

**E U D**

**Minutes**

**3<sup>rd</sup> GA 1987**



Minutes of the meeting of the National Associations of the Deaf which are member countries of both the WFD and the European Economic Community, held in Brussels on 17th and 18th September 1987.

ERS 1/87 Present

Mr. P. Daunt )  
Mr. B. Vanderhaeghen ) E.E.C. Commission  
Mr. J.P. Limpach )

Mr. A.M. Holmes - W.F.D.

Mr. Hayard - Fr speaking Belgium  
Mr. G. Rasquinet - Fr speaking Belgium

Mr. Martens - Flemish speaking Belgium

Mr. Bergmann - Denmark  
Mr. Sondergaard - Denmark

Mlle M. Raynaud - France  
Mme F. Chastelcuif - France

Mr. W. Czempin - Germany

Mr. Y. Christodoulakos - Greece  
Mr. F. Argiris - Greece

Mr. P. Power - Ireland  
Mrs. H. Saunders - Ireland

Mr. A. Guiranna - Italy  
Mr. M. Marcioni - Italy

Mr. J.B. Wesemann - The Netherlands  
Mr. H.W. Scheper - The Netherlands *Elferink*

Mr. J. Bettencourt - Portugal  
Mr. D. Cunha - Portugal

Mr. F. Pinedo Peydro - Spain  
Ms. F.S. Limia - Spain

Mr. J. Young - United Kingdom  
Mr. A. Reeves - United Kingdom

Prof. Dr. C. Magarotto - Observer

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.

ERS 2/87 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Anderson, President of the WFD, and Ms. Liisa Kaupinnen, Secretary General of the WFD.

ERS 3/87 Welcoming Address Mr. J. Young, Honorary Director of the ERS welcomed everyone to the conference.



ERS 4/87 Roll Call Representatives from the 11 member countries of both the WFD and the EEC were present.

ERS 5/87 Minutes of the conference held in Brussels 18th and 19th September 1986 (previously circulated) were approved.

ERS 6/87 Matters Arising

i Mr. Brito E. Cunha introduced point ERS 7/86, regarding the provision of a letter from the Secretariat for him to submit to the Government and obtain his 100 ECUS contribution. He stated that this had not yet been received. Mr. J. Young apologised for this and stated that a letter would be sent after the meeting.

ii Mr. Hayard questioned point ERS 14/86, regarding a decision to select 5 countries on which to carry out social policy research. Belgium had been included, yet nothing had been done. Belgium is undergoing many internal difficulties and research would be beneficial. This issue was passed to Mrs. G. Pullen to answer.

She stated that a research questionnaire had been prepared but it is very difficult to apply it and compare only certain countries. In fact, application has been made for further funding; based on university contacts in other countries, Mr. J. Young promised that Belgium would be included among these countries.

iii Mr. S. Elferink (Holland) raised point ERS 17/86, on the relations between ERS and Euroaction. Mr. J. Young said that he had attended a meeting with the Director of Breakthrough, Mr. David Hyslop, and after discussion it had been agreed that a statement be exchanged between the B.D.A. and Breakthrough. Since his discussion with Mr. Vanderhaeghen, however, he felt further discussion on Euroaction and the ERS was necessary. Mr. Elferink highlighted the fact that this was too English orientated, and that further discussion must take place on neutral ground. Problems had arisen, however, Mr. J. Young stressed that they are parallel groups, with funding from different areas. Mr. Young asked the delegates to leave the matter in his hands, and that further discussion would take place under item 14.

iv ERS 19/86 Mr. Young asked if any country had registered the WFD logo, however no-one had done so.



ERS 7/87 To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 1986

The Annual Report was approved

There was a question from Mr. Elferink regarding the amount of 7000 ECUS for admin charges; Mr. Verney stated that this was met by the B.D.A., and that, in total, the B.D.A. had subsidised the ERS by 26000 ECUS. There was a question from the Greek representative regarding the financial year. Mr. Verney explained that the EEC financial year is followed, and at this conference, audited accounts were from the previous year (1986).

The Annual Accounts were accepted.

ERS 8/87 The approval of the proposed ERS rules. Mr. Marcioni (Italy) together with Mr. Young presented the rules to the conference. He stated that they had been carefully considered by the committee however it had been necessary to modify them slightly.

With regard to article 4, it was decided to delete (c) and (d) in 4.1, and include in 4.2, that the General Secretary of the WFD, President of the WFD and members of the Bureau of the WFD may attend the annual conference, but shall have no vote.

Additionally, the members of the committee will sit for 4 years, rather than have elections take place annually. Any remarks or requests were invited. This was offered in 4.4 (c).

Mr. Sondergaard requested clarification over the first amendment furthermore, he suggested that it be stated that delegate from members countries must be deaf. This qualification was put to the vote and agreed upon unanimously - Italy abstained from the voting. Mr. Marcioni then suggested that the rules refer to the Statutes of the WFD, and since the Statutes do not make such a qualification it should not be included in the rules at this stage, and information should be requested.

This suggestion was not accepted by the chairman. He stated that it is for the ERS to make the rules, in the first instance, and they will then be passed on to the WFD for acceptance. It had been agreed that deaf people be included therefore it must be added.

Mr. Peydro asked if Delegates of the WFD had the right to vote. Mr. Young replied that it is clear that members of the WFD can only come as observers. If national associations send a person to the conference as a delegate then they have a right to vote. There are 11 member states and the Director of the Secretariat, therefore there are 23 votes altogether.



Mrs. Saunders (Ireland) commented that although under the WFD the ERS is an independent body.

Mr. Marcioni said that the work of the ERS must be continuously parallel with the work undertaken to combat the problems of the deaf all over the world.

Mr. Young stated that if the ERS cannot work with the WFD it can withdraw and become independent.

Mr. Brito E. Cunha drew attention to the fact that under these rules, there is a danger that WFD members from communist countries may attend.

Mr. Peydro stated that ERS owes its existence to the WFD and is constantly receiving information from them.

Mme Raynaud suggested that it would be better to send another delegate rather than have one person representing both the WFD and their member association.

Mr. Young agreed that there be a separate ruling for delegates and WFD members.

Mr. Czempin of Germany stated that he would like to draw attention to 2 countries which are not members of the EEC, Switzerland and Austria. He stated that the Presidents of their national associations would be happy to pay their own costs in order to attend the meeting. It was agreed that there be provision made in the rules, that non EEC countries can come to the meeting as observers, at the discretion of the President.

Mrs. Saunders asked if the document had been submitted to the WFD yet and Mr. Marcioni replied that it had been decided by the committee that approval be obtained at conference first. There was further discussion regarding the possibility of non-european countries attending the conference, and Mr. Marcioni highlighted again the fact that the document was not a Statute and could be changed each year. The chairman added the point that budget restriction must be borne in mind. The committee was thanked for their work on the Statute and special acknowledgement was given to Dr. Magarotto, whom, it was stated, had worked hard to convince the WFD to authorise the birth of ERS.

Acceptance of the ERS rules and the suggested amendments was then put to the vote, and passed unanimously.

ERS 9/87 The administration of the Secretariat. Mr. Young stated that the B.D.A. wished to continue to operate the Secretariat - and that this had been agreed by the Executive Council of the B.D.A. It was agreed therefore that the B.D.A. would continue to run the Secretariat for another year.



Mr. Wesemann said he wished to thank the B.D.A. for their support but that he would like to stress the fact that the B.D.A. cannot continue to subsidise the ERS, as it has been doing in the past. He stated that it was for members collectively, to help the financial situation. He suggested that if each country would be willing to increase their contribution from 100 ECUS, the EEC would increase their funding.

Mr. Young stated that during the first ERS conference, it had been approved that each country would make this contribution, however, so far this year, only Spain has done so. He added that the ERS Bank Account Number would be printed on the bottom of headed stationery to facilitate the matter.

#### ERS 10/87 The Election of the Committee

The committee members were introduced, and it was stated that committee meetings had been successful. Nominees were put forward for the Election of Committee Members and the following members were elected

- i Portugal - Brito E. Cunha
- ii Holland - J. Wesemann
- iii Germany - W. Czempin
- iv Italy - M. Marcioni

#### ERS 11/87 Approval of the papers to be presented to the Public Hearing.

The Director referred to the three speakers papers which were presented before the Business Session began. Italy protested stating that members should have been given the opportunity to read the papers beforehand to understand what was happening. They abstained from subsequent voting because of this, rather than because of the content itself. The issue was then put to the vote and carried. Mr. Young promised that a report of the hearing would be completed and circulated.

#### ERS 12/87 The Education Conference - Greece 1987

Mr. Young said that this was not a final programme - that it could be amended according to suggestions. A query was received from the Danish Association, regarding which teacher had been approached.

An objection was accepted from the French National Association about individuals being approached.

Group leaders were promised some written information on their requirements.

#### ERS 13/87 Austin Reeves made a recommendation following his paper on European Broadcasting Services for the Deaf, for a commission to be set up addressing this matter.



Mr. Wesemann agreed that it was a good recommendation. The most important question, he added was the question of what the media was doing for deaf people on TV, regarding the level of the language and effects on people. There is much scope for research regarding media development for deaf people.

After further discussion it was decided that a working group should be set up, aided by the ERS to assess the needs and research areas to be focussed upon. A commission would be too large. Mr. Reeves made a further point that the area to be covered should not be too large plus computers were a separate issue.

It was agreed that those people interested should write to Mr. Reeves.

ERS 14/87 Recommendation on the setting up of an European Interpreters Forum

Mrs. Gibson reiterated the main argument in her paper; co-operation and support were requested from all member states.

Mr. Wesemann stated his desire in common with other associations that the whole issue of an interpreters forum must be addressed to the consumer. Too much happens without deaf people knowing. Mrs. Gibson acknowledged this, and highlighted that co-operation and collaboration would be objectives. A vote was taken, and the recommendation was accepted.

ERS 15/87 Youth Exchanges

Mr. Elferink of the Dutch Youth Council stressed the need for more co-operation with the ERS and stated that he would introduce it in Madrid. In the meantime there were 2 commitments, one to ERS and one to Euroaction.

Mr. Young asked whether the Youth Group would break away from Euroaction.

Mr. Elferink reiterated the need for a gradual approach. He stressed that the Youth organisation wanted its own policy. The question was posed as regards the ERS taking over a Youth Section, and it was proposed that Euroaction and ERS form one organisation in future - each with a linking up policy.

Mr. Marcioni from Italy stated that he would like to see Youth Groups as part of National Associations. In Italy, the National Association puts together all the social problems and sport, and therefore time is not wasted.

Mr. K. Sondergaard (Denmark) suggested one forum be set up incorporating 1 youth member and 1 member from the National Association in each member state.



Mr. Wesemann pointed out that because of Euroaction's project work in the past, youth has a historical commitment to them.

Mr. Young then stated that the ERS would be happy to support a Youth Section. He stated that the political issue should be kept separate, and be left in the hands of the ERS.

It was agreed therefore by the conference to support the recommendation of a Youth Section within the ERS.

#### ERS 16/87 Budget 1988

It was explained that the Bureau for Action will give the ERS a subvention of 55000 ECUS, for ERS work in 1988, however there is other funding available.

Funding can be orientated towards 2 specific areas.

1. Directly relating to ERS work.
2. Individual Applications.

The 1988 budget had been forecast on the basis of the following expenditure:

1. Three committee meetings
2. The Annual Conference
3. The conference in Portugal on UNEMPLOYMENT

and it is hoped that a break-even budget would be achieved.

The time-lapse regarding the EEC payment of subventions had been rectified, to a large degree, which meant that associations expenses for the conference could be paid without delay, however, it was highlighted that members will have to wait for a while for reimbursement following the Greek Conference.

The auditors are to come in the first week of December, and this years accounts would be submitted during the middle of December.

Mr. Reeves from the UK questioned the budget, regarding the provision of 29000 ECUS from the B.D.A. He argued that this amount cannot be specified as the B.D.A. budget has not yet been submitted or approved.

Mr. Verney replied that much of the expenditure relates to salaries, photocopying, heat, light etc, in effect a "Grant in Kind".

Mr. Reeves stressed that all organisations must help with the Budget.

Mrs. Saunders (Ireland) stated that she approved of the Budget for 1988.



She also questioned reimbursement for Ireland regarding the Italian Conference on Telecommunications in Rome.

It was stated that she must consult Italy individually.

Mr. Marcioni then drew a comparison on the B.D.A. subsidy to that of Italy and the WFD, and that disclosures on this matter should not occur.

#### ERS 17/87 Future Priorities

Mr. Verney asked if Denmark would be willing to host a Media Seminar.

Mr. Sondergaard replied that once the ground work was organised then they would be happy to do that in 1989.

The delegates from Ireland expressed their wish for a course on how to teach sign language, and suggested a new course "How to Teach Sign Language to Hearing People".

It was agreed that in order to save confusion the delegates would allow the committee to invite a country to run a course.

#### ERS 18/87 Pat Daunt's Retirement

It was decided to present Mr. Daunt with a leather bound signed copy of the "Quiet Ear", on his retirement. Many thanks and best wishes were given in recognition of his unflinching support to the ERS since its formation.

ERS 19/87 The proposal of an UMBRELLA organisation of deaf associations throughout the European community

There was a brief discussion on the need for a collective strategic approach to avoid duplication and waste of resource. Mr. Wesemann stated that authority came from the EEC, re funding and it must be made clear to the commission that there is a consensus among deaf people.

#### ERS 20/87 The Social Policy Research

A brief report was given by Mrs. G. Pullen who had been organising the research. She stated that the final report had now been completed, and that the ERS should receive it within a month, once it had been typed.

She stressed that as well as becoming aware of Social Problems encountered by Deaf people in the countries assessed, there were in fact many useful elements which could be channelled and adopted in other countries for example the Video Service for deaf people in Denmark.



She thanked the ERS for supporting the project. In future, she hoped, there would be representation in 7 countries. It is intended to use the same method of interview with 4 months travel, and 4 months assessment.

Mr. Verney highlighted the fact that such an extension had been approved at the committee meeting in June in Brussels and application was to be made to the commission for further funding. It was agreed that the research be extended.

Mr. Brito E. Cunha however, asked whether the results of the investigation had been satisfactory enough to continue, to which a positive response was given by Mrs. Pullen. Final approval would be given at the next committee meeting.

#### ERS 21/87 Data Collection

Mr. Pinedo Peydro proposed that data in all capacities be collected, with the possibility of the appointment of a research officer being assessed and investigated. This was postponed until the next committee meeting.

#### ERS 22/87 Finance for Greece

Mr. Christodollakos stated that an application had been made for an EEC based finance programme for handicapped people in Greece.

He asked whether this should come from the ERS. It was agreed that a decision should be taken on this at the next committee meeting.

The meeting was officially closed by the Chairman. He thanked everyone for attending and for their valuable contributions, and wished them a safe journey home.