

FIPLV EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 1

Graz - Austria

12 April 2008

Unconfirmed Minutes

Present

Terry Lamb	President
Margareta Leoj	Vice President
Denis Cunningham	Secretary General
Cecilia Odé	Editor of Publications
Raija Airio	President, Nordic-Baltic Region

Languages of Use: English, French, German

1 Formalities

1.1 Welcome

T Lamb welcomed all, especially Raija Airio, and invited them to use the language(s) of choice.

D Cunningham noted with regret the passing of Judith Hamilton and requested that the meeting show their respect and appreciation by observing a one-minute silence. D Cunningham would approach others to assist in preparing an obituary for publication in *FIPLV World News*.

1.2 Apologies

Leena Hämäläinen, Treasurer General

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

To be added was: 10.5 ECML Project. The President thanked D Cunningham for preparing the agenda.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 Executive Meeting 2/07 -- Riga - Latvia - 13 June 2007

Under #7.3 'Anne Walton' should be changed to 'Ann Whorton'. It was agreed that M Leoj place the (confirmed) minutes of the 2007 World Council meeting on the website. D Cunningham would amend the unconfirmed minutes before distributing to member associations. To speed up the process of confirming minutes, it was agreed that the Secretary General set a strict deadline for feedback or approval and include a clause to the effect that if there were no response by the deadline it would be presumed that the non-responding officer believed them to be an accurate record.

3 Business Arising from the Minutes

Action had been completed, was identified on the current agenda, or referred to the List of Tasks.

4 Reports

4.1 President

T Lamb provided an oral report. The meeting believed that it was important to have a written report in future. T Lamb reported that the creation of the FIPLV project within the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) program of activities for 2008-2011 had taken considerable time, effort and sensitive negotiations. He reported that the ECML was happy to have the project with FIPLV. He had been invited to the ECML Conference in September 2007, being identified as a rapporteur (as FIPLV President). He had also been invited to moderate a meeting in September 2008 at the ECML. He and C Odé had met with Leonard Orban, Commissioner for Multilingualism at the European Commission (EC), in November to discuss closer collaboration. This required following up. The President also reported that he had been appointed to a very important role in overseeing educational reform in schools to enhance the vocational focus with a consideration of a diploma in languages (in England). He had attended an NGO meeting at UNESCO in December but found it difficult to connect with relevant individuals. D Cunningham provided background on UNESCO and Council of Europe (COE) expectations that those with NGO-status be more actively involved, pointing out Eynar Leupold's past feedback that FIPLV needed to assume a higher profile at UNESCO, while Dieter Herold had felt that the COE meetings which he had attended were of little relevance to FIPLV in the past. This view was not shared by D Cunningham, who had attended two extremely beneficial COE policy forums. The President reported that he had attended a seminar on teacher education in Europe in Siena and had been an invited speaker to TESOL '08 in New York, where he had discussions with officers re TESOL relations with and renewed membership of FIPLV. He and C Odé had prepared an abstract for a presentation at AILA 2008, which had been accepted.

4.2 Vice President

M Leoj tabled her report, saying that she met many people at the LMS (Sweden) Conference at the weekend. She also reported on the reorganisation of the education system in Sweden, which included an upgrade of languages study.

4.3 Secretary-General

D Cunningham had distributed his report prior to the meeting, invited questions and was thanked.

4.4 Treasurer-General

Raija Airio provided an oral report on behalf of L Hämäläinen, whose absence was noted with regret. The finances were in a bad state, although 2007 was better than 2006. Some membership fees were arriving. L Hämäläinen had passed on the message that proper receipts were required for reimbursement of expenses. The sad state of the finances was mainly the result of invoices to members being sent out late in 2007 and not at all in 2008. D Cunningham was asked to send the invoices to members for 2008 dues, which he had offered to do beforehand. Another difficulty was that it appeared that only L Hämäläinen had access to the FIPLV account details and transactions in Switzerland, so that other ExCo members were unable to obtain information, use the FIPLV credit card or obtain reimbursement. As a result, it was decided that the President open a bank account in an

Austrian bank in Graz in the name of FIPLV with a view to closing the existing account at the Luzerner Kantonalbank in Switzerland. The signatories would be T Lamb and L Hämäläinen, with C Odé being a fallback position. In asking R Airio to convey her report, L Hämäläinen had suggested the possibility that she should stand down as Treasurer General because of ill-health. The meeting discussed this option and reluctantly thought it the best course of action. It was agreed that Kirsti Santaholma of SUKOL be asked to be Acting Treasurer General for the balance of the term of office (to the end of 2009). R Airio would contact her. The meeting was informed later that Kirsti Santaholma had agreed.

4.5 Editor of Publications

C Odé spoke to her written report, previously distributed. She added details of two publications on/with MAPRYAL and had sent her abstract for the IALL (International Academy for Linguistic Law) International Conference in Lisbon in July. She had revised the sponsorship letter, which was further discussed at the meeting. She would amend the current draft before distributing it to other ExCo members. Once finalised, the letter would be used to target likely organisations in Europe (by C Odé), the Americas (T Lamb) and elsewhere (including China and Japan) (by D Cunningham).

The President thanked all for their reports.

5 Relations with Regions and Member Associations

5.1 FIPLV Regions and Regionalisation

5.1.1 Europe

D Cunningham had attended the meeting in Leipzig on 27 March. In the absence of a written report from K Schröder, D Cunningham referred to his draft minutes of the meeting which embraced FIPLV-Europe but most of which was devoted to forming the Western/Central European Region (WCER). The FIPLV-Europe Board had not met, mainly because of the ill-health of its Treasurer, L Hämäläinen. There had been a meeting in Paris in September under the auspices of ALL (UK) and the Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP) in the context of the REAL project (of the EC). T Lamb would request a written report from K Schröder.

5.1.2 Nordic-Baltic Region

R Airio provided an oral report. She would present on FIPLV at the conference in Vilnius in June. The internal regulations would be reviewed in 2009.

5.1.3 Other: Western/Central European Region (WCER)

D Cunningham reported that at the recent meeting in Leipzig, the internal regulations were finalised (subject to confirmation) and the Board had been elected: Chair – Konrad Schröder; Treasurer – Hélène Ladevie; Secretary – Halina Widla. It had been a positive meeting.

5.2 International Unilingual Associations

FIPF and IDV were collaborating with FIPLV on the ECML project, so relations were excellent. C Odé had been re-elected to the MAPRYAL Presidium and had been involved in conferences and meetings, while T Lamb had met with TESOL officers in New York. There had been email contact with ILEI and LATEUM, while D Cunningham had met with Rita Hegedüs, President of the IATH, in Budapest the previous week. T Lamb would follow up

with IATEFL, C Odé with the international association for Arabic and D Cunningham with that for Polish.

5.3 National Multilingual Associations

Reports had been received from AFMLTA (Australia), ANILS (Italy), PTN (Poland) and SUKOL (Finland). These had been distributed to members of the FIPLV Executive and World Council. These and any other reports would also be distributed to member associations. Issues raised were discussed at the appropriate places on the agenda. R Airio spoke to the SUKOL report, highlighting its 50th anniversary in 2007. A letter had been received from FNAPLV (Portugal), requesting that FIPLV reconsider its definition of 'individual member'. This was a recurrence of the same request ten years before where FIPLV pointed out that 'individual member' referred to the membership of individuals in an association and not the number of associations representing specific languages. D Cunningham was asked to draft a letter pointing out the positives, the new ECML project and partnership, and state that FNAPLV could not redefine 'individual member'. He would also suggest that FNAPLV could request financial consideration. This draft would be referred to the President for despatch.

6 Development of the Federation

6.1 Membership Promotion

Following on from the previous meeting, various officers provided an update on action in different countries: Azerbaijan - no news; Austria - there was a new association but little action; Estonia - Eglé Sleinotiene of Lithuania had identified a new contact; Georgia - no news; Lithuania - D Cunningham had met with Eglé Sleinotiene the previous week and confirmed their willingness to join after the recently resolved legal aspects; Mongolia - no news; Philippines - D Cunningham to follow up; Turkey - no news; and Vietnam - D Cunningham to follow up but funding for travel was a difficulty. D Cunningham had met with representatives of unilingual associations from Croatia in Leipzig, and would meet with them and others in Zagreb on 21 April. R Airio would contact the association in Denmark. The ECML project would assist with these endeavours while the importance of personal contact was again stressed.

6.2 Membership Requests

The only unresolved request was that of the European Association of Teachers of Arabic. C Odé would follow up.

6.3 Financial Status of Members

The financial status of members was unavailable. D Cunningham would distribute invoices to members upon his return home in a fortnight.

6.4 Associate Members

D Cunningham met with the directors of the Balassi Balint in Budapest the previous week and would follow up with them on either associate membership or sponsorship.

7 External Relations

7.1 UNESCO

7.1.1 Relations

Relations were good as FIPLV collaborated with UNESCO on the International Year of Languages (IYOL08) and the dissemination of UNESCO materials, following discussions with Mauro Rosi, leader of the cross-sectoral team on multilingualism.

7.1.2 2007 Report

The 2007 annual report had been sent to UNESCO earlier in the year.

7.2 Council of Europe (COE)

C Odé reported that she had not been able to attend recent meetings, although she responded every time. She had been frustrated in trying to enter FIPLV information on the COE database.

7.2.1 European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

Covered under #4.1.

7.2.1.1 Contract

D Cunningham had prepared a draft but this had not been followed up, perhaps no longer being necessary. The President would investigate. D Cunningham had also prepared a list of items to be housed at the ECML, hosting the FIPLV head office, but this would have to be reviewed because of limited space.

7.2.1.2 Operations

Referred to the meeting of the World Council, where Susanna Slivensky would present the following day.

7.3 European Commission (EC)

Covered under #4.1 and #4.5.

8 Operations and Publications

8.1 Strategic Plan

The President would act on this using a previous ALL (UK) plan.

8.2 Dissemination and Determining Needs

The President intended to use the World Council meeting as a forum for discussion and the conduct of business to reflect a need to find new ways.

8.3 World News

The President congratulated C Odé on the quality of *FIPLV World News*. C Odé proposed that *FIPLV World News* be replaced by publishing a 'newspage' on the website in line with the global trend from paper to electronic publishing. FIPLV had the website and the brochure. C Odé explained that it was very difficult to obtain articles, papers or other items for *World News* and transferring its role to the website would also reduce expenditure. The webmaster, Marie Blomkvist, could create a button entitled 'Latest News' on the homepage. Implications for the Statutes and the brochure would need to be investigated. The proposal would be referred to the World Council.

8.4 Website

M Leoj asked the others to suggest changes. It was decided to place the powerpoint presentation (prepared by C Odé) and confirmed minutes on the website, as well as creating

a new button for 'FIPLV News'. The President raised the possibility of a Dutch colleague assisting with a discussion forum on the website.

8.5 Brochure/Flyer

C Odé offered to update the brochure, which would then be available from her. She would print 1000 copies.

8.6 History

Reinhold Freudenstein had taken over the final editing as he and D Cunningham were still discussing some matters. R Freudenstein estimated the near-complete text to be around 110 pp and 400,000 digits. D Cunningham agreed to find out the cost of printing in Romania.

8.7 Files

It was an ongoing challenge to recreate the FIPLV files, while D Cunningham was culling his excessive files.

8.8 Powerpoint Presentation

Covered under #4.5 and #8.4.

8.9 Hermeneia (Romanian Journal)

It was previously agreed that D Cunningham accept the offer of Petru Bejan for FIPLV to obtain and edit articles for up to three issues of this journal printed in Iasi (Romania). D Cunningham had requested articles of colleagues and, in particular, those of UNESCO Etxea to focus on strategies to redress the disappearance of endangered languages. While Petru Bejan needed international distribution for the journal, FIPLV involvement would give younger scholars the possibility of publishing.

9 Priorities and Activities

9.1 Strategic Planning

Covered under #8.1.

9.2 Linguapax, Language Rights & Solidarity

There was no recent news. C Odé would attend the world congress of the International Academy of Linguistic Law (IALL) in Lisbon.

9.3 Collaboration of Teachers of Languages

The FIPLV/ECML project, Language Associations and Collaborative Support (LACS), was the best current example. As this subject would be subsumed elsewhere in future agendas, it was decided to delete this agenda item in future.

9.4 Discussion Papers

There were no new proposals.

9.5 Representation

D Cunningham had recently represented FIPLV at the GMF Conference in Leipzig (27-29 March) and the MANYE International Conference in Budapest (3-5 April).

9.6 International Year of Languages 2008 (IYOL08)

It was decided to publish David Crystal's paper on the website. FIPLV had also publicised UNESCO information on the IYOL08 on the website. It was expressed with regret that

knowledge and the impact of IYOL08 on the wider community appeared to be minimal in some areas.

9.7 Other

Nil.

10 Projects

10.1 Multilingualism

D Cunningham reported on the project initiated in Göteborg in 2006. It was decided that this duplicated what was already available, so the project should be discontinued.

10.2 Continuity

This was covered on the website, so the item would be deleted from future agendas.

10.3 Decade of Education and Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

This was covered by papers and articles by the Secretary General, so would be deleted from future agendas.

10.4 Role of Associations in Policy

Subsumed within #10.5.

10.5 ECML Project

Refer also #4.1. The project was about dissemination and collaboration, identifying strategies of teachers helping teachers locally and nationally, influencing policy and empowering those associations who believed they had no voice with politicians. A by-product of this project over the period of 2008-2011 was to disseminate information on ECML projects. CASLT (Canada) was also involved in the project.

11 FIPLV World Congresses

11.1 FIPLV 2009

The conference would take place in Moscow on 2-4 July 2009, flanked by pre- and post-conference tours. A full discussion was referred to the World Council. However, C Odé informed the meeting that there would be a maximum of 500 participants to attend this World Congress of four thematic strands and with possible keynote speakers in Vitaly Kostomarov, Irina Khaleeva and Rolf Schärer of Switzerland. Simultaneous interpreting would be available where keynote addresses were in Russian.

11.2 FIPLV 2012

D Cunningham had sent out the call for offers on 5 February. The deadline was 31 May. No concrete offers had been received.

12 Finances

12.1 Notional Budget for 2009

The draft emailed by the Treasurer General a few days before was discussed. The amended draft would be referred to the meeting of the World Council.

12.2 Funding of Publications

Funding was available from the sale of publications, as agreed in the past. It was decided to print 50 copies of the FIPLV History. Additional copies of the 75th anniversary volume could

be printed in the future as it was an excellent volume to include in the FIPLV International Award.

12.3 Sponsorship Proposals

Covered under #4.5.

13 Recognition and Tasks

13.1 Honorary FIPLV Counsellor

There were no nominations.

13.2 FIPLV International Award

Four nominations had been received: Natalia Gvishiani (LATEUM) – endorsed (as Ekaterina Mikhailovskaya had informed D Cunningham that they had paid the 2007 membership fee; Marja Martikainen (SUKOL/Finland) – endorsed (as SUKOL had paid the 2007 fee); Stanley Perera (MLTASL/Sri Lanka) – ineligible (as the request for non-payment of the membership fee was an issue); and Gail Spence (NZALT/New Zealand) – endorsed subject to NZALT having paid the 2007 or 2008 fee or both. All were referred to the meeting of the World Council. Subject to ratification of these recommendations, D Cunningham would write accordingly to Stanley Perera of MLTASL and Adele Scott of NZALT.

13.3 List of Tasks Update

D Cunningham would update and distribute the list.

14 Future Meeting Dates and Venues

14.1 Executive Meeting 2/2008

The Executive discussed the possible dates in the second half of November or late January 2009 to coincide with a meeting of the FIPLV/ECML project in Graz. All officers were asked to investigate comparative prices to include November or January, Graz or Moscow. This information was to be referred to the President.

14.2 World Council Meeting 2008

The President would keep the meeting as informal as possible to include a briefing by Susanna Slivensky (of the ECML) at 1400, brainstorming on vision and the strategic plan, and adequate time to discuss FIPLV 2009.

14.3 2009 Meetings

It was decided to have the 2009 Executive meeting on 30 June and recommend that the meetings of the World Council and World Assembly take a half-day each on 1 July in Moscow immediately prior to FIPLV 2009.

14.4 FIPLV Timeline 2008-2009

D Cunningham to update, as required.

15 Any Other Business

15.1 Death of Maurice Antier

D Cunningham reported with regret that Maurice Antier, a former FIPLV Vice President and Honorary Executive Member, had passed away at the age of 90. D Cunningham had been very happy to meet him eighteen months earlier to discuss the FIPLV History, while Maurice Antier had been chuffed by the continuing interest in his earlier contribution.