

E U D
Minutes
5th GA 1989

**Minutes of the meeting of the National Associations of the Deaf
which are member countries of both The World Federation of the
Deaf and The European Community, held in Brussels, 11th
September 1989**

ECRS 1/89

Present

Mr B. Wehrens	E.C Commission
Mr B. Vanderhaeghen	
Mr J. Wesemann	Chairperson
Mrs Rasquinet	Belgium (French)
Mr Martens	Belgium (Flemish)
Miss R. Raynaud	France
Mr J. Labes	
Mr J. Christodoulakos	Greece
Mrs D. Kokkevi-Fotiou	
Mrs H. Saunders	Ireland
Mr M. Marcioni	Italy
Mr A. Giuranna	
Mr J. Rodenburg	Netherlands
Mr W. Visch	
Mr J. Bettencourt	Portugal
Mr D. Brito e Cunha	
Mr F. Pinedo Peydro	Spain
Mrs G. Pullen	United Kingdom
Mr A. Reeves	

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

ECRS 2/89 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Y. Andersson, President of the WFD, Ms L. Kaupinnen, Secretary General of the WFD, Mr M.Holmes, Vice President of the WFD, and the delegation from the German National Association of the Deaf.

Apologies were later received from Mr J.Young, Honorary Director of ECRS and Mrs L. Scott Gibson, ECRS Coordinator of Interpreting Services, both of whom could not attend because of illness and the Danish Delegation which could not be present because of unforeseen flight delays due to strike.

ECRS 3/89 Chairperson

Mr Wesemann, who had been nominated by Mr Young in the first instance, and by the Committee to chair the meeting, asked whether there were any objections to this decision. There were none and it was explained that Mr Young would take the Chair when he arrived.

ECRS 4/89 Welcoming Address

Mr Wesemann welcomed all Delegates to Conference.

**ECRS 5/89 The Minutes of the Conference held in Brussels
19,20 and 21 September 1988**

These minutes (previously circulated) were approved and signed.

ECRS 6/89 Matters arising :

Re: ECRS 19/88
Mr A.Reeves (UK) posed a question about the relationship between ECRS and Euroaction. Mr Wesemann replied that there were no problems, and that the ECRS Committee would need to develop the relationship. He added that in the near future he would distribute a paper concerning such developments.

Re: ECRS 18/88

Mrs H.Saunders (Ireland) informed Conference that no reimbursement had been made for the Irish Delegate attending the Youth camp in Malta in 1988. The Administrator said that she would look into the matter and report back to Mrs Saunders.

ECRS 7/89 Annual Report.

The Annual Report was accepted. Mr Wesemann commented that the report reflected the development of ECRS as an organisation over the past four years.

Mr Marcioni (Italy) requested that all documents be signed by the appropriate individual. It was highlighted that the Annual report is in fact a report of the Committee.

ECRS 8/89 Financial Report

The financial report was presented and received by Delegates. Mr A.Reeves (UK) requested that the accounts be drawn up in ECUs in the next financial year.

ECRS 9/89 Mr Wehrens., Head of the Division for Actions in Favour of Disabled People

Mr Wehrens addressed the meeting and apologised on behalf of the Commission for the limited time on the use of the meeting room imposed upon ECRS. He explained that the Division had no control over this.

He then discussed the HELIOS Programme and the Liaison Group, in which ECRS plays an active part. He discussed the development of the Handynet system, the Local Model Activities, and a report which addresses the application and research regarding the Council recommendation of 24 June 1986 on the employment of disabled people in the community. He congratulated ECRS on the work undertaken during the previous year, with particular reference to the publication of the ECRS Journal.

ECRS 10/89 Future of ECRS

Very detailed discussion took place which addressed the BDA's decision not to continue its responsibility for the administration of the Secretariat (which had been one of the motions). Several Delegates expressed their concern at the lack of information concerning the BDA's position. It was agreed that the Secretariat staff, namely Arthur Verney and Nicola Bedlington should continue to be employed. It was further recognised that complete independence is too greater step at this stage. The following decisions were the outcome of further discussion.

a) The BDA would continue with the administration of ECRS until its contractual arrangements with the Commission ended on 31st December 1989.

b) Conference accepted the French National Association's offer to administer the Secretariat. Seven countries voted for this, the U.K. abstained and there were no objections. It was highlighted that this responsibility would be for one year only. After this, ECRS would become an independent body. The role of the Committee in the interim year was to ensure the development of an appropriate structure. Several Delegates mentioned the importance of establishing an effective base in Brussels in the longterm.

To clarify the responsibility of the organisation responsible for the Secretariat the following points were stressed;

From Jan 1, to Dec 31, the organisation would be legally responsible for the administration of the Secretariat, the employment of staff, maintaining financial record and paying invoices. ECRS has no legal base, therefore the contract is between the European Commission and the National Association.

ECRS 11/ 89 Election of the Committee

In accordance with the rules, Mr Manlio Marcioni (Italy) and Mr Wolfgang Czempin(Germany) stood down as Committee Members. An election took place and M.Marcioni was reelected. Mr Labes (France) was also elected a Member.

ECRS 12/89 Motions (see annex)

Motion 1: this was not carried as it was agreed that this issue was a matter for the WFD Bureau to resolve. Such a motion can only be tabled by a Member Association of the WFD and not by ECRS.

Motion 2: this was carried with the proviso that measured be sought to ensure that the funding be received through the National Association of the Deaf, and not through a national government department. It was also agreed that discussion should take place on the countries to be involved.

Motion 3 : this motion was not put to Conference because of the German National Association of the Deaf's absence.

Motion 4 : carried.

Motion 5 : carried

Motion 6 : this motion was deferred. It was agreed that it ought to be referred back to the WFD.

Motion 7 : this motion was not put to Conference because of the absence of Danish National Association of the Deaf

Motion 8 and 9 were ruled "out of order"

**ECRS 13/ 89 Presentation by Mr Bernard Vanderhaeghen of the
Division for Actions in Favour of Disabled People.**

Mr Vanderhaeghen gave a short presentation highlighting the framework of HELIOS. He also discussed the development of one umbrella organisation covering the spectrum of the hearing impaired. This would be stressed result in greater cooperation between the organisations of Deaf, partially hearing and hard of hearing people. He asked Delegates to send the Secretariat comments regarding the practical implications of the "Official Recognition" for Sign Languages in the member states.

Regarding the Local Model Activities (LMAs) within the HELIOS Programme, he encouraged representatives of the National Associations to become members of the local coordinating committees. This, he said, would encourage greater cooperation and awareness from grass roots level. Another area on which ECRS should focus is the evaluation of the LMAs.

Mr A.Reeves (UK) posed a question regarding the financial implications of such initiatives. Mr Vanderhaeghen responded that at this stage information exchange was the most important element, and did not require vast resources.

**ECRS 14/89 The Resolutions of the European Forum for Sign
Language Interpreters (EFSLI).**

The importance of these resolutions was recognised. Much discussion took place and it was clear that the Italian Association were not in agreement with the point relating to independent arbitration.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should inform EFSLI that their resolutions, which had been presented to Conference could not be ratified because of this point, and ask them to reconsider the present wording of the Resolution.

ECRS 15/89 The practical implications of the Official Recognition for Sign Languages.

it was agreed that a report should be submitted from the Secretariat at the end of December. If anyone wished to make further comments, they were requested to submit them before this date.

ECRS 16/89 The Consultative Exercise

This document was accepted by Delegates. Mr A Reeves (UK) gave a vote of thanks to the Secretariat staff.

Mrs G.Pullen (UK) stressed the need for this information to be disseminated particularly as a political tool for use by national associations.

ECRS 17/89 " European Image Project"

The French delegation described an audiovisual project. All Delegates received a copy of the report. It was agreed that this should be discussed in further depth by the Committee.

ECRS 18/89 ECRS policy statements on Broadcasting and Television

These statements were accepted in principle, and it was agreed that they could form a working document for the Conference to take place in Copenhagen next year.

ECRS 19/89 ECRS representation at a European Broadcasting Union Conference in Sweden.

Due to illness the Honorary Director could no longer attend this meeting. Two Delegates were put forward as possible representatives : Gloria Pullen (UK), and Jeff Labes (France).

ECRS 20/89 Social Policy

Mrs G.Pullen (UK) gave Delegates a progress report. The final report would be submitted to the Commission at the end of October. The ECRS committee would then have to decide on methods of distribution.

ECRS 21/89 European Social Fund Launch

Delegates were informed that Durham University was to host the launch of its Advanced Sign Language Training Course, on October 25. Should Mr Young be unable to attend because of illness, it was suggested that another ECRS representative be nominated to attend in his place.

ECRS 22/89 Electronic Mail Box Project

Having received additional information concerning the "DeafTel" project, Delegates agreed on the following points.

1. " That the ECRS should give the Electronic Mail Box group a mandate to continue with their work in establishing communications for the Deaf in Europe, and to represent the interests of Deaf people in Europe and their national associations in the "DeafTel" project, thus guaranteeing the utmost representation of the needs and interests of Deaf people in Europe."

2. " The EMB group will demonstrate the DeafTel project, the prototype terminal and contingent upon final approval by ECRS, the national associations will then offer their full support in establishing the DeafTel projects in their country."

ECRS 23/89 Closure

Mr Wesemann (Chair) thanked everyone for attending the Conference, he thanked spoken language interpreters and sign language interpreters and wished all a safe journey home.

ANNEX : Motions submitted to the ECRS Annual Conference 1989

1. That the statutes of the World Federation of the Deaf be amended to read that the World Federation of the Deaf will meet all costs of Bureau meetings, and any further meetings approved by the World Federation of the Deaf.

submitted by the Committee

2. That the ECRS makes an application for funding for research into the Education of Deaf children within the European Community, using as a basis for protocol the declaration of the rights of Deaf children.

Furthermore, it is proposed that universities in Italy, Holland and the United Kingdom be appointed to undertake the research.

Submitted by the Committee

3. That the ECRS launch a campaign to ensure that all Deaf people within the European Community are given access to a universally compatible means of telecommunication

Submitted by the German National Association

4. That the ECRS campaigns for the introduction of an employment quota system within the European Community. It is envisaged that a system similar to the one already adopted in Italy would be appropriate, ensuring that Deaf people make up 1 % of new recruits.

Submitted by the Italian Association

5. That a Deaf person has the right to choose freely a trustworthy communication interpreter whom he/she can rely upon and not be forced to accept any interpreter imposed upon him.

Submitted by the Italian Association

6. That the words "who must be Deaf" be omitted from rule 4.1(a)

Submitted by the Italian Association

7. That a European Institute for sign language research and training is established.

submitted by the Danish Association

8. That the ECRS is to seek ways of becoming independent, to take effect from ECRS Delegates Conference in September 1989.

Submitted by The British Deaf Association

9. That the ECRS is to accept full responsibility for the Secretariat on the date of the ECRS Delegates Conference in September 1989.

Submitted by The British Deaf Association.