

4th General Assembly of the FIT Regional Centre Europe

Minutes

The General Meeting was held on Saturday the 2nd of March 2002 at 5 pm to 7 pm, at the premises of Verband der Übersetzer und Dolmetscher (VÜD), Weydingerst. 14 – 16, 10178 Berlin.

The proposed agenda was:

The Steering Committee's report

Approval of the accounts

Discussion of proposals received (*all proposals must be submitted to the RCE Chairperson / Secretariat in advance*)

Discussion on future activities of the RCE

Fixing of annual dues/recommended voluntary contribution

Election of the Steering Committee

Election of auditor and alternate auditor

Miscellaneous

Chairperson Jeannette Ørsted officially opened the annual general meeting and gave her welcome to RCE member organization representatives and observers, including representatives of the FIT Council and Executive Committee.

The agenda was originally convened in August 2001 in the RCE Newsletter, and two convening letters had been posted in 2002. No proposals from members had been received. The proposed agenda was approved and the compliance of the AGM with the RCE bylaws acknowledged. Secretary Jørgen Christian Nielsen was appointed reporter.

1. The Steering Committee's report

The report of the Steering Committee for the preceding period of time since the General Assembly in Mons, Belgium had been distributed with the second convening letter to the member associations. The key issues of the preceding period of time had been the European Translation Platform, the POSI project and the European Union tenders and a tender seminar in Mons.

Since the Mons general assembly 5 board meetings had taken place, and the absence of mayor items on the agenda had made the work of the Steering Committee less focused. Further to this, there had been two withdrawals from the board.

However, the RCE had been engaged in various meeting activities in different places of Europe, including Eastern European countries such as Poland and Slovakia. Also the European Year of Languages 2001 and contacts with CIUTI had been in focus.

Future activities for a new board will certainly be quality assurance, a task force on standardization of translation procedures in relation to the proposed European Standard on translation procedures, training, rates, and a RCE website.

To this Liese Katschinka commented on the activities concerning rates structures in Eastern Europe, including a recent survey carried out. A report on the subject will be presented at the Congress in Vancouver.

To the report Peter Bush said that he wished to step down from the board because of his beliefs that literary translation issues should be addressed in networks focusing on literary translation.

Linda Sivesind was of the opinion that issues on copyright were to be dealt with also in the years to come by the RCE.

Jeannette Ørsted concluded her report that the need for a forum to meet in Europe was even more necessary today than it had been in the past.

The report was unanimously approved by the general assembly.

2. Approval of the accounts

Copies of the accounts were distributed at the meeting. Jeannette Ørsted commented that she had been in the CEN meeting in Brussels on a European standard for translation procedures on behalf of the RCE. The EsF had contributed to the work of the RCE during the years at no cost for the RCE. This could not be seen from the accounts and Jeannette Ørsted wished to express her gratefulness to the EsF (Erhvervsprogligt Forbund) for this.

Asked by Sheryl Hinkkanen it was clarified that on average ten member associations pay on a regular basis a fee to the activities of the RCE.

The accounts were unanimously approved.

3. Discussion of proposals received

No proposals had been received.

4. Discussion on future activities of the RCE

The standard issue and quality assurance was considered of mayor importance and it was agreed that financing should be allocated to this purpose if necessary.

Liese Katschinka said that the national associations and the board of the RCE could play a role in coordinating activities and furthering information on the subject.

Linda Sivesind said that another important issue was the EU directive on the information society and that this directive had a tremendous impact on copyright. The RCE should work together with the FIT Committee on Copyright and invite specialists from the European Union and elsewhere to give their views on the directive. The directive was so complicated that experts were needed for further analysis. Also a link to the FIT Literary Committee should be made. A very important aspect of translation services and thus of standardization is the copyright issues.

Reiner Heard recommended that the RCE focus on cooperation with Eastern Europe and on promoting the RCE in the benefit of translators in general.

Jeannette Ørsted made reference to a letter received from JTP of the Czech Republic recommending that a website with a chat forum should be established working on the basis of all the European languages.

Kate Vanovich said that cooperation with Eastern Europe might be difficult for financial conditions prevailing.

To this President of FIT, Mr. Adolfo Gentile commented that FIT is actually preparing a scheme for increasing participation in FIT for member associations in economically less favoured regions.

These remarks closed the debate on future activities.

5. Fixing of annual dues/recommended voluntary contribution

The equivalent of Euro 100 remains unchanged. The amount will be collected as for 2002.

6. Election of the Steering Committee

The following candidates for the steering committee were suggested:

Reiner Heard, Germany
Anne Verbeke, Sweden
Terry Oliver, Germany
Joao Esteves-Ferreira, Switzerland
Sheryl Hinkkanen, Finland
Birgitte Jensen, Denmark

The suggested candidates were all unanimously approved by the AGM. After the elections the newly elected SC members gave an individual presentation.

Liese Katschinka made special reference to the secretarial support received from the ESF in general and to Jørgen Christian Nielsen in particular for so many years.

7. Election of auditor and alternate auditor

Liese Katschinka and Jeannette Ørsted were elected.

8. Miscellaneous

Bruce Knowlden, Canada, invited all to make as much advertising on websites, magazines, etc. as possible for the world congress coming up in August.

There were no other items.

Jeannette Ørsted gave her thanks to all present and thanked for a very forwardlooking and inspiring meeting.

For the minutes: Jørgen Christian Nielsen, EsF, Copenhagen, 15.03.2002

Yours sincerely,

Regional Centre Europe

Jørgen Christian Nielsen

Secretary