

E U D

Minutes

8th GA 1992

The European Community Regional Secretariat
of the World Federation of the Deaf

**MINUTES OF THE EIGHT ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS OF DEAF PEOPLE
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 7 AND 8 SEPTEMBER 1992.**

1/92 Present

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. K. Søndergaard (DK) | President |
| Mr. T. Riley (UK) | Vice-President |
| Mr. M. Marcioni (I) | Treasurer |
| Mr. M. Jimenez Mesa (E) | Council Member |
| Mrs. D. Kokkevi-Fotiou (GR) | Council Member |
| Mr. J. Wesemann (NL) | Director-General |
| Mr. J. Young (UK) | Honorary member |
| Mrs. J. Rasquinet Mr. M. Martens | Belgium |
| Mr. A. Bergmann Mr. K. Jensen | Denmark |
| Miss R. Raynaud Mr. R. Mimoun | France |
| Mrs. K. George Mr. T. Warseck | Germany |
| Mr. N. Spanos Mr. T. Starojannis | Greece |
| Mrs. H. Saunders | Ireland |
| Mr. A. Giuranna | Italy |
| Mr. P. de Korte | Netherlands |
| Mr. J. Bettencourt | Portugal |
| Mr. L. Canon | Spain |
| Mrs. G. Pullen Mr. A. Reeves | United Kingdom |

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

2/92 Welcoming Address

The President extended a warm welcome. He specially welcomed the honorary member, Mr. Young (UK).

The President informed the meeting that 1991-1992 had been a very busy year with positive but also negative developments. Four successful conferences were held:

Padua (I)- Higher Education

Dublin (IRL) - Culture Festival

Athens (GR) - Women's Issues

Blackpool (UK) - Human Rights

ECRS had opened its headquarters in Brussels, close to the centre of the European Community. The President extended his thanks to Danske Døves Landsforbund for their help and support in the purchase of the house.

Johan Wesemann had been appointed as Director-General and started working on 1 January this year. A third person for the Secretariat was recruited, Angélique Nijman, and she also started working for ECRS on 1 January 1992.

DG V increased ECRS's budget in 1992 thanks to the Fair Deal Campaign. ECRS was still playing a leading role in Europe.

A negative point was the delay in the adoption of HELIOS II. The President expressed the wish that this 5-year programme would be adopted on the next meeting of the Social Affairs Committee in September.

Finally, the President thanked the four countries (Italy, Ireland, Greece and the United Kingdom) for taking the responsibility of organising the conferences.

He thanked the Council for their support and cooperation and the Secretariat, Johan Wesemann, Arthur Verney and Angélique Nijman, for excellent work and cooperation.

3/92 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr. Y Anderson, President and Ms. L. Kauppinen, Secretary-General of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD). The President informed the meeting that Mr. A. Bergmann (DK) had been nominated to represent the WFD.

4/92 Minutes of the Seventh Annual Conference, held in Brussels, 9 & 10 September 1991

The minutes, previously circulated, were approved.

5/92 Annual Reports 1991-1992 and Accounts 1991.

The Annual Report was circulated four weeks ago. The President stressed

the importance for the national associations to pass on papers to the delegates.

Mr. A. Reeves (UK) expressed his concern for the Secretariat in connection with the delay in the adoption of HELIOS II.

Mr. A. Giuranna (I) informed the meeting that, because of the Higher Education Conference in Padua, the Italian government approved a law that allows 40 sign language interpreters to work for deaf students on university level.

Answers were given to Mr. J. Young's (UK) questions concerning the Maastricht treaty. Different points of view on the effect of this treaty were exchanged.

Mr. T. Riley explained that the ECRS funding basis was not secure and heavily relied on HELIOS II. He stressed the importance of seeking alternative sources of funding.

Answers were given to Mrs. Saunders concerning reports on conferences. It was stressed that it is important for delegates to receive a report on conferences as soon as possible after a conference. However, funding for last year was not made available until recently and that was the reason that certain reports are not published yet.

The President explained the meeting that, since 1991, other organisations operating in the field of deafness or hard of hearing people, had to apply for EC funding via ECRS. Projects 12-24 in the budget overview 1991 were related to such projects. In 1991, the ECRS budget was increased, partly because of its expansion, but also to take the lead for projects related to deafness or hard of hearing people.

After discussion it was decided that ECRS should receive brief reports on these projects and that the Council should consider its role to funding of external bodies.

After lengthy and detailed discussion on the role and responsibilities of the treasurer, it was agreed that the Council would clarify this matter.

The Annual Report and the Accounts were approved unanimously.

The Danish Deaf Association was given a vote of thanks for its work on the Accounts.

6/92 European Deaf Women's Group

It was unanimously agreed that a Deaf Women's Commission would be set up under ECRS. The President proposed that a letter should be sent to the Full Members, to ask for nominations. The Full Members were asked to send in names before 1 November 1992. The Council would appoint 5

persons to serve on this Commission.

7/92 Motions

1. Italian Deaf Association

The motion tabled by Italy concerning amendments to Article 6 in the statutes:

Article 6. Director-General and the Secretariat

6.1 The Council shall have the power to appoint a Director-General and the Director's office staff, and decide their terms and conditions of service.

6.3 The Director-General and the Director's office staff can be invited to attend the Annual Conference of Delegates, and meetings of the Council, the Liaison Commission, and Working Parties, but shall have no vote.

was adopted on a majority vote.

2. Italian Deaf Association

The motion tabled by Italy concerning replacement of Article 4.4 a) and d) with:

a) discuss and approve the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts as well as the budget estimates accompanied by the following year's programme of action

was adopted on a majority vote.

3. British Deaf Association

The motion tabled by the United Kingdom was withdrawn on the understanding that the matter would be considered under motion 4 of the Council.

4. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the setting up of a Working Party on TV and Video, was unanimously adopted.

5. British Deaf Association

The motion tabled by the United Kingdom was withdrawn on the understanding that the matter would be considered under motion 6 of the Council.

6. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the promotion of a pilot Resource Centre of Excellence programme in three member states, was adopted on a majority vote.

7. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the establishment of a Telecommunications Commission, was unanimously adopted.

8. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the establishment of "EuroSign" as a permanent Commission after the EuroSign Seminar in Denmark in November 1992, was adopted unanimously.

9. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the adoption of the resolution passed at the Conference on Higher Education, Padua 1991, was adopted unanimously.

It was concluded that the Secretariat and the organising countries should provide better background information on resolutions.

10. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the adoption of the "Year of the Elderly" as one of ECRS's main themes for 1993, was adopted unanimously.

11. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning focussing on practical projects, study visits, and exchanges, alongside conferences and seminars, was adopted unanimously.

12. Council

The motion tabled by the Council concerning the adoption of the proposed By-laws was withdrawn. It was decided that the Council would work on a clearer proposal for the Annual Conference of Delegates 1993. It was agreed that "NAD" should be replaced by "Full Member".

8/92 The appointment of a National Association to be responsible for the financial administration of ECRS in 1993.

It was agreed that the Danish National Association of the Deaf would continue being responsible for the financial administration of ECRS in 1993.

9/92 Election of Members to the Council.

All members resigned from the Council. Mr. K.Søndergaard (DK) was re-elected as President, Mr. T. Riley (UK) was re-elected as Vice-President, Mr. T. Worseck (D) was elected as Treasurer and Mr. M. Jimenez (E) and Mrs. D. Kokkevi-Fotiou (GR) were re-elected as Members.

Mr. A. Giuranna's (I) interpretation of the proceeding can be found in an

annex.

10/92 Election proceedings

Several delegates stressed the importance for Council to prepare a proposal for nomination and election proceedings for Council Members. Mr. M. Marcioni (I) stressed the importance of following the statutes. If the ECRS statutes do not foresee in an answer, the statutes of WFD should be used.

11/92 Programme of action and priorities 1993

After discussion, the following annual programme was adopted:

1. Conference - "Year of the Elderly" (D)

2. Conference - Telecommunications and Deaf people

The responsibility and planning for this conference would be left to the Director-General. It was agreed that this conference should not take place in the UK, but for instance in Spain or in the Netherlands, because the United Kingdom had a big conference in 1991 already and there should not be a conference next year.

3. Course - Management and Leadership

The responsibility for arranging this course would continue to be in the hands of the Director-General.

4. Project - EuroSign

It was agreed to wait for results of the EuroSign seminar in Denmark in November 1992, to know how to continue working on the project next year.

5. Project - Bilingualism

It was agreed that the Director-General would make a detailed proposal for consideration for the Council and Full Members. Mr. T. Riley (UK) stressed the importance for Full Members to set up their own projects in their own countries on bilingualism first. After that, the Council would set up an ECRS project which would involve three member states.

Mr. A. Bergmann (DK) informed the meeting that an International Conference on Bilingualism would be held in Stockholm in August 1993.

6. Seminar - National Committees

It was decided that when HELIOS II was adopted, a special meeting would be held to deal with this topic of national committee which would involve all national organisations working in the area of deafness.

7. Seminar - Preparation "Year of the Family" 1994

8. *Youth Work*

9. *Liaison Commission*

10. *EuroSign Commission*

11. *Telecommunications Commission*

12. *Arts and Culture Commission*

13. *Women's Commission*

14. *TV and Video Working Party*

15. *Council Meetings (4)*

Continuation of previous work

16. *Annual Conference 1993*

Continuation of previous work

17. *Publications and Information*

Continuation of previous work

18. *Campaign - Licences*

It was decided to give this campaign low priority, depending on the budget 1993.

19. *Campaign - Protection of Deaf culture - stop mainstreaming*

A decision on this project was not taken.

20. *Initiatives - developing countries*

- *Eastern Europe*

It was decided to give these initiatives low priority, depending on the budget 1993.

Other projects:

21. *Sign Language Researchers Workshop*

22. *Conference - Hard of Hearing*

23. *Conference - Deaf/Blind*

24. *Conference - Mental Health and Deafness*

25. *Activities - EFSLI*

26. *Activities - parents*

Projects 21 to 26 are activities as explained in 5/92

It was decided that the Council would set priorities as soon as the budget for 1993 would be known. After that, the Full Members would be invited to submit nominations for the various commissions (projects 10-14). In case there would not be sufficient funds, the Full Members would be asked to be

responsible for certain costs.

12/92 Budget 1993

It was decided that this item would be left to the Council, since no data were available before the adoption of HELIOS II.

13/92 Closure

The President and delegates expressed their disappointment that, for the first time in eight years, the European Commission was not represented.

The President thanked all delegates for their active participation and their valuable ideas and proposals.

He also thanked the sign language and spoken language interpreters for their splendid work.

He thanked Mr. Marcioni (I) for his work in the Council and welcomed on board Mr. Worseck (D).

Being no further business, the Annual Conference 1992 was closed.

ANNEX

Mr. A. Giuranna, Italian delegate:

- At item 9 on the agenda, Mr. Young took the Presidency in order to supervise the Election of the Members of the Council, with the consult of all delegates present.
- At the election of the President, as there was only one candidate, Mr. Young proposed an open show of hands.
- Mr. Giuranna (I) expressed his concern on this procedure and asked for a secret paper ballot for the election of all members of the Council.
- The President replied that the statutes do not state how voting should be done. Therefore he proposed a show of hands as there was only one candidate for Presidency
- The same thing happened when the election of the Vice-President took place
- When the election for Treasurer began, the French delegate Mme Raynaud asked for a secret paper ballot. Mr. Giuranna made a comment that the election procedure was being changed according to what had already been agreed and there were two kinds of procedures during the same meeting/election.
- Mr. Bergman, the Danish delegate, responded in agreement with the Italian delegate and asked for the open show of hands to continue the election of the Treasurer.
- At this point the German delegate (Mr.. Worseck) proposed himself as a candidate for the post of Treasurer.
- The Italian delegate raised the point that, in order to be a candidate, the candidate needed the backing of his own national association of the deaf, with approval in writing on the appropriate form and presented to the Secretariat in good time. This allows each NAD to mandate their delegates on how to vote.
- Mr. Young at this point answered that the procedure he was following was correct, according to Article 5.1 (b)
- The Italian Delegate replied he did not agree and that he felt the German delegate could not stand for election for the reasons he already explained.
- At this point the election for Treasurer took place all the same.
- When coming to the election for the two members of the Council, Mr. Giuranna asked to include Mr. Marcioni (I) as a candidate.
- Mr. Young replied that for his "candidature" it was necessary to have the approval of Mr. Marcioni himself who meanwhile was absent.
- Then the election of the two members took place."

Brussels 7/9/92

A. Giuranna, Italian Delegate

DELEGATES

France

1. Rose- Marie Raynaud
2. Rachid Mimoun

Portugal

1. José Bettencourt

Belgium (French)

1. Josette Rasquinet

Ireland

1. Helena Saunders

Netherlands

1. Peter de Korte

Belgium (Flemish)

1. Mathieu Martens
2. Maurice Buyens

ECRS Council

Knud Søndergaard
Terry Riley
Miguel Jimenez Mesa
Manlio Marcioni
Dimitra Kokkevi Fotiou

Spain

1. Luis J. Canon

Greece

1. Nikos Spanos
2. Ted Starojannis

Germany

1. Käthi George
2. Thomas Worseck

Denmark

1. Asger Bergmann
2. Klaus Jensen

United Kingdom

1. Gloria Pullen
2. Mr. AC Reeves

Italy

1. Armando Giuranna

Honorary guest

John Young

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

France

Paule Pellecier
Olivier Soto

Portugal

Ana Silva

Belgium (French)

Arlette Sodoyez

Ireland

Siobhan Saunders
Patrick Mc Donnel

Netherlands

Rina Bosman

Belgium (Flemish)

Dirk de Witte

Spain

Esther de los Santos

Greece

Roxani Zika

Germany

Michael Bank

Denmark

Malene Lytting
Susanne Carstensen
Paulina i Dali

United Kingdom

Alan Haythorntwaite
Mrs. S. Caley

Italy

Ilario Stocchero