

E U D

Minutes

4th GA 1988

Minutes of the meeting of the National Associations of the Deaf which are member countries of both WFD and the European Economic Community, held in Brussels on 19th, 20th and 21st September 1988.

ECRS 1/88	<u>Present</u>	Mr B Wehrens) Mr B Vanderhaeghen)	EEC Commission
		Miss L Kaupinnen) Mr A Holmes)	WFD
		Mr J Young	Honorary Director of ECRS
		Mr M Hayard	Belgium (French speaking)
		Mr M Martens	Belgium (Flemish speaking)
		Mr K Sondergaard Mrs V Danielsen	Denmark
		Miss R Raynaud Mr J Labes	France
		Mr W Czempin Mrs K George	Germany
		Mr J Christodoulakos Mrs D Kokkevi	Greece
		Mrs H Saunders Mr F Dunne	Ireland
		Mr M Marcioni Mr A Giuranna	Italy
		Mr J Heida Mr J Wesemann	The Netherlands
		Mr L Utrero	Spain
		Mrs G Pullen Mr A Reeves	United Kingdom

Sign language and spoken language interpreters, Administration staff and several observers were also in attendance.

ECRS 2/88 Apologies Apologies were received from Mr Y Anderson, President of the WFD, Mr P Peydro of Spain, and the Portuguese delegation.

- ECRS 3/88 Welcoming Address Mr J Young, Honorary Director of European Community Regional Secretariat of WFD welcomed everyone to the conference.
- ECRS 4/88 Roll Call Representatives from 10 Member countries of the WFD and EC were present. It was explained to conference that the Portuguese delegation was unable to attend because of a conflict which had arisen between the association and their National Government.
- ECRS 5/88 Minutes of the conference held in Brussels on 17th and 18th September 1987 (previously circulated) were approved and signed.
- ECRS 6/88 There were no matters arising.
- ECRS 7/88 To receive the Annual Report and Accounts for 1987, and a Report from the Committee.

The Annual Report was approved.

Mr Reeves (United Kingdom) noted that according to the Annual Accounts it was clear that contributions from member organisations were not forthcoming.

Mr A Verney (involved with the administration of ECRS) stated that 3 members had submitted their contributions in 1987. This year, however, several more had been received, including some for the previous year. He requested that all countries make a contribution to enable the continuation of ECRS work.

Mr Hayard (French speaking Belgium) stated that he had no objection to the Accounts, however queried the length of time taken for reimbursement of expenses to be made.

Mr Christodoulakos (Greece) also expressed concern over delays in reimbursement.

Mr Young (Director) stated that now an Administrator was in post, delays would be minimal. It was stressed, however, that an additional constraint had been delays in payment from the EC itself. To facilitate reimbursement, in future, an expenses claim form and copies of invoices must be submitted.

It was explained that the ECRS has also been examining the possibility of setting up a Bank Account in Brussels.

Mr Wesemann (Holland) commented that in addition to the contribution of 100 ecus, members provide other support such as interpreters, conference-hosting, etc.

The Accounts for 1987 were accepted.

The Report from the Committee highlighted areas which would not be addressed at conference and covered 3 major points.

1. The possibility of a WFD Secretariats' Meeting, with 2 delegates from each Secretariat attending as representatives.
2. The decision by Committee that official letters will only be accepted by the Secretariat when written on official headed notepaper.
3. It was agreed that the Secretariat should carry out research into the EC Directive on standardised licensing categories.

ECRS 8/88

The proposed ECRS Rules.

The WFD had 2 reservations, regarding the proposed ECRS rules, which were put back for discussion under ECRS 9/88 motions. It was highlighted in relation to this that the WFD does not wish to become involved in internal affairs.

Lisa Kaupinnen, Secretary General of WFD wished to discuss co-operation with other European Organisations outside the EEC, for example, Austria, Switzerland.

It was suggested that Miss Kaupinen and Mr Young examine the possibility of an umbrella organisation being formed.

ECRS 9/88

Motions

A motion was put forward by the Spanish Delegation on behalf of Mr F Pinedo Peydro that the ECRS explores ways to establish a database to include subjects which concern deaf people in the European Community.

A paper on this subject was presented and circulated.

Mr Sondergaard (Denmark) stated that although it is a good idea to establish a database, it would be better if the WFD rather than ECRS be responsible, as 12 countries are insufficient to form this kind of database. The idea, however, was accepted in principle and seconded by the UK delegation. It was suggested that this idea be referred to Committee, and the motion was carried.

The second Motion was put forward by the United Kingdom, that the title "The European Regional Secretariat of the WFD" be

changed to "The European Community Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf" (ECSR)

This was seconded by Belgium, and the Motion was carried.

The third Motion was also put forward by the UK, that the words "who must be deaf" be omitted from rule 4.1)a). This was seconded by Italy, and lengthy discussion took place, for example, J Wesemann (Netherlands) indicated the need for positive discrimination in its legally acceptable form. Mr Marcioni (Italy) put the question to the WFD and Miss L Kaupinnen responded that according to the statute of the WFD all Bureau members have to be deaf.

Those in favour of the Motion numbered four. Eight delegates voted against the Motion therefore, it was not carried.

The fourth Motion was put forward by the Italian Delegation regarding an alteration in rules 4.7 and 4.8 respectively, stating that information should be passed to Member National Associations rather than those entitled to attend the Annual Conference.

Mr Sondergaard (Denmark) seconded this, stating that National Associations were responsible for distributing papers to delegates and interpreters.

The Motion was carried.

ECSR 10/88 A Progress Report on the Official Recognition for Sign Languages.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wesemann of the Netherlands, Mme Raynaud of France, Mrs Rasquinet of Belgium, Mr Denmark of the UK and Mrs Saunders of Ireland, for attending the Debate in Strasbourg on June 17th.

He also thanked Mr Sondergaard and Mr Pinedo Peydro for their contribution to the Official Public Hearing on 23 September 1987.

Mrs H Saunders and Mr J Wesemann reported back to conference on the debate and also, on the Press Conference on the previous day.

Mr Wesemann voiced his gratitude to Mrs Lemass for all her support in relation the Resolution for Official Recognition.

He was critical of the Italian National Association approach, as there had been amendments to the resolution put forward by

an Italian MEP, Mr Chiaibrando, on the part of the Italian Association.

This had caused confusion as the Italian Association had had the same opportunity as other associations to put forward amendments at the previous Annual Conference.

Mr Young stressed the need for an individual letter from each association to Mrs Lemass expressing thanks for her tremendous work in moving forward the Motion.

Secondly, Members were asked once again to submit a paper on the PRACTICAL implications of the Resolution, to enable the Bureau for Action in favour of Disabled People to submit a report to the council of ministers.

ECRS 11/88 The European Forum of Sign Language Interpreters
October 13 - 16 1988

The conference received a report from Mrs L Scott Gibson co-ordinator of ECRS Interpreting Services.

The UK delegation raised the comment that it would have been preferable for a deaf person to be on of the Official Delegates.

Mrs Scott Gibson responded by saying that it was important that issues were discussed in great depth. Obviously, deaf people's views were valued but the forum was aimed at interpreters, and to give them time to discuss significant aspects relating to their work for example "How to teach an interpreter" and the ECRS's standpoint in relation to interpreting services. Mrs Scott Gibson also clarified points relating to expenses, ie that the ECRS would pay for the accommodation and travel of one interpreter delegate.

The Chairman reiterated the importance of the European Sign Language Interpreter's forum especially in the light of the campaign for Official Recognition for Sign Languages.

The Education Conference (Greece November 1987)

The aim of this conference was to draw up a European Policy on the Education of Deaf children. The Chairman thanked the Greek Delegation for their help in organising the conference, and they were asked to say a few words on it. Delegates were asked to consider the Report on the conference and to submit their comments by the end of December.

ECRS 12/88 Employment Conference Portugal

Papers on the above were received, however, it was explained that the conference in Portugal must be cancelled, as explained in ECRS 4/88. Work undertaken to date may, however, be transferred to the Employment Seminar scheduled in the Programme of Action.

ECRS 13/88 European Broadcasting Services for the Deaf

Mr Riley from the United Kingdom presented a paper focussing on the possibility of the provision of a World Service. This was a follow-up to Mr Austin Reeves' paper presented at the 1987 annual conference.

Mr Riley's paper gave the conference a starting-point for discussion on incorporating this area into next year's programme as discussed in ECRS 15/88.

ECRS 14/88 ECRS Quarterly Newsletter

Mr Young highlighted the need for improved communication and awareness and discussed a newsletter, incorporating a profile of each association in turn. This was agreed upon and it was decided that the first issue could be published in January 1989. Mr Young stressed the need for co-operation and regular contributions from member associations.

ECRS 15/88 1989 - Programme of Action

It was agreed that a Consultative Exercise be carried out, over the next 12 months, to propose plans for the future development of ECRS. The first stage; the establishment of a working party comprising one delegate from each Member Association, was completed at conference.

It was agreed that Denmark hosts a European Deaf Broadcasting Seminar in February/March 1989, in preparation for a conference in early 1990. This meeting will also incorporate the Consultative Exercise.

It was also agreed that the Spanish delegates approach their executive committee, to approve their hosting of an Employment Seminar in April. This seminar would also incorporate a further working party meeting relating to the Consultative Exercise.

Mrs H Saunders put forward the suggestion of a planning meeting for a European sign language training agency. It was agreed that the ECRS committee would look at the possibility of incorporating it into one of the seminar meetings in 1989

With a view to launching the Education Policy in September, it was stressed that there must be a consensus amongst members.

The draft education report has been circulated, and members must inform the Secretariat if there are any amendments felt necessary.

Exchange of information generally will be increased by the Newsletter. The Chairman reminded Delegates that information from now on will be sent to National Associations and Delegates themselves are responsible for ensuring that they are kept informed.

Delegates also approved the launching in the New Year of a Fire Safety Policy in relation to deaf people. It was agreed that the Secretariat work on this and report to the Committee.

ECRS 16/88 Social Policy Research

Delegates were informed by Mrs G Pullen, who is directing this survey that she will be travelling to a further 6 countries. The questions posed will be linked to phase 1 of the survey. She thanked those involved in that part of the work - the report on phase 1 had been approved by the Commission and a combined publication incorporating the 2 phases will be available to Delegates once the report on phase 2 has been approved by the commission.

ECRS 17/88 The European Interpreters Symposium Albi 30 - 31 January 1987

A report was received from the Symposium and France was thanked for hosting the meeting.

The UK delegation requested that copies of the Report be sent to all those who attended Albi.

A Report on the Maltese Project

The report by Jeff McWhinney, Secretary of the Euroyouth Deaf Council was submitted to the conference.

The project, focussing on leadership illustrates ECRS's support of Euroyouth.

ECRS 19/88 Statement of Co-operation between Euroaction and ECRS

This statement was discussed at great length and it was decided that in order to come to an ultimate agreement, Mr Young as Director, and Mr Wesemann of the Netherlands,

would meet representatives from Euroaction as soon as possible.

ECRS 20/88 Portuguese Letter

It was agreed that given the circumstances in Portugal, the ECRS should provide some form of support. The first step is for Mr Young to visit the association, in order to examine the situation.

ECRS 21/88 European Social Fund

It was reported that Miss N Bedlington, Administrator of ECRS was researching information relating to the European Social Fund, and that she would circulate further details as she received them.

ECRS 22/88 Administration

There was a request from the United Kingdom that papers, etc, be distributed as early as possible (administration).

Mr Verney explained that the administrative situation should improve as there is now a person in a full-time post.

ECRS 23/88 Official Recognition for Sign Languages

Questions were posed on the next stage in the Campaign for Official Recognition for Sign Languages. Mr Vernay explained that it is a very long process, perhaps 2-4 years before a final decision is made. However, what has been achieved so far can be used as a lever for individual countries to initiate campaigns.

ECRS 24/88 Danish Spoken Language Interpreters

Danish Delegates requested that in future a Danish spoken language interpreter be provided at Annual Conference. Mr Young replied that efforts would be made to ensure this provision.

ECRS 25/88 Press Communique

Mrs Giuranna (Italy) requested that a press communique be produced highlighting the main issues of the conference. Mr Young replied that excerpt from this meeting would be printed in the Newsletter.

ECRS 26/88 Advisor to ECRS

Mr Wesemann (Holland) put forward the suggestions that Mr P Daunt, former Head of the Bureau for Action in favour of Disabled People be approached to become an advisor for ECRS.

All Delegates approved of this and Miss Bedlington was asked to write to him.

ECRS 27/88 Closing Address

The meeting closed with a short presentation from Miss L Kaupinnen, wishing the Group luck with next year's programme of Action and stating how impressed she was with ECRS and that she looked forward to attending future meetings.