

FIPLV WORLD COUNCIL MEETING
Graz - Austria
1 September 2009

Minutes

Present

Raija Airio	Nordic Baltic Region (NBR)
Denis Cunningham	FIPLV Secretary General
Terry Lamb	FIPLV President
Margareta Leoj	FIPLV Vice President
Kirsti Santaholma	Acting FIPLV Treasurer General
Halina Widla	Western/Central European Region (WCER)

Languages Used: English, French, German, Polish

1 Formalities

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

The President welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending the World Council meeting.

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 Apologies

Cecilia Odé, Janina Zielinska (FIPF)

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda as circulated was approved.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 World Council Meeting - Graz (Austria) - 13 April 2008

The minutes had been approved as an accurate record by email. The President thanked the ECML for providing use of their buildings for the meetings over the two days.

3 Business Arising from the Minutes

No items were detected which were not on the agenda.

4 Reports

4.1 Executive

The Secretary General and Editor of Publications had prepared written reports, which had been distributed previously. These would be distributed to member associations with the minutes. The other officers tabled reports, which would also be distributed to members.

4.1.1 Overview of Activities of the Executive

The President spoke to the tabled report, stating that it covered the LACS Project, work with the European Commission and other projects. K Santaholma spoke to her report. K Santaholma and M Leoj were thanked especially, the former for rectifying

the details of the finances and the latter as it was her final meeting of the World Council. Other written reports had been distributed or were tabled.

4.1.2 Financial Report

K Santaholma reported that there were around 16000 euros in the account, although some outstanding expenses were still to be covered. She reported that the printing of the History was an unexpected cost. D Cunningham had closed the account derived from the sale of publications and presented a cheque for over 1000 euros to the Acting Treasurer General. K Santaholma reported that the ExCo meeting in January had cost less, as she had housed and fed those present. D Cunningham's costs for this trip were to be covered from elsewhere, while he would cover many of the personal expenses. It was felt that Skype was not a realistic option and that personal meetings were important. K Santaholma was in the process of transferring the bank account from Luzern to Graz, where signatories needed to be finalised.

4.1.3 Approval of Accounts

The World Council approved the reports of the Acting Treasurer General and external auditor. The President would ask the Graz bank for papers in English.

4.2 Regions

4.2.1 Europe

There had been no report or recent information. Concerns were referred to the meeting of the World Assembly.

4.2.2 Nordic-Baltic Region (NBR)

R Airio reported that the Board had met in Graz in 2009, where the Regulations had been revised. The term of office was now three years, reflecting that of FIPLV. The Board had been replaced by a new Executive of President (Sigurborg Jónsdóttir), Treasurer (Leena Hämäläinen), while there had been no nomination for the position of Secretary, so S Jónsdóttir would also fulfil this role for the moment. Member associations would each have one representative. The NBR had changed its account into euros before the financial crash, so was less affected than Iceland generally. The newsletter would constitute the report. There was concern in the Region about the ageing of the profession, retirements and fewer younger teachers being recruited and English being taught more and earlier to the detriment of other languages. On the positive side, students completing courses in languages could now access bonus points for tertiary entry (as in Australia). The membership fee had remained the same, while the NBR was working with colleagues in Estonia to form a national multilingual association. There was no news from Denmark. R Airio was thanked for her work. The provisional dates for the NBR Seminar in Reykjavik were 10-11 June 2010. R Airio would send the draft Regulations to D Cunningham for distribution as an appendix to the minutes of the World Council meeting.

4.2.3 Western/Central European Region (WCER)

H Widla, the Secretary of the Western/Central European Region (WCER), reported that the situation was delicate. New structures had been created at the meeting in Leipzig in March 2008. In the absence of contact from K Schröder, H Widla had taken the initiative to propose an international conference hosted by PTN (Poland). K Schröder had responded positively, then there was no further contact. It was difficult to know the reason. The President had reported on recent FIPLV action at the European level with the European Commission, the Council of Europe and the ECML, but this was outside the FIPLV structures chaired by K Schröder.

4.3 International Unilingual Associations

There were no written reports, so the following items were not discussed specifically: 4.3.1 FIPF (French), 4.3.2 IATEFL (EFL), 4.3.3 IDV, 4.3.4 ILEI (Esperanto), 4.3.5 LATEUM (EFL), 4.3.6 SIPLÉ and 4.3.7 TESOL (ESOL). The President reported that relations with FIPF and IDV were becoming stronger through the LACS Project, but that TESOL needed to be deleted for future agendas.

4.4 Multilingual Associations

Reports had been received and distributed electronically prior to the meeting from: ANILS (Italy), PTN (Poland) and VLLT (The Netherlands). The report from SUKOL (Finland) had been sent but had not arrived before D Cunningham's departure. All reports would be distributed to all member associations.

5 Development of the Federation

5.1 List of Member Associations

D Cunningham requested an update on member details, where necessary. K Santaholma had sent reminders to those members who had not paid. She would send another letter after the meeting to suggest negotiating a reduced rate. There would be a three-year period of grace on payments.

5.2 Promotion

All members of the Executive and FIPLV Regions were promoting membership with recent activity focussing on Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Ireland, Romania and Switzerland. Again, the LACS Project meeting in December was seen as an excellent opportunity as most ECML member countries would be represented.

5.3 Associate Members,

There were no associate members. The President was to work on the COE Project on the languages of Schooling, which he saw as another good possibility.

5.4 Regionalisation

D Cunningham would follow up with AFMLTA (Australia) and NZALT (New Zealand), who were already collaborating. The LACS Project also offered further potential.

5.5 Applications for Membership

None at this stage.

5.6 External Relations

5.6.1 UNESCO

Regular contact continued with UNESCO, which sent many documents and invitations while FIPLV submitted annual reports.

5.6.2 Council of Europe (COE)

The President had been invited by the COE Language Policy Division to a meeting focussing on a new direction, the Languages of Schooling, thus reinforcing a concrete relationship.

5.6.2.1 ECML

Relations were excellent with the ECML, now hosting the FIPLV head office. The joint FIPLV/ECML project increased this further.

5.6.2.1.1 Contract

FIPLV would sign a memorandum of cooperation with the ECML. The draft contract prepared by D Cunningham might be used as an appendix.

5.6.2.1.2 Operations

The President reported that FIPLV had been invited to be a member of an international network forum. The ECML was considering an annual declaration. There was the possibility of a joint conference with the ECML in 2011. There would be a significant workshop in December for the LACS Project, which explored the

role of teacher associations in supporting teachers and the dissemination of information on the ECML.

5.6.3 European Commission (EC)

There had been some personal contact since the November meeting T Lamb and C Odé had with Leonard Orban, EC Commissioner for Multilingualism. As the EC was funding REAL, it was important to have a strong relationship with the COE. The President was involved on behalf of FIPLV in an EC-funded project, which was about to begin.

5.6.4 Other

None.

6 Operations and Publications

6.1 Strategic Plan

The President believed it important to have a clear understanding of priorities for the next three years and was planning to develop a strategic plan with manageable objectives and the means to achieve this. He had prepared a grid to be circulated to member associations prior to its being developed further in the coming months.

6.2 World News - Electronic Version

The President reminded all that it had been decided to produce *World News* on the website, where the name had been changed to *FIPLV News* for the 2008 version. Brief monthly reports would be prepared as part of the LACS Project; these would be placed on the website and be distributed by email. A link was required between the FIPLV and LACS websites. The President would invite members to write a short item about language teacher associations; the first would be CASLT of Canada. Paragraphs on ECML projects would also be included.

6.3 Website

More regular updates of information on the website were requested as some information was quite dated. M Leoj would discuss this with the webmaster, Marie Blomkvist.

6.4 Brochure/Flyer

C Odé had updated the brochure recently, removing details, which dated quickly.

6.5 Mission Statement

There was no request for changes, but the meeting agreed that the Secretary General check the content for currency, make any necessary changes and distribute the (revised) version.

6.6 Rationale

There was no request for changes, but the meeting agreed that the Secretary General check the content for currency, make any necessary changes and distribute the (revised) version.

6.7 Profile

There was no request for changes, but the meeting agreed that the Secretary General check the content for currency, make any necessary changes and distribute the (revised) version. It was recommended that these three working documents be revised, simplified and shortened.

6.8 Files

D Cunningham continued to collect documents to recreate the FIPLV files. These, however, would have to be reduced in size - with unimportant documents removed - to fit the space available at the ECML.

6.9 History

K Santaholma offered to take over the sales and distribution of the History. She would prepare an advertisement for the website.

7 Priorities and Activities

7.1 International Year of Languages 2008

Sadly, there was not much impact reported.

7.2 Collaboration of Teachers of Languages

The LACS Project was an outstanding example of FIPLV galvanising collaboration of teachers of languages.

7.3 Linguapax/ Language Rights/Solidarity

As the Linguapax Institute was under new management, a meeting of the Linguapax Advisory Board had been called for 16-18 September. D Cunningham was a member of this Board and would attend before preparing a report.

7.4 Discussion Papers

None.

7.5 Proposals from the World Council or Member Associations

None.

8 Projects

8.1 UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014)

D Cunningham reminded all that FIPLV had agreed to build this into the strategic plan.

8.2 Proposals from the World Council

None.

8.3 Other

The President reported that the LACS Project would end in 2011. In the meantime, some information on the LACS website could be included on the FIPLV website. The successful bid for EC funding by Lid King, the National Director for Languages in the UK, would involve FIPLV. This would lead to a series of seminars to which delegates could be invited.

9 Approval of the Report of the Activities of the Executive

The World Council approved the above report of activities of the Executive.

10 FIPLV World Congresses

10.1 2009

Discussion deferred to meeting of World Assembly.

10.2 2012

While some thought that 2012 was too late for the next World Congress (after the cancellation of that of 2009), the meeting considered the intervening years and other events. 2010 was too soon and already featured the NBR Seminar in Reykjavik. The ECML would end its (four-year) term of activities in 2011 with a significant conference in September. There was the possibility of FIPLV hosting a conference for FIPLV-Europe in conjunction with the ECML conference.

11 Recognition and Tasks

11.1 Honorary FIPLV Counsellor

There were no nominations.

11.2 FIPLV International Award

The Secretary General provided background on the award and the nominations received. The World Council ratified the following nominated candidates:

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

R Airio would investigate a time and place to present the second award.

As the 2008 FIPLV International Award could not be presented to Natalia Gvishiani at FIPLV 2009, as intended, this still needed to be done.

12 FIPLV Finances

12.1 Notional Budget - 2010

K Santaholma spoke to the 2010 notional budget, revised by the Executive the previous day. This was approved by the World Council. It was essential that FIPLV seek new members. R Airio requested 500 euros to help fund the NBR Seminar. This grant was approved, if it were needed.

12.2 Sponsorship

The President pointed out that the Austrian Government and authorities, which formed the Verein, indirectly funded FIPLV through the ECML hosting of the FIPLV head office.

13 Future Meeting Dates and Venues

13.1 World Council 2010

The World Council agreed that its next meeting would take place in Reykjavik in conjunction with the NBR Seminar for which the provisional dates were 10-11 June 2010.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Executive Meeting 2/2010

The first meeting of the Executive for 2010 would take place in Graz on 8 January. The second would take place in Reykjavik, probably on 13 June.