

3rd Annual General Meeting on Friday, 21 November 2025 of the European Demidoff Association with seat in Lugano, Switzerland

Date and time: Friday, 21 November 2025 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. Membership of the European Demidoff Association (EDA) exceeds 150 with members based around the world. As such, it is not practical to expect all members to attend by Zoom the 3rd 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, and often direct, contact with our members, who express their full support for the activity and initiatives of the EDA.
2. There are no financial statements of the EDA to approve.
3. The members of the EDA are requested to consider for approval the overview of this recent year's activities, as presented below, as well as the re-election for a subsequent one year term of office, so for 2026, the existing President, Alexandre Tissot Demidoff; Vice-President, Kristiina Demidoff; Ambassador, Alexander Borovikov; and Marketing & Social Media Director, Oliver Spörri.
4. Review of programmes and activities held in 2025:
 1. The European Demidoff Association (EDA) remains structured as an independent 'not-for-profit' Swiss Association so without legal relationship to any other corporate entity.
 2. At the end of January, 2026, the Lugano-based accounting firm, Fiduciaria Antonini, finalised the legal process for the EDA to be considered exempt to formally register with the Commercial Registry in Ticino. This involved having the associated legal document formally notarised. The duly notarised document was provided and approved, without issue, by the Commercial Registry of Ticino.
 3. The completion of the above noted legal process confirms that the EDA is in proper good standing as a legitimate 'Not for Profit', Swiss Association. Regardless of this fact, our application to open a 'Small Business' account with ZKB Bank in Switzerland was rejected. This was our fourth such failed attempt with a Swiss bank. The directors concluded that, for now, we have exhausted all possibilities to make this happen. It is clear that the Swiss Banks are under clear instruction from FINMA, the financial regulator, to reject any application received from any entity that has a Russian name or Russian named directors. As such, the directors are clear that, only the end of the war in Ukraine, followed by normalisation of relations between the west and Russia, positions the EDA to return to the Swiss banks to open its own proper bank account. Until that time, all attempts simply are futile. We are under no

illusion that this may take years. This disappointing news does not in any way hinder the EDA from continuing to conduct ‘business as usual’.

4. During the course of the year, the Marketing & Social Media Director actively posted, and in Russian, interesting and colourful posts on the EDA Instagram. These were all well-received given that the EDA has an important Russian-speaking membership in Europe.
5. In February, 2025 M. Talalay presented in Russian at the ‘*Union de la Noblesse Russe*’ (UNR) in Paris on the second Russian edition of the “Travels of Anatole Demidoff in 1837”. It was an overwhelming success. The event was organised by EDA Academic Member, Suzanne Louvel, in coordination with the directors of the UNR. The translation for the audience from Russian to French of Talalay’s presentation was made by Irene Commeau, a director of the International Demidoff Foundation and Academic Member of the EDA. We sincerely thank each of them for their kind and generous assistance. Dr. Nadia Sikorsky further published a book review of Talalay’s book on her webpage, *NashaGazeta*.
6. Given the success of the publication of the second Russian edition of the “Travels of Anatole Demidoff”, Talalay proposed to the EDA directors to next publish the first Russian edition of Anatole Demidoff’s, “Letters on Russia”. This was approved and involves a financial donation from the EDA of Euros 1,200 in total comprised of Euros 700 for the author and Euros 500 for the publisher. Publication is expected by the end of 2025 or in early 2026. Again, the president will draft the ‘Foreward’ to the publication as done for “Travels of Anatole Demidoff in 1837”.
7. The EDA further is a co-sponsoring, with a donation of Euros 2,000, the publication of a ‘glossy’ book on the “Russian Orthodox Church in Florence” written by Academic Member, V. Zherdev. The other sponsor is Axios, who are based in Florida, USA, and who have organised a larger financial donation. The book will be published in English, Russian, and Italian and expected to launch in late 2025 or early 2026. This is a highly ambitious project that may involve the need for additional funding.
8. During the course of the year, the EDA promoted the art exhibition of the Russian artist, who currently resides in Germany, Genia Scheffer, who engages to “build bridges of friendship and understanding” between Russia and the West. His exhibition in Malta was on “Saint Tsar Nicholas and his Family”. A film clip of the exhibition was posted on the EDA Instagram account by the Marketing Director and with strong positive results received. We believe that this association with this world renowned artist closely aligns with the historical mission of the EDA.
9. The president collaborated closely with Professor Lucia Tonini in Florence and Elena Pirogova in Russia on an academic article entitled a “Private collection of books from the Library of the Villa of San Donato”. An excerpt of the article published in the Summer NewsLetter of the “Society of the History of Collecting”. In August, 2025 the article was accepted by the Italian academic journal, *SLAVIA*, with publication scheduled for March, 2026. There are also plans to organise an associated conference either in Rome or Venice in late 2026 or Spring, 2027.
10. Given the president’s change of permanent residence five years ago from London to Lugano, the library of the Uffizi in Florence was offered a collection of approximately 200 original books from the Library of the Villa di San Donato. This donation was accepted. The work now focuses on completing the heavy legal and tax process. It is believed that an associated conference will be organised in Florence following the successful shipment of the donation.
11. The Vice-President had the opportunity to meet with Terhi Makinen, the director of the “Friends of Traskanda Manor” during the birthday celebrations of Aurore Demidova Karamzine that took place in Helsinki in early August. The Vice-President positioned a possible speaking engagement on Aurore in Finland on the part of the EDA. This was approved by the directors of the “Friends of Traskanda Manor” with an event now planned to take place at the Chapel of Traskanda Manor the evening of 10 March 2026 from 18:00 to 20:00. The Finnish scholar, Tryggve Gestrin, kindly has agreed to present at the event together with the president.

12. The EDA NewsLetter on the “American Bonapartes” created much widespread interest. A family reunion is now planned near Copenhagen with the descendants of the American, Elizabeth Patterson, and Jerome Bonaparte. The head of the family in Denmark, Count Adam Moltke-Huitfeldt, kindly and generously agreed to host a family reunion at his residence, ‘Cope’, on Thursday, 12 March, 2026. We still await to make contact with the French descendants of Jerome Bonaparte and Catherine of Wuertemburg.
13. The “Lanterna di Genoa” event, hosted by Irene Kovalyoa, took place in Genoa, Italy on 15 and 16 November. Despite the driving rain, EDA Academic Member, Alina Toukallo, presented her moving story on her family and their Russian roots. Pia Readaelli presented, in Italian and in Russian, her research findings concerning Italian and Ticinese personalities who are buried in St. Petersburg. Suzanne Louvel presented on her relations, Aurore Demidova Karamzine, and on both days. The president presented on the “Early Years of Mathilde Bonaparte in Italy” and on the “Demidoff Mausoleum at Pere Lachaise in Paris”. The audience was most appreciative of each of these presentations.
14. The president and Talalay participated via concall on Wednesday, 19 November 2026, together with fifteen other presenters, at a conference organised in Tula, Russia by the “Demidov Historical Museum”. The theme of the conference was the Demidoff Necropolis, so their history, current status, and possible restoration. These are predominately found in Russia and Paris. The president presented on the Demidoff Mausoleum in Paris while Talalay presented on the Aurora Pavlovna Mausoleum in Milan. The presentations will now publish in the “Journal of the Demidov Historical Museum” sometime in mid-2026.
15. Membership continues to grow, and nearly each week, and presently exceeds 150 members who are predominately based in Europe.