

FIPLV WORLD COUNCIL MEETING

Riga - Latvia
14 June 2007

Minutes

Present

Ludmila Baranova	LATEUM
Denis Cunningham	FIPLV Secretary General
Peter Ehrhard	FIPF
Leena Hämäläinen	FIPLV Treasurer General
Terry Lamb	FIPLV President
Margareta Leoj	FIPLV Vice President
Cecilia Odé	FIPLV Editor of Publications
Lučka Pristavec	IDV
Ranveig Reggestad	Nordic Baltic Region (NBR)
Konrad Schröder	FIPLV-Europe & CER/WER
Johan Viljoen	SAALT (South Africa)

Raija Airio	Observer/SUKOL (Finland)
Teresa Siek-Piskozub	Observer/PTN (Poland)
Weronika Wilczynska	Observer/PTN (Poland)

Languages Used: Dutch, English, French, German, Russian, Swedish

1 Formalities

1.1 Welcome and Introductions

President Terry Lamb 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

Nathalia Egoreva (RALMLT)

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda as circulated was approved.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 World Council Meeting - Göteborg (Sweden) - 12 June 2006

The minutes were approved as an accurate record. D Cunningham would finalise and distribute them. Eynar Leupold, who had drafted the minutes, was thanked in absentia.

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 unconfirmed minutes. The other officers provided oral reports.

4.1.1 Overview of Activities of the Executive

T Lamb reported that he had provided support for the NBR Conference organisation, collaborated on drafting the submissions to the European Commission (EC) and the

European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML), and prepared an article for *FIPLV World News*. He had also represented FIPLV on committees, in groups, at events, conferences and meetings, including that at the EC in January. He had submitted the abstract of his paper for AILA 2008. M Leoj reported that she had done less this year after the extreme load created by the organisation of FIPLV 2006 the previous year. She had worked on the website, but was not involved in the organisation of FIPLV 2009. D Cunningham and C Odé responded to any questions on their reports. The President thanked all Executive members for their support.

4.1.2 Financial Report

L Hämäläinen pointed out that she was reporting on the work of her predecessor, Jan Robertson. Everything was in order. The finances were sound but not great. The statement of accounts was distributed and examined.

4.1.3 Approval of Accounts

The World Council approved the Treasurer General's report.

4.2 Regions

Some clarification was required. Konrad Schröder pointed out that of the three former FIPLV regions, the NBR (Nordic-Baltic) was working very well, the WER (Western Europe) had worked with some difficulty but the CER (Central Europe) hadn't really worked well. D Cunningham provided background information - which had been distributed previously - on the reasons for the formation of FIPLV-Europe.

4.2.1 Europe

Konrad Schröder had provided a written report, which had been distributed to the meeting participants. It needed to be stressed that FIPLV-Europe was clearly larger than the merge of the CER and the WER, as two of its three board members were from NBR associations. Konrad Schröder spoke to the tabled report and raised other matters. The receipt of €9000 for a REAL project was imminent. This would cover some past debts of the WER, leaving around €5000 for the development of FIPLV-Europe and the merge of CER & WER. He and Sigurborg Jónsdóttir had attended a meeting at the ECML in Graz, but had not submitted a proposal. The Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP) in Sèvres (France) had proposed to establish a European federation of language teachers, having identified some hundred associations, most of them unilingual. Many of these were affiliates of FIPLV members (e.g., FIPF, IDV, MAPRYAL, etc) or were national multilingual associations, also FIPLV members. For this reason and others, Konrad Schröder, Linda Parker (ALL/UK) and Jean-Yves PetitGirard (APLV/France) supported the notion of a network but not an association, as FIPLV already fulfilled this role. More funds were required, as a lack of money was the reason for no meetings of FIPLV-Europe having taken place. It was stressed (again) that FIPLV-Europe was an additional layer between the tripartite FIPLV management structure (i.e., World Assembly > World Council > Executive) and the FIPLV regions of Europe (i.e., NBR, CER/WER and possible new ones). It appeared logical that FIPLV-Europe be locked into the three-year election cycle governed by the Statutes and meetings of the World Assembly. D Cunningham agreed to prepare a rationale for the formation of FIPLV-Europe and an explanatory statement to clarify the situation. This would also include benefits to NBR members, clear communication channels, working on strategic planning, and coherence of activities of regions within the over-arching structure of FIPLV-Europe. It was agreed that the leaders of FIPLV regions be re-named 'Chair' (instead of 'President') to avoid confusion.

4.2.2 Nordic-Baltic Region (NBR)

The NBR was celebrating its tenth anniversary. Denmark was still outside the NBR. Dialogue was underway with colleagues in Estonia, the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Lithuania. A seminar/conference was proposed for 2009 in Iceland. The potential clash with FIPLV 2009 was pointed out, so the NBR Board would consider rescheduling the date at its meeting later that afternoon. Each NBR member was levied a fee of €100 to underwrite the operations of the NBR. In discussion, it was pointed out that Marie Fenclova (of

KMF/Czech Republic) proposed a conference (on le français, deuxième langue étrangère) in Pilsen in early 2008 and that the next IDV World Congress would take place in Jena in 2009. The latter presented a possible clash with FIPLV 2009, but there could be value in publicising both together. Details would be publicised, when received.

4.2.3 Western European Region (WER)

Covered under item #4.2.2 above.

4.3 International Unilingual Associations

4.3.1 FIPF (French)

Peter Ehrhard spoke to the tabled report and responded to questions.

4.3.2 IATEFL (EFL)

No report

4.3.3 IDV (German)

Lučka Pristavec reported that the financial situation was very good, despite a minor reduction of 5% in membership. There were four new members, including Italy and Nigeria, leading to 87 current member associations. Planning was underway for a seminar of 20 teachers from five continents in Switzerland at the end of July, the Olympiade in Dresden and a regional conference in Brazil in 2008. The next world congress would take place in Jena/Weimar in 2009. The view was expressed that FIPLV should support other languages, as English was no longer seen as a foreign language.

4.3.4 ILEI (Esperanto)

No report

4.3.5 LATEUM (EFL)

Ludmila Baranova tabled a copy of the proceedings of the 2005 LATEUM International Conference.

4.3.6 MAPRYAL (Russian)

C Odé informed the meeting of the World Congress, which would be held in Bulgaria in 2007, where she would represent FIPLV at the Congress and the meeting of the Presidium, MAPRYAL was happy for the support for Russian given by FIPLV. A report would follow and be distributed.

4.3.7 SIPLÉ (Portuguese)

No report, no contact

4.3.8 TESOL (ESOL)

No report.

4.4 Multilingual Associations

Reports had been received and distributed electronically from: AFMLTA (Australia), ANILS (Italy), LMS (Norway), LMS (Sweden), SUKOL (Finland), while the meeting was informed that the PTN (Poland) report had been sent but not received. Representatives of the above and present at the meeting were invited to add to the reports. Raija Airio of SUKOL spoke to the report and pointed out that there was a decline in learning languages other than English. Konrad Schröder explained some of the difficulties in creating the GMF out of the FMF in Germany. He had established the GMF in April 2006 but, according to German law, it was illegal as unilingual and multilingual associations can't co-exist as members in the same federation. Thus, a federation of federations was formed, with FMF excluded. FMF would become a new association for teachers of English and multilingualism to be acceptable legally to the new umbrella federation, GMF, while all other unilingual member associations would also have multilingualism as an objective in their statutes. Weronika Wilczynska (and Teresa Siek-Piskozub) reported that the focus of PTN (Poland) was mainly academic, but they were trying to involve more secondary teachers of languages. There were regular congresses in Polish, while annual student language contests attracted around 23000 participants for English and German. D Cunningham would check to see if the report had arrived in January and then act accordingly. There was no report from ALL (UK), while the report of VLLT (Netherlands) was on the way. All were reminded to send details of conferences to D Cunningham and C Odé for publicity through FIPLV, as many colleagues were seeking conferences globally.

5 Development of the Federation

5.1 List of Member Associations

D Cunningham had updated the List of Member Associations and shared this with the webmaster, who had placed it on the website with further amendments. D Cunningham would update the List again after the meeting.

5.2 Membership Promotion

members of the Executive had met or had contact with colleagues in Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and the UAE to explore the possibility of national multilingual associations forming and/or joining FIPLV. D Cunningham had met recently with the presidents of former member, IATH (Hungarian), and an international federation of teachers of Polish. The former was interested in resuming membership of FIPLV, the latter in joining. International unilingual federations were being explored for Chinese, Greek, Italian, Japanese and Turkish. The Secretary General explained the difficulty in obtaining sufficient votes to ratify new members by email within the current structure and time-frame governed by the Statutes. As a result, the World Council (which endorsed membership requests) empowered the Executive to fast-track membership of new applicants provided that all criteria (contained in the Statutes) were satisfied.

5.3 Associate Members

There were no associate members at the moment. All needed to think of publishers, institutions or other organisations to approach.

5.4 Regionalisation

No action had been taken recently apart from that in Europe.

5.5 Applications for Membership

Covered under item #5.2.

5.6 External Relations

5.6.1 UNESCO

FIPLV had submitted the required sexennial report and the regular annual report in late 2006. D Cunningham had met with Marie-Ange Théobald, who had responsibility for NGOs at UNESCO. He had also met with other officers, including Mauro Rosi, who led the cross-sectoral team for multilingualism, and others. D Cunningham had represented FIPLV at the UNESCO regional conference in Bangkok in December, on which he had submitted a separate report. Further information was contained in his report to the meeting.

5.6.2 Council of Europe (COE)

The Secretary General had provided and distributed a separate report of his representation of FIPLV at the COE Policy Forum in Strasbourg in February. The new President and Editor of Publications tried to attend conferences and meetings organised by the COE. FIPLV was trying to obtain a calendar of COE meetings and activities, as invitations often arrived giving little notice.

5.6.2.1 ECML

Subsequent to previous endorsement by the World Council, the head office address of FIPLV was now the ECML in Graz (Austria). The Secretary General had met with its Director, Adrian Butler, and Assistant Director, Susanna Slivensky, in Graz. As a result, he and C Odé would draft a contract between FIPLV and the ECML for the housing of the FIPLV files and publications as well as procedural operations, which were thought to be minimal (now that most communication was conducted by email). D Cunningham had been invited to a recent workshop on blogging, while the President was invited to the ECML Conference on 27-29 September. Both had worked on the submission for funding in the forthcoming program of activities for 2008-2011.

5.6.3 European Commission (EC)

The President reported that he, D Cunningham and C Odé had met in January with those responsible for languages at the EC, William Aitchison and Berta Cordero. A report had been prepared and distributed. The President and Secretary General had worked on a

submission for funding. The President and C Odé would try to meet with the Commissioner for Multilingualism, Leonard Orban.

5.6.4 Other

None.

6 Operations and Publications

6.1 World News

C Odé reported that the next issue would appear in June/July. Again, she invited all members of the World Council to submit articles focussing on classroom practice and encouraged all to publicise among members and on member websites.

6.2 Website

M Leoj outlined recent changes, including the new address of the webmaster, to whom all were invited to send information. Changes to member details would appear on the website. A new button for 'Regions' was requested, which M Leoj would pass on to Marie Blomkvist.

6.3 Brochure/Flyer

C Odé distributed copies at the meeting, She would send M Leoj an electronic version for inclusion on the website.

6.4 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.

6.5 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.

6.6 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.

6.7 Files

Covered under item #5.6.2.1.

6.8 History

Reinhold Freudenstein was editing the FIPLV History. Copies would be printed with others available on CD-ROM.

7 Priorities and Activities

7.1 Collaboration of Teachers of Languages

The NBR Conference would be the next occasion, where 230 participants from 25 countries would be present. Congratulations were extended to the organisers, Anita Auzina and Diana Rumpite and to the President of LALT, Vita Kalnberzina.

7.2 Linguapax/ Language Rights/Solidarity

No report.

7.3 Discussion Papers

None.

7.4 Proposals from the World Council/Member Associations

Konrad Schröder agreed to prepare a draft before consulting with the World Council on English as a first foreign language as a gateway to other languages. As the UN had proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages on 16 May, FIPLV should capitalise on this to connect with agendas and activities of the UN, UNESCO (Commissions), governments, ministries, etc. D Cunningham would contact Joe Sheils of the COE on the International des Langues, and others.

8 Projects

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

The President was building this into the strategic plan. For details, D Cunningham suggested checking the proceedings of the APEID Conference in Bangkok in December (www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid) and the UNESCO website.

8.2 Proposals from the World Council

None.

9 Approval of the Report of the Activities of the Executive

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

10 FIPLV World Congresses

10.1 2009 - Moscow (Russia)

C Odé reported that RALMLT (Russia) had offered to host FIPLV 2009, which would take place in Moscow on 2-4 July. She was negotiating the signing of the contract with the Rector of MSLU, Irina Khaleeva. The Secretary General would call for expressions of interest in hosting the following FIPLV World Congress, FIPLV 2012.

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, subject to confirmation of paid dues.

- **LALT (Latvia): Olga Ozolina**
- **MANYE (Hungary): György Szépe**
- **SUKOL (Finland): Kyllikki Vilkuna**

A member of the Executive would try to present the award to those listed at the first available occasion.

12 FIPLV Finances

12.1 Notional Budget - 2008

L Hämäläinen spoke to the distributed draft. There was the need for more revenue and less expenditure, as FIPLV awaited the outcome of the submissions to the EC and the ECML. All were encouraged to identify sponsors for the website and *FIPLV World News*. While FIPLV 2006 had been a success, it did not register a profit. The notional budget for 2008, as presented, was approved.

12.2 Sponsorship

Covered under item #12.1. It was suggested that travel agents be approached to sponsor the website. The Secretary General would revise and distribute the sponsorship letters. Konrad Schröder would write to the EC to seek financial assistance to support the formation of national multilingual associations, taking care not to cut across the operations of FIPLV unilingual member associations, such as FIPF, IDV, MAPRYAL, etc.

13 Future Meeting Dates and Venues

13.1 World Council 2008

The meeting would take place in April. The first choice of venue would be the ECML in Graz. The Secretary General would contact Adrian Butler to see if this were possible. If not, the location would probably be Helsinki.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Meeting of FIPLV-Europe

A meeting would take place at 1800.