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**From:** Christian von Arnim <Christian@CVA-COMMUNICATIONS.COM>  
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NNA-N E W S

Executive council of General Anthroposophical Society (Foundation Meeting) to appeal against interim injunction

By Christian von Arnim

Dornach, 21 February (NNA) - In the legal dispute about the capacity to undertake legal transactions of the "General Anthroposophical Society (Foundation Meeting)", which was founded at Christmas 1923 and reactivated in December 2002, the Society has decided on what further action it intends to take.

According to a statement from the General Anthroposophical Society at the Goetheanum today, the executive council of the so-called Foundation Meeting Society has lodged an appeal against the interim injunctions issued by a Swiss court earlier this month in the dispute about the issue.

The injunctions concern procedural matters and prohibit the Society from undertaking legal transactions under the law on private law associations. (See also NNA report N030213-01EN "Interim injunction halts moves to renew Anthroposophical Society")

The procedural dispute will now be heard by a superior court in Solothurn.

A number of court cases in this matter are pending against the Foundation Meeting Society, but the court in Dorneck-Thierstein has ruled in the substantive issue to hear only the most important case in the first instance. This deals with the issue of whether or not the General Anthroposophical Society (Foundation Meeting) legally exists under the law governing associations.

If the court rules that the Society does not legally exist, the remaining cases will become redundant, if, on the other hand, its legal existence is confirmed, the claimants will have to decide whether to proceed with the remaining cases.

According to a statement from one of the main claimant groups, the "Anthroposophical Society, Christian Rosenkreutz Branch, Hamburg e.V.", its case is based on the "absolute conviction that the Foundation Meeting Society of 1923/24 has failed, and that the Anthroposophical Society, refounded at the time with the statutes adopted by all those present, no longer exists due to the fact that the members abandoned it after 1925."

Through the reactivation of the Foundation Meeting Society the fact was to be hidden "that the Anthroposophical Society refounded at Christmas 1923 no longer exists."

In contrast, the member of the executive council of the General Anthroposophical Society, Paul Mackay, said with reference to the endeavours to resolve the constitution issue and make a new start: "We think it is of such importance to proceed from this basis because in our view the Foundation Meeting was not just a spiritual event but also a physical one, a legal matter."

"I believe we have a good case, both in the substantive case and, indeed, in the procedural matter."

"We knew from the beginning that if we embark on this path, that if we say we want to build on the foundation of the society of Christmas 1923 also in legal terms, that there are matters which need explaining - but they can be explained and justified. But that does of course also create the basis for legal action," Mackay added.

At the end of December, 1,600 members from all over the world adopted with a clear majority the amended statutes of the foundation meeting of 1923 despite vociferous opposition from a small group of protesters against the move.

The appeal and substantive case is likely to carry on for several months until all the arguments and counter-arguments have been submitted and heard.

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