

E U D

Minutes

1st GA 1985

ERS3/85

WELCOMING ADDRESS Mr J Young, Chairman of the Committee of the EEC Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf (ERS) called upon the Belgian delegates, Messrs Hayard and Martens, to address the meeting.

The Belgian delegates welcomed everyone and thanked the EEC Commission for providing the accommodation for the meeting. It was hoped that the formation of the ERS would enable the member countries to work together on a European level. The members would not be working as Britons, French, German etc but primarily as deaf people.

The Chairman thanked the Belgian delegates for their assistance in arranging the meeting in Brussels. In his opening speech the Chairman stated that the formation of the ERS was seen as an opportunity for the National Associations of the Deaf to act as Europeans. This unity would enable the ERS to bring about changes which individual associations could not hope to achieve. In order to advance and protect the interests of the half a million profoundly deaf people in the EEC, the member associations must work as one body.

Dr C Magarotto, World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) extended the best wishes of the WFD to the ERS. He thanked Mr P Daunt for enabling the ERS to become a reality. The ERS would be an effective co-worker with the Community Bureau. It was stated that past achievements were being undermined by economic reforms and the deaf community must fight to ensure that further progress was made. The ERS and WFD were ready to support the work of Mr Daunt and the Bureau for action in favour of disabled people.

Mr P Daunt read a personal message from Mr P Sutherland to the delegates:

"It is a great pleasure to welcome the European Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf to their first full meeting here in Brussels, and I congratulate the organisers on this valuable initiative.

I attach considerable importance to this new possibility for collaboration and exchange between deaf people at European level, and to the improved opportunity for the Commission to exchange information and ideas with the representatives of the leading Deaf Associations.

I wish you every success with your work and look forward to a fruitful cooperation between the Commission and your secretariat in the future."

Mr Daunt informed the meeting that he was unable to attend all the sessions but his assistant, Mr J-C Limpach would be present. Mr Daunt felt that one important aspect of the ERS was to keep the EEC informed of ways that it could help. The EEC wanted the best in terms of integration and enabling deaf people to reach their full potential - full education and employment at the right level. The delegates were reminded of the EEC's work with the University of Bristol in developing a videobank of Sign Languages and in the work of Sign Language interpreters at European level.

Mr Daunt informed the delegates that he was going to ask his Bureau to allow groups of people with sensory disabilities to use EEC facilities for their annual meetings. The ERS was also asked to send a report of the meeting to the EEC Commission.

ERS4/85 ROLL CALL Representatives from the eleven member countries of both the WFD and the EEC were present.

At this point delegates were reminded that each association had two votes, with the exception of Belgium. It had been agreed that the Flemish speaking Belgian Association and the French speaking Belgian Association should have one vote each.

The Chairman read a letter from the Spanish Association giving their apologies and requesting that Mr D Brito e Cunha (Portugal) represent them. This was approved.

ERS5/85 REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING HELD IN MARCH 1985
The report of the first meeting held in London in March 1985 (previously circulated) was approved.

ERS6/85 MATTERS ARISING THEREFROM There were no matters arising.

ERS7/85 REPORT FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE
The Steering Committee comprised of Messrs J Wesemann, M Marcioni, W Czempin and J Young (Chairman).

The Steering Committee had met three times in 1985, in London, Rome and Frankfurt. Work undertaken was as follows:

- 1 Preparation of an application to the WFD to form a Regional Secretariat.

- 2 Organisation of Conference and workshops.
- 3 Preparation of guidelines for the conduct of the annual conference.
- 4 Preparation of proposed Programme of Action for 1986.
- 5 Detailed discussion on the EEC Themes for Policy Development report.

The delegates were informed that an Interim Report on the EEC Themes for Policy Development was in their information folders, and they were asked to forward their comments on the document to the ERS headquarters.

The Steering Committee had begun to identify some of the differences in the problems facing the deaf in Europe. It had been encouraging that the members of the committee had developed a strong working rapport and there had been excellent cooperation. However there was still a great deal to do if the ERS was to be successful.

The Steering Committee had served its purpose and all the members wished the new committee, that was to be elected at the Conference, every success.

Mr W Czempin thanked the staff at the British Deaf Association for all their hard work in arranging the meetings, and the Spanish and Portuguese Association read out a message of goodwill.

ERS8/85

REPORT FROM THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

Dr Magarotto distributed copies of the WFD rules. He stated that the work of the ERS was to improve the lives of deaf people throughout Europe. The Bureau of the WFD had approved the setting up of the ERS in accordance with Article 15 of the WFD Statutes.

Dr Magarotto had sent out a letter asking if any member association of the ERS was willing to be responsible for the ERS. The British Deaf Association had accepted the responsibility of the ERS in March 1985 and was willing to continue if no other association came forward.

It was essential that a Director of the ERS be appointed to be responsible to the General Secretary of the WFD as well as to the national associations of the deaf. All administrative expenses were to be covered by the national association that took over responsibility for the ERS. The Director would have to organise the running of the ERS as instructed by the member associations.

Mr J Young reminded the delegates that the British Deaf Association had agreed to take on the administration work of the ERS for one year which ended in March 1986.

Mr K Sondergaard (Denmark) asked for more information about the operation of a secretariat before the Danske Doves Landsforbund could consider accepting the responsibility.

Dr Magarotto had sent out letters to the associations outlining the role of a secretariat, however several delegates had not received this letter which also asked them to consider undertaking the administration work of the ERS.

The delegates were told that each national association within the EEC and also a member of the WFD was automatically a member of the ERS. There was no membership fee. The association responsible for the administration work of the ERS is also responsible for the day-to-day operational costs. This did not include the expenses for meetings and seminars.

Mr M Hayard (Belgium) felt that it was unthinkable that one association should bear all the administration costs. Every association should be prepared to contribute something.

It was generally accepted that the first priority of the ERS was co-ordination and distribution of information to all associations. Secondly although each association was automatically a member of the ERS, a letter requesting a voluntary contribution towards the running costs of the ERS should be sent out to each member association.

It was felt that communication sometimes broke down because information was distributed in English and/or French. It was suggested that the ERS look into the possibility of translating the information into the EEC languages. It was pointed out that the official language of the WFD was Gestuno but written information was sent out in English and French.

At this point as Mr J Young's (Chairman) duties were concluded, Mr A M Holmes (WFD) took over the Chair.

ERS9/85

APPOINTMENT OF THE EEC REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Mr Holmes informed the meeting that the WFD had formally approved the appointment of the ERS. However as the BDA were to finish their work in March 1986, another association had to undertake the administrative work.

Concern was expressed that if the BDA was no longer responsible for the administration then confusion would arise. Information would be sent to the wrong address. It was essential that whoever took over the administrative work did so for a lengthy period.

The delegates approved the BDA's offer to continue with the administration work until September 1986.

ERS10/85 PROPOSAL TO FORM A COMMITTEE

Mr V Poulakis (Greece) proposed and the meeting RESOLVED THAT:

The delegates of the different national associations of the deaf in both the European Economic Community and the World Federation of the Deaf, meeting in Brussels on 19 September 1986 elect a committee comprising a Chairman and four delegates from those at the meeting.

It was confirmed that the Secretary of the ERS did not have a vote. Dr Magarotto pointed out that according to the ruling of the WFD the ERS must have a Director to be appointed by the national association who takes on the administrative work of the Secretariat. Mrs G Pullen informed the meeting that the BDA had appointed Mr J Young as Director of the ERS.

A paper on the Role of the Committee (Appendix A) was included in the delegates information folders. The delegates were informed that there had been the following addition to this paper:

- 7 To liaise and co-operate with the World Federation of the Deaf, and report to full meetings.

ERS11/85 ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE

The meeting ELECTED

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

as members of the Committee.

ERS12/85 FUNDRAISING AND BUDGET The delegates were informed that it was essential for the ERS to find ways of supporting itself. The Steering Committee had suggested that:

- 1 Each country be asked to find funds for one meeting or one course excluding travel.
- 2 Each country be asked to make a voluntary contribution of 100 ECUS.
- 3 Each country to agree to the Secretariat making an appeal to the top companies within their own countries.

It was requested that the BDA distribute a balance sheet to the member associations to give an indication of the costs involved in running the Secretariat. The Director agreed to send a statement to each association.

The attention of the delegates was drawn to the draft letters (previously circulated) appealing to multi-national firms. It was agreed that such appeals could be made but each association wished to approve any letters to be sent to companies in their country. This was agreed to and the Director requested that each association make any necessary amendments to the letters and then return them to the offices of the Secretariat. It was generally felt that any appeal needed to be for a specific item or project and not to finance meetings.

ERS13/85 EEC COMMISSION'S THEMES FOR POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Letters had been sent to the member associations requesting information on the EEC Commission's Themes for Policy Development. Written replies had been received from Ireland and Greece. Verbal replies had been received from Germany, United Kingdom and The Netherlands. The delegates were asked to send further comments on access, mobility, leisure and housing to the Secretariat by the end of October 1985. On completion the final report would be sent to the EEC and the associations.

It was proposed that the Committee consider approaching a group of MEPS with the final document. Mr Sondergaard (Denmark) suggested that as the recommendations within the report were those put forward by the EEC the ERS should prepare a document on the recommendations of the deaf. This document could then be presented to the MEPS of all member associations.

ERS14/85 PROGRAMME OF ACTION 1986 The proposed Programme of Action had been drawn up by the Steering Committee (Appendix B). Before discussion began the Italian Association requested that a "European Seminar on Social Policy" be added to the programme.

The Dutch Association agreed to organise a "European Seminar for 'Leadership' Trainers" to be held provisionally in the Netherlands in March 1986.

The German Association agreed to organise a "European Seminar on the Development of Political Awareness", this was to replace item 4 on the Programme of Action 1986.

The French Association agreed to include a "European Seminar on the Training of Sign Language Interpreters" at the French Symposium on Interpreting to be held in France in November 1986.

It was agreed that three seminars would be sufficient for 1986 as few associations could afford to attend more than two or three. It was agreed that the remaining items on the Programme of Action should be put aside for consideration in 1987.

Greece apologised that they were unable to agree to organise any seminars but there had been insufficient time to discuss the Programme with their Committee. On their return to Greece they would consult their Committee and contact the Secretariat.

Dr Magarotto informed the meeting that the next conference on Telecommunications would be held in Paris in 1988, and that the Italian telecommunications company would be organising a conference on the problems of the deaf and hard of hearing in February or March 1986. Dr Magarotto said that he would send further details to the Secretariat in November 1985.

The delegates were in favour of the Annual Conference of member countries being held in Brussels if Mr P Daunt could obtain the Commission's approval.

As it would be difficult to predetermine the number of meetings that the Committee should have, it was decided to leave this in the hands of the Committee members themselves.

Dr Magarotto gave a brief report on the ideas behind the Italian Association's proposed seminar on "Social Policy".

ERS15/85 LOGO A proposed title and logo for the Secretariat was put forward for consideration (Appendix C). It was felt that the title of the Secretariat should not be the European Regional Secretariat but the EEC Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf.

The Portuguese Association put forward an alternative emblem.

It was decided that this item should be discussed by the Committee.

ERS16/85 WORKSHOPS Mr J Wesemann (Netherlands) took over the proceedings as organiser of the Workshops. Each delegate participated in one of five workshops (Appendix D), and a spokesperson from each workshop reported back to the general meeting.

ERS17/85 PLENARY SESSION Mr Daunt informed the meeting that a Press Release had been issued by the EEC Commission (Appendix E). He was impressed by the amount of work covered by the delegates during the workshops and commented on the convergence of philosophies and aspirations that was evident.

Mr Daunt stated that the ERS must understand the difference between the Social Fund and the Social Action Programme of the European Commission. The Social Fund was just one aspect of the Social Action Programme. He explained that 75% of the budget of the Social Fund was spent on projects involving young people. Although Mr Daunt's Bureau had a limited budget he hoped that he would be able to assist the ERS in the future.

Mr Daunt acknowledged the importance of distributing information and realised that the ERS had a vast amount of work ahead to collate all the relevant items. It was suggested that one project that the ERS might undertake was a study on the reality of the deaf community. This would not be an academic study but would be undertaken by the member associations of the ERS the study was to have two aims:

- i) To collate information valuable to the deaf community
- ii) To collate and distribute information about the deaf community to the whole European Community.

It was possible that funding from the EEC Commission could be found for such a project and Mr Daunt would look further into the prospect and report to the ERS.

ERS18/85 CLOSING SPEECH Mr J Young stated that the fact that eleven countries had united to form the ERS gave hope for future cooperation. The Irish Deaf Society had already offered to host the first meeting of the new Committee in November 1985. The delegates were asked to inform the Secretariat of the events that they were prepared to undertake.

Each association was asked to send their comments on the Interim Report on the EEC Commission's Themes for Policy Development to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Mr J Young thanked all those people who had worked so hard to ensure the success of the Conference and looked forward to future meetings of the EEC Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf.

The meeting was formally closed.

EUROPEAN REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

The following is a suggestion from the British Deaf Association as to the role of the proposed committee:

- 1 To provide constructive support to the Regional Secretariat in developing areas of work/responsibility in Europe.
- 2 To make available to the Regional Secretariat, the advice, expertise and special knowledge of Committee members.
- 3 In conjunction with the Regional Secretariat, to assist in formulating recommendations on policy, budget proposals and developments generally.
- 4 To receive information as to the progress and development of European services for deaf people.
- 5 To assist in the monitoring, and where necessary the evaluation of the development of services.
- 6 To provide reports of their meetings to all member associations and on other matters as and when required.

Programme of Action 19861 European Deaf Awareness Day 1986

- (a) Prepare and issue a report on the priority needs of deaf people in Europe.
- (b) Prepare and issue a manifesto/charter.
- (c) Launch in Brussels - coincidental launches in member countries' capitals.
- (d) Delegation to European Parliament.
- (e) Delegation to member countries' parliaments.
- (f) Personal meetings with appropriate Minister.
- (g) Seek support of MEPs and MPs.
- (h) Seek press/media coverage.

2 European Seminar for 'Leadership' Trainers.3 European Seminar on Vocational Training and Employment.4 European Seminar on the development of policies to combat discrimination.5 European Seminar on the training of Sign Language Interpreters.6 European Seminar on the development of an Education policy.7 European Seminar on the teaching of Sign Language.8 Development of telecommunications between the national associations.9 Annual Conference of member countries.10 Quarterly meetings of the committee.

A European Non-Government Organisation
in official relationship with the
Bureau for Action in favour of
disabled people, of the European
Economic Community.

Appendix C

**SECRETARIAT REGIONAL EUROPEEN
DE LA FEDERATION MONDIALE DES SOURDS**



**THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF**

38 Victoria Place, Carlisle CA1 1HU, England
Telephone: Carlisle 48844

Workshops

- 1 Recognition/Acceptance of:
 - (a) Sign Languages
 - (b) Deaf Community
 - (c) Deaf Community as a linguistic minority

- 2 Deaf Autonomy/Participation
 - (a) Consciousness raising programmes
 - (b) Leadership programmes
 - (c) Political programme

- 3 Access
 - (a) Interpreters
 - (b) Television
 - (c) Telephone

- 4 Education
 - (a) Communication
 - (b) Teachers
 - (c) Schools/Colleges

- 5 Training and Employment

20 September 1985

Appendix E

PROFOUNDLY DEAF PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY :
FIRST FULL MEETING AT EUROPEAN LEVEL

On 19th - 20th September the Commission hosted the inaugural meeting of the European Community Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf. The Delegations consisted of two profoundly deaf people from each of nine Member States and also from Portugal; Dr. Magarotto, General-Secretary of the World Federation of the Deaf also participated. Assisted by 12 sign interpreters, the meeting discussed a wide range of the very severe problems which face profoundly deaf people, and the conclusions will be communicated to the European Parliament as well as to the Commission. The event represents an important step in the development of the Commission's action programme to promote the social integration of disabled people.

Mr. Peter Sutherland, Member of the Commission responsible for Social Affairs and Education, sent this personal message to the delegates :

" It is a great pleasure to welcome the European Secretariat of the
" World Federation of the Deaf to their first full meeting here in
" Brussels, and I congratulate the organizers on this valuable
" initiative.

" I attach considerable importance to this new possibility for
" collaboration and exchange between deaf people at European level,
" and to the improved opportunity for the Commission to exchange
" information and ideas with the representatives of the leading Deaf
" Associations.

" I wish you every success with your work and look forward to a
" fruitful cooperation between the Commission and your secretariat
" in the future. "
