

E U D

Minutes

7th GA 1991

**Minutes of the Seventh Annual Conference of the National
Associations of the Deaf that are members of both the World
Federation of the Deaf and the European Community, held in
Brussels, 9 and 10 September 1991**

1/91	Present	
	Mr K Søndergaard (DK)	Chair
	Mr J Young (UK)	Management Committee
	Mr J Wesemann (NL)	Members
	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 U Hase	Germany
	Mrs D Kokkevi - Fotiou	Greece
	Mrs H Saunders Ms T Lynch	Ireland
	Mr M Marcioni Mr A. Giuranna	Italy
	Mrs M Koolhof vd Hooven Mr B Elferink	Netherlands
	Mr J Bettencourt Mr C Martins	Portugal
	Mr M Jimenez	Spain
	Mrs G Pullen Mr T Riley	United kingdom

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

2/91 Welcoming Address

The Chair extended a welcome, and passed on the best wishes of the WFD's President and Secretary-General who were unable to be present.

He informed the meeting that 22 applications had been received for the post of Director-General, 3 people had been short-listed, and Mr Johan Wesemann (NL) had been appointed. It had been arranged that Mr Wesemann would take up his post on 1 January 1992, and he would be based in Brussels.

The Chair continued his address by informing Conference of the purchase of a new headquarters in Brussels. He also welcomed the introduction of the Info-Bulletin which was published in the nine spoken languages of the Community.

Mention was made of the successful Fair Deal campaign in 1990, and the need for closer cooperation with Eastern Europe and countries in the North. The Chair stressed the need too for closer working relationships with other NGOs in the deafness and hearing impaired field, and reminded delegates that they would be voting on the proposed new structure later during the Conference.

He thanked the Management Committee for their support and cooperation, and mentioned that they had had to say adieu to Ms Nicola Bedlington, who had gone to work for the Division's Coordination Unit.

Finally, he welcomed two observers from the EuroYouth Deaf Council.

3/91 Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted after it was agreed that item 9 (Proposed Statutes) be moved to 5 (a), and that the item 'EBU Conference' be added as the final item on the Agenda.

4/91 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Y. Andersson, President and Ms. Liisa Kaupinen, Secretary-General of the World Federation of the Deaf(WFD). The Chair informed the meeting that Mr Asger Bergmann (DK) had been nominated to represent the WFD.

5/91 Roll Call

Mr T Riley (UK) intervened on a point of order concerning observers sitting at delegates' places. The Chair asked observers to sit away from the Conference tables.

6/91 Minutes of the last Annual Conference held in Brussels, 10 and 11 September 1990

After discussion had taken place concerning the request to the BDA for details on the 1989 Accounts, the minutes (previously circulated) were approved and signed,

7/91 Annual Report 1990-1991 and Accounts 1990

The Management Committee's proposal concerning the setting up of a cooperative to own and manage ECRS Headquarters, 110 Rue Franklin was discussed, and NADs were invited to become cooperative members, on receipt of a copy of their Statutes and a one-off payment of 100 Ecus.

Answers were given to Mr Elferink's (NL) questions concerning Official Recognition for Sign Languages, and the Driving Licence Directive.

After detailed discussions regarding the way the accounts were presented the Annual Report and Accounts were received, on a majority vote.

8/91 Proposed Statutes

The Chair gave a background report on the need for ECRS to have new Statutes, and gave brief details of the discussions of the Working Party meeting held the previous day.

Conference considered each clause in turn:

Clause 1.2

Amendment - "It has been recognised as an official Regional Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf" - agreed

Mr T Riley (UK) queried why ECRS could not intervene directly, perhaps where an NAD is weak. This was challenged by other delegates. It was agreed that this matter be left for further discussion by the Management Committee.

Clause 2.2

(d) Add "to conduct research" - agreed

Clause 2.2 continued

(l) Add "to establish Commissions and Working Parties"
- agreed

(m) Add "to raise funds to support the activities of ECRS" -
agreed

Mr A Bergmann (DK) suggested that the needs of developing countries be included. It was agreed that this be considered at a later stage.

Clause 3.1

Add "Affiliated Member" - agreed

Clause 3.3

Amendment - "Each Full Member shall have one vote" - agreed

New clause to be added after 3.3 concerning Affiliated Members
- "Affiliated Membership shall be open to organisations of and for Deaf and hearing impaired people operating at European Community level." Amendments required throughout Statutes wherever Associate Member is mentioned - agreed

Clause 4.1

Amendment - only to allow each Full Member one vote - agreed

(b) Add - "who shall not be a delegate" - agreed

Clause 4.10

Divide into two - the new clause shall start "Amendments, alterations and additions to these Statutes shall be made....." - agreed

Amendment to first part of clause 4.10 - "If the number of votes cast is equal the motion is not carried" - agreed

Clauses 4.12, and 5.5, and 7.4

Add "reasonable" before incidental expenses - Agreed

Clause 5.1

Add new sub-clause "The five members shall reside in different Member States" - agreed

Clause 7.1

(b) Amendment - "one nominated representative from each Affiliated Member's organisation" - agreed

Clause 7.2

Amendment - "Two thirds of the membership present shall form a quorum" - agreed

ARTICLE 8

Add "Commissions and" to Working Parties - agreed

Clause 10

Amendment - "two-thirds majority of Full Members, entitled to vote present and voting" - agreed

The Chair put the motion to Conference that the proposed Statutes, together with the amendments listed above, be adopted. The motion was carried nem con.

The Chair informed Conference that the Statutes would come into force on 1 January 1992, and that until the next Annual Conference the members of the Management Committee would act pro tem as the Council.

Mr J Young (UK) was given a vote of thanks for his work on the Statutes.

9/91 Setting up a Cooperative

Conference returned to the question of setting up a cooperative to own and manage 110 Rue Franklin. It was agreed that the Secretariat would obtain full details of the extent of each NADs liability, and distribute this information to each NAD.

10/91 Motions

a) The motion tabled by Ireland concerning the setting up an association of professionals in the field of sign languages was withdrawn on the understanding that the matter would be considered under the item "Programme of Action 1992".

b) TV Conference Resolutions

The TV Conference Resolutions were adopted as ECRS policy.

- 11/91 The Appointment of a National Association to be Responsible for the Financial Administration of ECRS**
The Danish National Association of the Deaf put forward a bid to continue being responsible for the financial administration of ECRS. This was approved.
- 12/91 Election of Members to the Management Committee.**
Mr J. Young (UK), Mr J Bettencourt (P) and Mr J Wesemann (NL) resigned from the Management Committee. After a paper ballot, Mr M Jimenez (S), Mr T Riley (UK) and Mrs D Kokkevi-Fotiou (G) were elected as Members.
- 13/91 Proposed Programme of Action, and Budget for 1992**
After lengthy and detailed discussions, including the need for NADs to be informed of legislation in other Member States, the following provisional programme was approved:

Conferences

1. Human Rights and Health (Aids, Child Abuse, and Fostering and Adoption) - UK
2. Social Work - NL
3. 1993 - Elderly People, with the possibility of working party meetings in 1992 - D

Seminars

1. EuroSign - DK
2. Women's Issues - GR

Working Parties

1. Video - F
2. Driving Licences - I
3. Cooperation with non-EC countries - to be decided

It was agreed that ECRS should seek an EC subvention of at least 420,000 Ecus to carry out its own programme.

- 14/91 HELIOS and HORIZON**
Mr B Vanderhaeghen, European Commission, joined the Conference and gave a brief report on the progress of the HELIOS II proposals, and answered questions about both HELIOS and HORIZON.

15/91 Conferences 1991

a) Mr A Guirana (I) gave information about the Higher Education Conference, Padua, Italy, September 1991.

b) Mrs H Saunders (IR) gave information about the Dublin Festival, November 1991.

c) It was agreed that Mr A Reeves (UK) and Mr T Riley (UK) represent ECRS at the EBU Conference, Newcastle, UK, October, 1991.

16/91 French Sign Language

Miss R Raynaud (F) informed Conference that the French Ministry of Education had recognised French Sign Language as a subject to be taught in schools. Also, that approval had been given to the award of a Diploma in Technical Sciences for sign language interpreters.

17/91 Statutes

Mr T Riley (UK) asked for clarification regarding the position of Management Committee membership. The Chair explained that on January 1 1992 the Members of the Management Committee would become Members of the Council. The Members would elect from within the Council a President, a Vice-President and a Treasurer. At the next Annual Conference all 5 Members would resign, and a new Council would be elected under the procedures detailed in the new Statutes.

18/91 Mr J Young

Mr B Elferink (NL) proposed that Mr Young (UK) be appointed as advisor and have a seat on the Management Committee. The Chair cordially invited Mr Young to attend the next meeting of the Management Committee.

19/91 Belgium (Flanders)

Mr M Martens (B) informed Conference that the education of sign language interpreters had now been introduced as a subject at High School level.

A three year research project, involving the Federation of the Deaf and the University of Flanders, had been set up to examine the "Intellectual Capabilities of Adult Deaf People".

20/91 World Conference of Deaf-Blind People

Mr A Guirana (I) informed Conference that a World Conference of Deaf-Blind People would be held in Italy in 1992, and he asked for ECRS's support.

21/91 Closure

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and wished them a safe journey home. Special thanks went to Mr J Young (UK), Mr J Bettencourt (P) and Mr J Wesemann (NL) as former Committee Members, and to the sign language interpreters and the spoken language interpreters for their splendid work.

Mr Wesemann asked and was given authority to represent ECRS at the forthcoming Franco-American Foundation sponsored Conference on Deaf Education, to be held in Paris, France.

Mr J Young (UK), a founder member of ECRS, said that the Conference was his last meeting. He had been involved from the beginning and had seen ECRS become a strong organisation with a young leadership. He thanked everyone for their friendship and support throughout his years with ECRS.

Mr T Riley (UK) moved a vote of thanks to the Chair, and to Danske Døves Landsforbund. He welcomed back the delegates from Germany, and reminded everyone that the new Director needed their full support.

There being no further business the Conference closed.