

## FIPLV WORLD ASSEMBLY MEETING

Graz (Austria)

1 September 2009

### Minutes

#### Present

Raija Airio	SUKOL – Finland/NBR
Paolo Balboni	ANILS - Italy
Denis Cunningham	FIPLV Secretary General/AFMLTA - Australia
Marianne Hepp	IDV (German)
Judit Hidasi	MANYE - Hungary
Sigurborg Jónsdóttir	STIL - Iceland
Terry Lamb	FIPLV President/ALL - UK
Margareta Leoj	FIPLV Vice-President/LMS - Sweden
Kirsti Santaholma	Acting FIPLV Treasurer General
Andras Szöllösy	MANYE – Hungary
Valija Vahere	LALT - Latvia
Halina Widla	PTN – Poland/WCER

**Languages Used:** English, French, German

## 1 Formalities

### 1.1 Welcome

The President welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending the World Assembly meeting. He also welcomed Waldek Martyniuk and Susanna Slivensky, Director and Assistant Director of the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML) respectively, and thanked them for providing meeting rooms. The FIPLV World Assembly was, in turn, welcomed by the ECML Directors.

### 1.2 Languages to Be Used During the Meeting

The President iterated that it was the philosophy and policy of FIPLV that everyone should feel free to use the languages of choice. Interpreting was available, when necessary.

### 1.3 Introductions

Each participant made a personal introduction.

### 1.3 Apologies

Lesley Harbon (AFMLTA, Australia), Bengt Henningsson (LMS, Sweden), Cecilia Odé (Editor of Publications), Linda Parker (ALL, UK), Karin Zarrouk (LMS, Sweden), Janina Zielinska (FIPF).

### 1.4 Approval of the Agenda

The draft agenda was approved.

## 2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 13 June 2006 (Göteborg - Sweden)

The minutes were considered as an accurate record and approved by the Assembly. The Secretary General would distribute the confirmed minutes to members. The streamlined process of approving the minutes was agreed, so that the wait of three years was no longer necessary.

### **3 Business Arising from the Minutes**

No relevant items were detected which were not on the agenda.

## **4 Reports**

### **4.1 World Council Triennial Report**

#### **4.1.1 Executive Report**

The President informed the meeting that reports had been distributed or would be and would be placed on the website. The head office had been relocated to Graz, where relations with the ECML were enhanced by the move and the collaboration through the LACS (Language Associations and Collaborative Support) Project. This would lead into a memorandum of cooperation. The LACS Project answered the need for concrete work, where the partners were FIPLV, FIPF and IDV. A survey had been distributed, eliciting 35 responses. The major emphases of the project were ways in which language teacher associations could assist teachers and the publicity of ECML activities and resources. An emerging issue was the recruitment of active young members and websites were being investigated. Members were referred to the LACS website. Monthly mailouts were to commence, while a major workshop was planned for 10-11 December. Comments were invited. The President was involved in another ECML project on the teaching of 'majority' languages, and had been invited to be part of a new Council of Europe languages forum in Strasbourg looking at issues in languages in Europe. He would also be involved in a new COE project on the languages of schooling. He had met recently with Leonard Orban, EC Commissioner for Multiculturalism, and was included in a recently EC-funded project on language policies. FIPLV was also included in another UK initiative looking at teacher qualifications in a range of languages. The President was also starting to develop a strategic plan. In this context, membership was important as it had been in the past; this included being considerate to financial difficulties of existing members while attracting new members. FIPLV needed to target membership more specifically.

#### **4.1.2 Financial Report (Treasurer-General)**

K Santaholma had replaced L Hämäläinen as Treasurer General, the result of the latter's ill-health. It was difficult for K Santaholma to provide a triennial overview, as not all information had been passed on by her predecessor. She reported that she was concerned about the non-payment by member associations and the cost of conducting meetings. Every attempt to reduce costs was made. Other avenues of revenue were required, such as the sale of publications. She suggested that meetings be held in conjunction with others, where alternative funding means were available – as was the case for this meeting. She would send another reminder to members who had not paid. The President would write to members who had not paid for three years. The Treasurer General report would be placed on the website.

#### **4.1.3 Approval of Accounts**

K Santaholma spoke to the statement of income and expenditure for the end of 2008. She provided the signature and report of the external auditor. The World Assembly approved the accounts. K Santaholma informed the meeting that she was in the process of transferring the money from the account to another (new one) in Graz.

#### **4.1.4 Approval of the World Council Report**

Deferred until after #6, when the World Assembly approved the report.

## **4.2 Member Reports**

### **4.2.1 International Unilingual Associations**

- **IDV (German)**

M Hepp reported on the IDV World Congress on 3-8 August, where some 3000 participants attended in Jena. There were many sessions with participants arriving from all over the world. A new Executive had been elected and she was the new President. Another Olympiade was planned for students. There were no other reports from international unilingual federations.

### **4.2.2 Regions**

R Airio referred the meeting to the newsletter on the NBR website in lieu of a report. She informed the meeting that the NBR had drafted new Regulations and that the meeting of the day before had decided a new Executive: President – Sigurborg Jónsdóttir, Treasurer – Leena Hämäläinen. No-one had been nominated for the position of Secretary, so S Jónsdóttir would fulfil this role for the moment. It was confirmed that the NBR Seminar would take place on 18-19 June 2010. The meeting was also informed that D Cunningham would follow up in the area of Asia/Pacific to see if another FIPLV Region could be formed. The other FIPLV Regions were FIPLV-Europe and the Western/Central European Region. Neither had worked well recently. K Schröder was Chair of both, but appeared to be too busy to devote sufficient time to both and Leena Hämäläinen, Treasurer of FIPLV-Europe, had been ill. As a result, the meeting resolved to take action and appoint T Lamb as the Chair with K Santaholma as Treasurer, fulfilling the original intention of having the FIPLV Treasurer General as the Treasurer of FIPLV-Europe. S Jónsdóttir would continue as Secretary. This action should ensure that FIPLV-Europe was, in fact, active through the various activities of the FIPLV President. D Cunningham would write to K Schröder to inform him of this decision. There was the possibility of creating other regions through the LACS workshop in December.

### **4.2.3 National Multilingual Associations**

In future, annual reports would reflect the calendar year. Reports had been received from ANILS (Italy), PTN (Poland) and VLLT (The Netherlands). The report of SUKOL (Finland) was on the way. In addition to the ANILS report, P Balboni reported that a new minister had decreed that only English and one other language would be taught. Action by ANILS had this decision overturned. Another language was considered as an option for Latin. The possibility of placing reports on the website was raised, allowing for the option of updating these. A Szöllösy spoke to the tabled report of MANYE (Hungary), pointing out the tradition of annual congresses to 2003, followed by a series of meetings. Identified as issues were challenges to language teaching and the global position of certain languages. An aim was to bring together teachers of different languages. A new Executive had been elected in 2008. Given the limited time, no other verbal reports were considered.

## **5 Operations and Publication**

### **5.1 Statutes**

#### **5.1.1 Proposed Amendments**

The President provided background to the proposed changes, noting that some had been motivated by activity within the REAL project, which envisaged duplication of FIPLV structures and operations. The reasons behind the proposed changes are included here for clarity:

### **A Expansion of Membership Categories**

Following previous discussion, the President raised the question of national unilingual associations joining FIPLV. At present, this was not possible as it was deemed preferable that such associations work together to unite within a national multilingual association. There was also concern that allowing national unilingual associations to join might undermine the membership and work of international unilingual federations, also members of FIPLV. The following amendments are proposed:

1 that a new Clause 2.3 be added:

2.3 national unilingual associations where there is no existing national multilingual association or where the language is not represented by an international unilingual federation which is a member of FIPLV

and that Clauses 2.3-2.7 be renumbered accordingly

2 that 'international' be added to Clause 6.4 of the Regulations

3 that a new Clause 6.5 be included:

6.5 The membership for national unilingual associations is (1) 85.00 Euros for associations with up to 312 members (minimum rate); (2) 0.25 Euros per capita for associations with members from 313 to 2500 members (differentiated rate based on the number of individual members); (3) 650.00 Euros for associations with more than 2500 members (fixed rate)

4 that the following clauses be renumbered accordingly

Proposal A was approved.

### **B Reduction in the Executive Positions**

As the printed publication of FIPLV World News had been discontinued, the position of Editor of Publications seemed no longer necessary. Thus, it was proposed that this position be deleted. The Secretary General was asked to contact the members of the FIPLV World Council to see if any members opposed this proposal. This was done and there was no opposition. Consequently, it is proposed:

5 that the reference to the position of Editor of Publications be deleted in Clause 8.1 and the syntax be corrected accordingly

6 that Clause 1.5 of the Regulations be deleted and that a third sentence be added to Clause 1.2 of the Regulations: "The Vice-President may have editorial responsibility for publications which bear the Federation's imprint, including the FIPLV website."

Proposal B was rejected, but the Executive was empowered to decide if the position of Editor was necessary and required a call for nominations.

### **C Usage of One Currency for Operations: the Euro**

Following the move to include the euro (in 2006) as the second currency in addition to the Swiss franc and the intention to establish the FIPLV account in Graz, it was deemed no longer necessary to operate in two currencies. Thus, it is proposed:

7 that references to Swiss francs be deleted throughout the FIPLV Statutes and Regulations

Proposal C was approved. As a result, it was agreed that the Secretary General check the Statutes thoroughly and make any other changes required by the above. The Executive was also asked to investigate the possibility of removing one of the three layers of management (Executive, World Council, World Assembly) to simplify the structure and operations.

## **5.2 Publications**

### **5.2.1 World News**

The name should be changed to 'FIPLV News' and member associations would be encouraged to contribute and increase the value of the website.

### **5.2.2 Website**

Covered by the meeting of the Executive. M Leoj would work with the webmaster, Marie Blomkvist, to make requested changes and update the website.

### **5.2.3 Brochure**

The brochure had been updated (by C Odé) and distributed.

### **5.2.4 Mission Statement/5.2.5 Rationale/5.2.6 Profile**

It was recommended that these three working documents be revised, simplified and shortened and perhaps be collapsed into one document. The President would prepare a draft for circulation.

### **5.2.7 History**

The History had been published. The President thanked those involved, including D Cunningham who had initiated the publication.

### **5.2.8 Other**

None.

## **6 Projects and Activities**

### **6.1 Discussion papers**

None proposed.

### **6.2 Collaboration of Teachers**

The President reminded the meeting of the LACS Project, an excellent example of ways in which FIPLV assisted teachers of languages. Such work would also be covered by the strategic plan to be distributed. A joint conference with the ECML was planned for September 2011.

### **6.3 Linguapax/ Language Rights/Solidarity**

The Secretary General would attend a meeting of the Linguapax Advisory Board later in the month and was hopeful of a rejuvenation of Linguapax activities. He would prepare a report.

### **6.4 UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)**

The Secretary-General reminded the meeting that it had been decided that FIPLV integrate this worldwide idea into the strategic plan of FIPLV.

### **6.5 International Award**

The World Assembly endorsed the following nominated candidates, subject to confirmation of paid dues.

- LALT (Latvia): Valija Vahere
- SUKOL (Finland): Anu Parikka

### **6.6 Proposals from the World Council/Member Associations**

None proposed.

### **6.7 Other**

Nil.

## **7 Membership Fees**

No change proposed.

## **8 Elections**

The Secretary General explained the process according to the Election Procedure. An Election Committee was formed with Margareta Leoj (LMS, Sweden) as Chair, Sigurborg Jónsdóttir (STIL, Iceland) and Halina Widla (PTN, Poland). Those eligible to vote were identified with each paid-up member association entitled to two votes. No proxy votes had been received.

### **8.1 Executive**

Only one nomination had been received for each position, except that of Editor of Publications for which there were no nominations. The result of the elections (each with 19 votes) for the Executive Committee for 2010-2012 was:

#### **8.1.1 President**

Terry Lamb (ALL, UK)

#### **8.1.2 Vice-President**

Paolo Balboni (ANILS, Italy)

#### **8.1.3 Secretary-General**

Denis Cunningham (AFMLTA, Australia)

#### **8.1.4 Treasurer-General**

Kirsti Santaholma (SUKOL, Finland)

#### **8.1.5 Editor of Publications**

No nomination.

### **8.2 World Council**

#### **8.2.1 Election of Representatives of Multilingual Member Associations**

There were no nominations. The Secretary General suggested that, as in the past, the Executive approach member associations (not in an FIPLV Region) to nominate a representative. In the first instance, this would include MLAA (USA), MLTASL (Sri Lanka), RALMLT (Russia) and SAALT (South Africa). The members of the World Assembly agreed.

#### **8.2.2 Delegates of FIPLV Regions**

Delegates of FIPLV Regions were elected by the specific Region, so the current Chair and World Council representative of the NBR (Raija Airio) would continue until the end of 2009 and then be replaced by Sigurborg Jónsdóttir. As the World Assembly had taken action to rejuvenate FIPLV-Europe by putting in place a new Executive with Terry Lamb as Chair, this would take effect immediately. The situation of the Western/Central European Region required clarification.

#### **8.2.3 Representatives of International Unilingual Associations**

International unilingual associations were responsible for nominating their own representatives to the FIPLV World Council and informed FIPLV of their identity. Marianne Hepp would represent IDV, Janina Zielinska FIPF, while a formal nomination had been received from MAPRYAL for Cecilia Odé. The Secretary General would contact the other international unilingual associations to obtain the identities of their representatives.

## **9 2010 Notional Budget**

K Santaholma explained details of the notional budget for 2010. Following approval by the World Council, the World Assembly endorsed the notional budget as presented. The challenge of deriving revenue from other sources was again raised.

## **10 Any Other Business**

### **10.1 Farewell by Margareta Leoj**

As it was her final meeting after six years as Vice President, M Leoj observed how FIPLV reflected the objectives of LMS (Sweden), seeing her role as representing

practising teachers. She congratulated D Cunningham on his work and networks, essential for FIPLV, thanked T Lamb for his input and K Santaholma for her warmth and hospitality. She wished the incoming Vice President, Paolo Balboni, every success.

### **10.2 2009 FIPLV International Award**

As she had arrived unexpectedly, Valija Vahere made it possible for her to be presented with the 2009 FIPLV International Award. This was arranged, so the President presented the Award.