

E U D

Minutes

2nd GA 1986

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS OF THE DEAF, WHICH ARE MEMBERS COUNTRIES OF BOTH THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 18TH AND 19TH SEPTEMBER 1986

ERS1/86 PRESENT

Mr. P. Daunt)
Mr. B. Vanderhaeghen	) EEC Commission
Mr. L. Van Amelsvoort)
Dr. C. Magarotto	) World Federation
Mr. A.M. Holmes	) of the Deaf
Mr. J. Young	) Hon. Director UK
Mr. M. Hayard	) Belgium
Mr. K. Sondergaard	) Denmark
Mr. A. Bergmann)
Mr. A. Saint-Antonin	) France
Ms. F. Cuif)
Mr. W. Czempin	) Germany
Mr. E. Tzouros	) Greece
Mr. V. Poulakis)
Mrs. H. Saunders	) Ireland
Mr. V. Mulloy)
Mr. M. Marcioni	) Italy
Mr. J. Wesemann	) The Netherlands
Mr. J. Rodenberg)
Mr. D. Brito e Cunha	) Portugal
Mr. C. Martins)
Mr. F. Pinedo Peydro	) Spain
Mrs. G. Pullen	) United Kingdom

Sign Language and spoken language interpreters, and administration staff from the EEC Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the deaf were also in attendance.

ERS2/86 APOLOGIES Apologies were received from Mr. Peter Sutherland, EEC Commissioner, from Mr. M. Martens, Federatie van Nederlandstalige Dovenverenigingen and from Frau K. George, Deutscher Gehorlosen-Bund. Mr. P. Daunt apologised that he would not be able to attend all the Conference, but would be present whenever possible.

Mr. J-C. Limpach from the EEC Commission, was unable to attend, but Mr. Van Amelsvoort took his place.

ERS3/86

WELCOMING ADDRESS Mr. J. Young, Hon. Director of the EEC Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf (ERS) welcomed everyone to the Conference, and called upon Dr. C. Magarotto of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), to address the meeting.

Dr. C. Magarotto stated that when the WFD met in Argentina two months previously, he was able to read a report from Mr. J. Young (Director of the Secretariat) which showed that progress had been achieved. The WFD wished to carry out joint work with the support of the EEC, so that there could be more results next year and more concrete progress. Dr. C. Magarotto welcomed Mr. P. Daunt. On behalf of the entire WFD he thanked Mr. P. Daunt for all the work he had done.

The Chairman thanked Dr. C. Magarotto for his opening speech. He felt sure that all appreciated what he had said about Mr. Daunt. The Chairman thanked the other WFD representative Mr. A.M. Holmes for attending the Conference too.

Mr. Daunt took the opportunity to welcome everyone. He apologised for the financial problems which had been experienced over the last year, but stressed that difficulties were being overcome and matters would be easier in the future.

Mr. Daunt thanked Dr. Magarotto for his remarks and stated that it was a great privilege to work with the WFD. He predicted a continuing relationship existing into the future, between the EEC and the WFD, which would be able to rely on the EEC giving priority to people with impairments, including the deaf.

Mr. Daunt wished everyone great success with the Conference.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Daunt for his encouraging words. He also asked him to convey sympathies to Mr. J-C. Limpach, who had been unable to attend due to an accident to his foot.

ERS4/86

ROLL CALL Representatives from the eleven member countries of both the WFD and the EEC were present.

ERS5/86 MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE HELD IN BRUSSELS, 18 AND 19 SEPTEMBER 1985

The Minutes of the Conference held in Brussels, September 1985 (previously circulated) were approved.

ERS6/86 MATTERS ARISING The question of requiring mandates for voting at the Conference was raised. Not all of the countries had a written mandate, but as no constitution had yet been finalised it was agreed to leave the matter.

Mr. F. Pinedo Peydro (Spain) suggested that in future the annual conference of the ERS be held over a weekend due to the importance of time and the busy weekly agendas of the delegates.

The Hon. Director of the ERS was requested by the Greek and Portuguese Associations, to write letters to their governments requesting financial assistance for the national Associations. Any other country requiring help to write to their government should inform the ERS.

ERS7/86 TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1985 AND A REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE

The Annual Report was accepted.

Mr. A. Verney (involved with the administration of the ERS) went through the accounts for 1985, and looked ahead at the budget for 1986.

Over the past year the B.D.A. itself had had to finance the ERS by £10,960 for 1985, not including the costs of for example secretariat time, telephone, and printing, or any of the other costs incurred by the national associations who entertained delegates at conferences in their own country.

At this point Mr. D. Brito e Cunha (Portugal) noted that now they had a copy of the accounts they would be able to request a subvention from their government of 100 ecus, at the beginning of each year

Mr. Verney thanked both the Portuguese and the French associations for the help they were prepared to offer, and noted that hopefully in the next year the funding situation would be much easier.

In December 1985, the ERS had presented to the EEC an estimated budget for 1986. However no acknowledgement had been received until July 1986, and no formal agreement of a subvention had been received, prior to the conference.

To get things moving promptly the Chairman had agreed that the B.D.A. meet the cost of the Conference and the costs of the courses in Holland and Germany until the EEC subvention was received.

Dr. Magarotto (WFD) thanked the B.D.A. for its support so far to the Secretariat. He also suggested that the national organisations could help the Secretariat, if the ERS drafted official documents of the forecasts of expenditure in September for the coming year, based on a programme drawn up from suggestions made at the Conference. Dr. Magarotto stressed the importance of such a document in gaining financial support for the Secretariat. For instance it could easily be presented to governments and national organisations.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Magarotto for his suggestion and agreed to refer it to the B.D.A. office.

Mr. Verney conveyed his thanks to Ireland, Denmark and France for hosting committee meetings in 1986.

ERS8/86

REPORT FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF,
INCLUDING DETAILS ON THE CONGRESS, FINLAND 1987

Dr. Magarotto had already sent out a bulletin regarding the second World Congress, outlining the information for participating in the Congress. Each association should send the names of those delegates allowed to vote in the assembly, by the 31st December 1986 at the latest.

Dr. Magarotto would be sending out further information to each member association, after a planning meeting in Rome 29.9.86.

ERS9/86

APPOINTMENT OF THE EEC REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

The Hon. Director of the ERS (also Chairman of the B.D.A.) announced that the B.D.A. was prepared to continue undertaking the administrative work. However he stated the B.D.A. would be delighted if any other country wished to take on the work.

No other country offered to take on the role. The Portuguese Association proposed that the B.D.A. should remain responsible for the ERS for 1 more year, until the constitution of the ERS was formally adopted.

Greece seconded the Portuguese proposal.

Dr. Magarotto (WFD) asked the B.D.A. to continue administering the ERS for one more year, and thanked them in advance for the work they would be doing.

Mr. Holmes (WFD) formally asked the B.D.A. to maintain the secretariat for another year.

The delegates approved the B.D.A.'s offer to continue with the administration work, until September 1987.

ERS10/86

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE

The meeting decided to re appoint the committee as it stood, for the present.

Mr. W. Czempin	(Germany)
Mr. M. Hayard/Mr. M. Martens	(Belgium)
Mr. M. Marcioni	(Italy)
Mr. J. Wesemann	(Netherlands)

Mr. Hayard (Belgium) pointed out the difficulty for him to travel outside Europe, due to a limited budget. However Mr. M. Holmes (WFD) asked Mr. Hayard to carry on.

ERS11/86

TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSED "STANDING ORDER" PREPARED BY MR. MARCIONI

The proposed "Standing Orders" for the conduct of business were not distributed until the actual Conference, due to translating problems.

The delegates therefore felt unable to discuss the issues further or to approve them until they had more time to study the proposals carefully.

It was thus agreed to refer the proposed "Standing Order" to the sub committee, and then for approval at next years Conference.

ERS12/86

TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING ERS COMMISSIONS

Every national association had received a letter from the Preston Health Authority, which requested that the European Society for Mental Health and

Deafness become a commission under the ERS. This would not involve any financial cost to the ERS, but would involve their support only. The proposal was agreed.

A proposal was made to form a society of interpreters under the ERS. Mrs. Liz Gibson (coordinating the interpreting at the Conference) outlined a report which had been previously circulated to the delegates. She stated that often sign language interpreters received no recognition of their work as a profession. A number of her colleagues at the Conference would not be receiving any payment for their work.

Mr. Saint-Antonin (France) thanked the interpreters for having the confidence to say what everyone thinks, about their position. He brought the Conference's attention to the symposium of interpreters to be held in France, which will be studying these and other problems.

It was generally agreed to set up an interpreting committee.

Mrs. Liz Gibson would be attending the French Symposium and liaising with all the other interpreters, to draw up documents which would be referred back to the ERS. Mr. Saint-Antonin (France) took the opportunity to remind the sign language interpreters of the importance of the Symposium, and asked them to be present.

Any other proposals to establish commissions should be put to the Committee for discussion.

ERS13/86

TO RECEIVE THE ERS REPORT ON THE EEC COMMISSION'S THEMES FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Discussion followed as to whether reports should be sent out in just English, French and English or in all languages. It was proposed that comments should be sent to headquarters, and these will be put to the committee for discussion.

ERS14/86

SOCIAL POLICY RESEARCH

Each member association had received a document outlining the aims of a social policy research project, to be carried out by the Universities of Durham and Bristol (U.K.). A subvention had just been agreed with the EEC Commission.

Mrs. Gloria Pullen (U.K.) informed the delegates that as the research had to be carried out within a period of nine months, it had been agreed to choose five countries, interviewing between ten and twelve people in each. The final report would be sent to the WFD, the ERS and the Commission. Mrs. Pullen asked the delegates to pick the 5 countries for study.

The countries chosen were:-

Belgium
Ireland
Greece
Spain
Portugal

ERS15/86

BUDGET 1987

Problems had been experienced with the budget for 1986, but these had now been resolved. Two items from the Programme of Action for 1986 had been postponed due to the unavailability of funds.

Mr. Vanderhaeghen (EEC Commission) informed the meeting that grants had already been agreed for 2 events in 1987, being organised by the national organisations in France and Italy. He stressed that the Commission would also be continuing to support the normal activities of the ERS. He requested that all the national organisations asking for grants should send their proposals to the ERS headquarters by November 1986. These would then be submitted in a train to the EEC Commission, who will then decide if the projects are eligible.

Mr. Vanderhaeghen stressed that the Bureau for Action in Favour of Disabled People can only give financial support to conferences and seminars with European dimensions. That is they must involve the participation of at least three member states of the Community. Outside their division there existed other possibilities for funding, such as the European Social Fund.

ERS16/86

PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Mr. Brito e Cunha informed the meeting that the Portuguese Association were considering organising a symposium in Lisbon, towards the end of next year, to gather information regarding the employment of deaf people in the EEC.

Mr. Tzouros (Greece) reminded the delegates that the Greek seminar on Education planned for 1986 had had to be cancelled due to the unavailability of funds. However it had already been agreed by the committee to have the seminar on Education, on the Programme of Action for 1987.

It was agreed that the two seminars should be on the Programme of Action.

Mrs. Saunders (Ireland) proposed that Mr. Jones' demonstration on Interactive Video in the Education of the Deaf, should be included on the Programme of Action, to give 3-4 seminars/demonstrations. Mr. Jones was very willing to do this. Official approval was given, and it was agreed to leave the matter to the Committee to plan a programme for him.

The delegates agreed to accept the Electronic Mail Box demonstrated by Mr. J. Bloemkolk (Netherlands) on a trial period of one year.

Each country would be provided with:-

1 computer terminal
1-2 days training
help with arranging rental of mailbox

Cost to be met by each country:-

hire of mail box
cost of calls at local rate
charge of line time
printer at around £100.00

ERS17/86

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ERS AND EURO-ACTION

The Danish Deaf Association had requested that this item be put on the agenda. They expressed confusion that more than one organisation was working for the deaf in Europe. Both organisations were receiving money from the EEC. The Danish Association felt that it would be more normal and natural if associations in other countries participated in activities through the ERS, only if it was to be a strong body.

The Chairman informed the Danish association that he understood their feelings, but other problems existed. Different groups may apply to the EEC for grants, and can receive them from separate commissions of the EEC. Mr. Brito e Cunha (Portugal) stated that he agreed there should only be one organisation representing the deaf in

Europe, but it should not be only a political type of organisation, but should also develop projects which would gather support. The German and Italian associations both informed the meeting that they would have nothing to do with Euro-Action.

The French delegates suggested setting up a coordinating committee to coordinate all the activities for the deaf in Europe, or an information centre to monitor and inform. The Chairman informed the meeting that these comments had been noted, and that he now felt it best to refer the issue to the sub committee for further discussion.

Mr. F. Peydro (Spain) took the opportunity at this point to inform the delegates that between the 5-8 December 1986 the Spanish association will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. They wished to extend an invitation to each member association to attend the celebrations.

ERS18/86

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - QUESTIONS ON TELEVISION AND SIGN LANGUAGE

Letters had been sent to each member association by Mrs. Lemass (an Irish member of the European Parliament), asking for their comments on two motions, television broadcasts for the deaf, and the standardization of sign language. Concern was felt regarding these two issues, especially the latter which it was generally believed could be a direct attack on their languages.

Each association was requested to send its comments to Mrs. Lemass as soon as possible. Mr. F. Peydro (Spain) stated that he felt that the problems associated with sign language recognition were very important for everyone at the Conference. He requested the help of the ERS to pressurize their government to accept sign language, to recognise interpreters and to stop closing schools for the deaf. Mr. Peydro informed the meeting of other problems experienced by the deaf in Spain.

The Chairman noted that this was not just a problem in Spain, but in most countries. He asked the delegates what should be done about the situation.

Mr. Bloemkolk (The Netherlands) stressed that help is very necessary, but felt it can only be done in a coordinated fashion by the ERS bureau. He asked that structured suggestions be submitted which the committee should then study.

The Chairman expressed his hope that the research to be carried out by Mrs. Pullen (U.K.) and her colleagues would be of some help.

Mr. Hayard (Belgium) reminded the meeting that last year they had discussed setting up days of action, and perhaps this could become part of a campaign to make people more aware of the deaf.

Mr. Saint-Antonin (France) informed the delegates that last year a demonstration for deaf people had been held in Paris. This received a lot of media coverage.

The Chairman asked the Spanish association to write to him with a list of their major concerns.

ERS19/86

LOGO

The meeting agreed that the international symbol for deafness, should be added to the logo. Dr. Magarotto (WFD) suggested that the symbol should be registered, to ensure that others do not copy it.

ERS20/86

CLOSING SPEECH

Dr. Magarotto (WFD) thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Mr. J. Young thanked everyone for being patient with him in his role as Chairman. He thanked the EEC for the spoken language interpreters; the sign language interpreters and the delegates. He hoped that everyone would continue to work together.

Mr. Young reminded the delegates that if anyone required any information or help, then they should write to him at the B.D.A.

The meeting was formally closed.