

FIPLV WORLD COUNCIL MEETING

Graz - Austria

13 April 2008

Unconfirmed Minutes

Present

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| Raija Airio | Nordic Baltic Region (NBR) |
| Denis Cunningham | FIPLV Secretary General |
| Natalia Egoreva | RALMLT (Russia) |
| Terry Lamb | FIPLV President |
| Margareta Leoj | FIPLV Vice President |
| Cecilia Odé | FIPLV Editor of Publications |
| Lucka Pristavec | IDV |

Languages Used: English, French, German

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

Peter Ehrhard (FIPF), Leena Hämäläinen (FIPLV Treasurer General), Konrad Schröder (FIPLV-Europe/WCER), Johan Viljoen (SAALT)

1.4 Approval of the Agenda

The agenda as circulated was approved.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 World Council Meeting - Riga (Latvia) - 14 June 2007

The minutes were approved as an accurate record. D Cunningham would finalise and distribute them. The President informed the meeting that the Executive had decided to speed up the process of confirming and distributing minutes of meetings by having the Secretary General send out the draft and unconfirmed minutes to those present with a stipulation that, if no response were received by a strict deadline, then the Secretary General would presume that the non-responding officer believed the minutes to be an accurate record. The World Council approved this process. D Cunningham would finalise the 2007 minutes and send them to the Executive, the World Council and have them placed on the website. The President thanked the ECML for providing use of their buildings for the meetings over the weekend.

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 provided oral reports.

4.1.1 Overview of Activities of the Executive

The President provided a brief oral report, stating that it would soon be available in written form. He detailed the FIPLV/ECML project in which FIPF and IDV were involved. The successful proposal had led to one meeting of the project team at the ECML in early April. L Pristavec thanked D Cunningham for preparing another proposal for the ECML program, informing the meeting that the successful project proposal would not have been possible without having this as a basis. The

President indicated that the project would help members and create the possibility of new members. T Lamb and C Odé had met with Leonard Orban, Commissioner of Multilingualism, at the European Commission (EC) in Brussels in November. The President had attended the NGO meeting at UNESCO in December, had participated in a conference in Siena and come directly from the TESOL '08 Annual Convention in New York, where he had explored the possibility of TESOL re-joining FIPLV. He had prepared the abstract for a conference session with C Odé at the 2008 AILA World Congress in August, while following up on an international association for Japanese. Other written reports had been distributed or were tabled.

4.1.2 Financial Report

R Airio stood in for L Hämäläinen, explaining that her ill-health made it impossible for her to attend. More specific details were provided on her health. L Hämäläinen had suggested that she be replaced. This was discussed by the Executive the day before, accepted as a recommendation and led to the Executive approaching Kirsti Santaholma of SUKOL to be Acting Treasurer General. Kirsti Santaholma had agreed. R Airio spoke to the financial details sent electronically by L Hämäläinen a few days before the meeting. Few members had paid and some expenses had not been reimbursed. The accounts had been audited. The President thanked R Airio for providing the oral report. D Cunningham explained the situation of membership dues. He had offered to send them out in 2007 and 2008, respecting L Hämäläinen's role as Treasurer General. Clearly, she wished to send out the invoices herself – a decision respected by all – but conceded that D Cunningham should do it. This occurred late in 2007. She also wanted to distribute the 2008 invoices herself, so had refused D Cunningham's offer to do so at the beginning of 2008. This meant that few members had paid in 2007, almost none in 2008. The Executive decided that D Cunningham should send out the 2008 invoices as a matter of priority.

4.1.3 Approval of Accounts

The World Council approved the Treasurer General's and auditor's reports.

4.2 Regions

4.2.1 Europe

D Cunningham provided an oral report of the meeting in Leipzig which was devoted mainly to the formation of the merged Western/Central European Region (WCER). The Board of FIPLV-Europe had not met, mainly because of the ill-health of L Hämäläinen. In addition to this, it was unfortunate that Sigurborg Jonsdóttir, the Secretary of FIPLV-Europe, was also unable to attend the meeting in Leipzig on 27 March. A REAL project hosted by the Centre International d'Etudes Pédagogiques (CIEP) and ALL (UK) led to a meeting in Sèvres in September. CIEP was confident of obtaining funding for REAL 2. T Lamb saw overlap with the FIPLV/ECML project, where this could be assisted by information from the REAL project. Those present had not seen a report of the REAL project meeting.

4.2.2 Nordic-Baltic Region (NBR)

R Airio reported on the conference and meetings in Riga in June 2007. The next seminar would take place in Iceland in 2010. Activity reports would be placed on the NBR website. The internal regulations required updating, building in the three-year terms of office. SUKOL (Finland) had celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2007, leading to a jubilee seminar and the production of a CD-ROM. SUKOL had awarded a prize to the national broadcasting commission for using sub-titles rather than dubbing. Statistics on students learning languages had motivated SUKOL to act, a subject of conversation in the frequent meetings with the Minister for Education. Learning languages enabled students to gain additional credits for tertiary entrance in Finland, as it did in (some states of) Australia and Sweden. LMS (Norway) was conducting a student competition for the European Day of Languages (EDL). LALT (Latvia) and SUKOL supported the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). The next meeting would take place in Vilnius in June 2008. In discussion, it was proposed and agreed that member associations be asked to submit annual reports based on the calendar year.

4.2.3 Western/Central European Region (WCER)

D Cunningham reported that the merge of the Central European Region and the Western European Region into the Western/Central European Region had taken place at the FIPLV-Europe meeting in Leipzig on 27 March. It was named the Western/Central European Region (WCER), with Konrad Schröder being elected as Chairperson, Halina Widla as Secretary and Hélène Ladevie as Treasurer. The internal regulations were agreed subject to final editing and ratification, as D Cunningham and Bill Musk (ALL) worked on these. The President observed that there appeared to be a shift in the priorities of K Schröder who seemed to be focussing more on the WCER.

4.3 International Unilingual Associations

There were no written reports, so the following items were not discussed: 4.3.1 FIPF (French), 4.3.2 IATEFL (EFL), 4.3.4 ILEI (Esperanto), 4.3.5 LATEUM (EFL), 4.3.7 SIPLE (Portuguese), and 4.3.8 TESOL (ESOL). D Cunningham spoke of the usefulness of written reports. Although there was some inevitable repetition as key issues were reflected in various areas of the globe, positive trends – such as languages students earning additional credits for tertiary entrance – could be shared with other member associations, which could then adopt such strategies to improve the situation of their members and their students. Another concrete example was the panel formed by Jan Robertson at FIPLV 2006 in Göteborg, where she had representatives of different member associations talk about successful strategies in their countries. Under item #4.3.3, L Pristavec provided an oral report, stating that IDV had made positive progress. IDV had held a conference in Brazil in 2007 and the Landeskunde in Switzerland, where twenty had been selected from among fifty applicants. Various priorities included project management, different approaches to tackling certain topics and sharing strategies to avoid teacher burnout. Funded jointly by Austria, Germany and Switzerland, the 2009 IDV World Congress would take place in Jena. L Pristavec would send details of the conference to D Cunningham and C Odé. A student competition in German included 123 students. Interest in German was decreasing in schools in some states, with a visible trend towards increased numbers in adult and further education. The IDV website was sponsored by publishers, which paid 10000 euros. There was the need to find strategies, such as using public figures, to encourage the teaching and speaking of languages. Under item #4.6, C Odé reported on behalf of MAPRYAL that an increased number of seminars and conferences were being organised under the auspices of MAPRYAL. Significant progress had been made. C Odé suggested that centres, such as the Goethe Institute, be established to promote Russian language and culture.

4.4 Multilingual Associations

Reports had been received and distributed electronically prior to the meeting from: AFMLTA (Australia), ANILS (Italy), PTN (Poland) and SUKOL (Finland). All reports would be distributed to all member associations. C Odé reported that there had been a change to the VLLT (Netherlands) Board, whose report was available in Dutch.

5 Development of the Federation

The meeting accepted the President's proposal that the following items were covered by the meeting and minutes of the Executive: 5.1 List of Member Associations, 5.2 Membership Promotion, 5.3 Associate Members, 5.4 Regionalisation, and 5.5 Applications for Membership.

5.6 External Relations

5.6.1 UNESCO

As an NGO in consultative relations with UNESCO, FIPLV had to fulfil certain requirements. The President had attended an NGO meeting at UNESCO in December, while D Cunningham and C Odé had assisted UNESCO by disseminating information to members or placing it on the FIPLV website to highlight IYOL08.

5.6.2 Council of Europe (COE)

Some meetings appeared less relevant than others. The President would discuss the possibility of Janina Zielinska representing FIPLV as well as FIPF, as Peter Ehrhard had done in the past.

5.6.2.1 ECML

Relations were excellent with the ECML, now hosting the FIPLV head office. The joint FIPLV/ECML project promised to increase this further. The allocation of space had been discussed, although less was available than originally envisaged.

5.6.2.1.1 Contract

D Cunningham had prepared a draft contract upon the suggestion of Adrian Butler, Director of the ECML. T Lamb would follow up.

5.6.2.1.2 Operations

Susanna Slivensky, Deputy Director of the ECML, provided an overview of ECML activities to the meeting after thanking FIPLV for using the premises for its meetings. She was keen on collaboration and looked forward to the FIPLV project within the 2008-2011 program of 'Empowering Language Professionals'. As part of her overview, she pointed out that the ECML was responsible to the Council of Europe (COE) (with its 47 member states). The ECML had 33 members, including some outside the EU, such as Canada. Priorities included the promotion of the plurilingualism of citizens and linguistic diversity in the member states. The ECML hosted the European Day of Languages (EDL) details of activities on its website. T Lamb provided another overview of the FIPLV/ECML project, Language Associations and Collaborative Support (LACS) (Refer # 4.1.1 and ExCo minutes).

It was intended that FIPLV distribute the powerpoint presentation of Susanna Slivensky with the minutes of the meeting.

5.6.3 European Commission (EC)

The President spoke of the positive November meeting he and C Odé had with Leonard Orban, EC Commissioner for Multilingualism. The President would follow up.

5.6.4 Other

None.

6 Operations and Publications

6.1 Strategic Plan

Item #6.2 Dissemination and Determination of Needs was subsumed here. To prepare a strategic plan, the President challenged the meeting to envision what FIPLV might look like in three years' time, building in the FIPLV/ECML project. There was the need to retain existing members and identify strategies for stability. As part of this process, D Cunningham would personalise emails to member associations, ask them what was happening in their associations and seek information on their history and date of foundation, C Odé could ask them about their publications and obtain hard and/or electronic copies. T Lamb should write a brief, friendly letter informing them about the meeting in Graz. M Leoj would facilitate more information and content being placed on the website, so that member associations could be referred to it increasingly. L Pristavec reported that IDV focussed on challenges, such as teacher burnout, classroom organisation (in Africa) ICT, website development, and student activities. FIPLV could organise seminars at the ECML to involve teachers of local countries, such as Austria, Croatia and Slovenia. There could be a new launch of the website. There was the need to find new ideas and arguments to motivate existing members to remain and new ones to join.

6.3 World News

Upon the recommendation of the Executive, the World Council approved the end of publishing *FIPLV World News*. C Odé reported on the difficulty of obtaining articles with those received having been published elsewhere. The transfer from print to electronic publishing on the website reflected a global trend, supported by the fact that almost all FIPLV communication with members was electronic. She proposed that one or more buttons be added to the FIPLV homepage to cover the content formerly contained in *FIPLV World News*. Although raised, it was felt that there was no need for a final issue providing an explanation nor for another three to complete seventy issues. C Odé would provide an announcement on the website. In further discussion, it was proposed that D Cunningham summarise articles disseminated to members. He and the President would discuss the sharing of the FIPLV email list. D Cunningham would also delete Gudrun Tulinius from the email list, as she was no longer involved.

6.4 Website

M Leoj indicated that the above decision could lead to more work and increased costs. She would discuss this with the webmaster, Marie Blomkvist.

6.5 Brochure/Flyer

C Odé would update the brochure.

6.6 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.

6.7 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.

6.8 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.

6.9 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.

6.10 History

Reinhold Freudenstein had taken over editing. The FIPLV History was almost complete. On behalf of C Odé, D Cunningham agreed to investigate the cost of having fifty copies printed in Iasi (Romania) and respond to R Freudenstein. D Cunningham was discussing some inaccuracies in content with R Freudenstein.

6.11 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.

7 Priorities and Activities

Items #7.1 - #7.6 were not discussed. Some of these – such as #7.1 International Year of Languages 2008, #7.2 Collaboration of Teachers of Languages, #7.3 Linguapax/ Language Rights/Solidarity, #7.4 Role of Associations in Policy – had been discussed elsewhere at this meeting or that of the Executive. There were no discussion papers (item #7.5) and no proposals from the World Council or member associations (item #7.6).

8 Projects

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

Not discussed.

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.

10 FIPLV World Congresses

10.1 2009 – Moscow (Russia)

Natalia Egoreva provided a detailed update on the organisation of FIPLV 2009. The contract between FIPLV and RALMLT had been signed by T Lamb and Irina Khaleeva respectively. As it would be very expensive to hire a venue in Moscow, RALMLT recommended a hotel complex 30 km from Moscow. Rooms could be booked in this centre which kept participants at the one location, rather than being scattered across a range of hotels in Moscow. The earlybird registration fee (by 1 April 2009) was 250 euros, thereafter 300 euros. This covered the venue hire, ICT support, the conference reception, coffee (but not lunches), the program, the publication of papers received before 1 April and invitations. Money from the registrations was required for the invitations. The cost of a visa – to be paid by the participant – for European citizens was around 35 euros. The conference dates were 2-4 July 2009. A contract with the conference organiser, also responsible for accommodation at 50 euros per day, had been agreed. Excursions would be organised, while access to Moscow by bus or taxi was available. There was a limit of 450 participants, so it was proposed that only two delegates per member association be allowed. This was not supported by the World Council. The structure of the venue with one large room seating 500 and three others seating 150 each determined that three strands would follow plenary sessions. The official languages for plenary sessions would be English, French and Russian. German would be added. The proposed themes included: (1) modern languages teaching and learning; (2) linguistic policies; and (3) endangered languages in the 21st century. It was proposed that the third strand be subsumed as an important sub-theme of the first in order to add a more pragmatic focus, such as 'daily classroom experience'. Use of the fourth room was proposed to create the possibility of discussion groups. The conference website should be ready by mid-May, preferably earlier. Possible keynote speakers included: Vitaly Kostamarov (on Russian in the world), Rolf Schärer and David Little or Daniel Coste, and Hans Barkovsky of the University of Jena. T Lamb also offered to do a plenary session on autonomy. Financial regulations in Russia were complex, so it was proposed that FIPLV open a separate account for conference registrations. The need to make a profit was stressed. There was the need for a new contract to cover the allocation of profits. The meeting congratulated the organising committee and especially Irina Khaleeva for their progress.

10.2 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.

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:

- **LATEUM: Natalia Gvishiani**

LATEUM President, Ekaterina Mikhailovskaya, had informed D Cunningham that the 2007 membership dues had been paid. This award would be presented by T Lamb and D Cunningham at FIPLV 2009.

- **NZALT (New Zealand): Gail Spence**

This nomination had arrived late, but was endorsed by the Executive.

- **SUKOL (Finland): Marja Martikainen**

As SUKOL had paid its membership fee, R Airio would investigate a time and place to present the award.

D Cunningham would contact the relevant member associations to inform them of the decisions. He had presented the 2007 Award to György Szépe the previous week at the MANYE Conference in Budapest. The nomination of Stanley Perera was not approved, as MLTASL had not paid its membership dues for the previous two years. D Cunningham would inform Stanley Perera of this decision.

12 FIPLV Finances

12.1 Notional Budget - 2009

R Airio spoke to the 2009 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 would ask Kirsti Santaholma to prepare a one-page summary for distribution.

12.2 Sponsorship

C Odé had amended the sponsorship letter initially prepared by D Cunningham and Dieter Herold in the past. She would finalise this before distribution and use.

13 Future Meeting Dates and Venues

13.1 World Council 2009

The World Council agreed that its next meeting would take place during the morning of 1 July 2009 in Moscow.

13.2 World Assembly 2009

It was agreed that the next meeting of the World Assembly would take place during the afternoon of 1 July 2009 in Moscow.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Executive Meeting 2/2008

Possible locations were discussed for the second Executive meeting for 2008. These included Amsterdam, Helsinki, Graz (to consolidate the establishment of the head office), or Moscow (to touch base on the organisation of FIPLV 2009). All ExCo members agreed to investigate and provide comparative costs for travel and visa for either Graz or Moscow.

14.2 Interactive E-learning Module

C Odé spoke of this e-learning tool, which she had developed. A link to this could be made from the FIPLV website. She also distributed publicity on endangered languages.