that was enjoyed by all.



6. The Ambassador has established a strong working relationship in Lisbon with Timofey Bugaevsky, the head of the 'Association of Free Russians'. The latest event took place on 27 August when a fundraising lecture was given by the political philosopher, Ilya Budraitskis. All monies raised were donated in support of the work of Orphans Feeding Foundation (OFF), a charity target of the EDA. A link to receive monies was created to ensure that all monies raised correctly reached the charity target. This followed an earlier fundraising event that involved the screening of 'The Darkest Hour' that received extensive publicity and promotion on social media for both the EDA and OFF. The co-founder of OFF, Mariam Lambert, also provided a short video for the screening. Although both OFF and EDF do not engage in politics, both groups were sincerely grateful for the work of the Ambassador and the support extended by the 'Association of Free Russians'. In the end, the Ambassador's initiative in Lisbon raised an impressive sum in excess of Euros 1,000 in benefit of OFF.
7. A meeting took place in Florence on 17 October with two of the directors of the 'Society of the History of Collecting\_Italian Chapter', Giuseppe Rizzo and Pier Ludovico Puddu. The president had earlier been invited in July to join the Advisory Board of the Italian Chapter. The directors presented their forthcoming plans for exhibitions and conferences that are planned to take place in Milan and Florence. Also discussed was possible collaboration with 'Prospero World', who are based in the UK, and who's directors have attended some of the Society's events in London. It was an excellent meeting.
8. The president was delighted to attend and support the promotional book event that took place in Florence on Thursday evening, 25 October, of Alessandra Jatta's latest publication, '*L'apolide*' (Voland, 2024). The story recounts Alessandra's ancestral family, the Olsufiev's, flight to Europe following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. The family made the arduous and incredibly long journey from their home in Moscow to the port of Batumi on the Black Sea before finally reaching Florence on 28 March 1919. The story also involves the first engagement of Alessandra's great-grandfather, Vasilij Olsufiev (1872-1925) to Maria Pavlovna, Princess of San Donato (1876-1955). This engagement was broken-off when Princess Maria became engaged and then hastily married, the much older, Prince Abamelek-Lazarev (1857 - 1916) in 1897. During the course of the evening, Alessandra Jatta was joined in conversation with Professor Lucia Tonini, who is a close friend and supporter of the EDA. After the dialogue those in attendance were treated to a piano performance by Alessandra's close relation, Alice Michahelles. In the end, this was a highly worthwhile opportunity to support an extended Demidov family member's latest publication.
9. On Sunday evening, 17 November, a Classical Russian Musical Concert took place at the *Sala Event Maria Antonietta* in Lugano, Switzerland. The music concert was preceded by an insightful and interesting presentation by Professor Michail Talalay on Alexander Benoit and his close connection with art and culture in Ticino. The president gave a brief presentation in promotion of Talalay's recent publication of Anatole Demidov's *Travels to Southern Russia* given our sponsorship of the book. The moving musical performance was provided by the organiser of the event, the mezzo soprano, Julia Gerteseva. Also performing as well as accompanying Mrs. Gerteseva was the talented pianist, Davide Ranaldi. The standing-room-only audience truly enjoyed a moving and stimulating cultural evening of Russian music and presentations.
10. The British & Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce are holding the 150th Anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill in Helsinki on the evening of 29 November. It will be an opportunity to once again see HRH Prince Michael of Kent who has attended various fundraising events hosted by our group. The directors and members all are warmly welcomed to attend their schedules permitting.
11. On Monday, 10 February 2025, Professor Michail Talalay will present at *L'Union de la Noblesse Russe* (UNR) at Cathedral Alexandre Nevsky on rue Daru in Paris on his latest publication on



Anatole Demidov's Travels to Southern Russia. The president will provide a brief introduction given the EDA sponsorship of the publication. The conference commences at 19:30 and with guests arriving from 19:00. Adults attending will be charged 20 € while minors will be charged 10 €. A cocktail reception will follow the event. All members and directors are warmly welcomed to attend

12. Membership continues to grow, and nearly each week, and presently exceeds 100 members who are located around the world.

**I approve the contents of:**

- **2nd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 22 November 2024 of the EuropeanDemidoff Foundation with seat in Lugano, Switzerland.**
- **3. Approval of the 2024 Annual Review of Activities.**
- **4. Approval for the re-election of the three directors to serve for an additional term of one year: Alexander Borovikov, Kristiina Demidoff, and Alexandre Tissot Demidoff. Oliver Spörri is not subject to re-election.**

**Firenze 20/11/2024**

**Antonio Borgioli**

**Via Volterrana 58**

**50124-Firenze (Italia)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Borgioli', written over a horizontal line.

# Amendment to the Articles of Association of the European Demidoff Foundation with seat in Lugano, Switzerland

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Date and time: Monday, 22 November 2024 at 10AM

Place: Zoom Call initiated in Lugano, Switzerland

Founding members present: Alexander Borovikov, Kristiina Demidoff, and Alexandre Tissot Demidoff

Guests: None

Head of the meeting: Alexandre Tissot Demidoff

Keeper of the minutes: Alexandre Tissot Demidoff

Agenda items: 

1. Amendment to change name to the European Demidoff Association
2. Amendment to elect the Marketing and Social Media Director

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## 1. Amendment to Change in Name of Association

Given that it is no longer feasible that the "European Demidoff Foundation" will register in the near to medium term with proper Foundation legal status in Switzerland, an Amendment is formally proposed to change the name to the "European Demidoff Association", so aligning with its actual legal status.

## 2. Election of the Executive Committee

In accordance with art. 9 of the articles of association, the Marketing and Social Media director shall be elected by the general meeting. Accordingly, the following person is proposed to be elected by the assembly in the capacity of Marketing and Social Media Director:

**Oliver Spörri**

Place, date Lugano, Switzerland 17/11/2024

DocuSigned by:  
Alexandre Tissot Demidoff  
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Alexandre Tissot Demidoff  
Keeper of the Minutes

DocuSigned by:  
Alexandre Tissot Demidoff  
F01C3707A36F412...

Alexandre Tissot Demidoff  
Head of the meeting

I approve the contents.

Firenze 20/11/2024 . Antonio Borgioli Via Volterrana 58 -50124-Firenze (Italia)

