

## FIT Europe Steering Committee

### Notes on think-tank held at Gryon, 8-9 March 2008

Present:

João Esteves-Ferreira (Chair)  
Terence Oliver (Secretary)  
Andrew Evans  
Sandro Corradini (by phone)

Apologies received from: Birgitte Jensen, Reiner Heard, Javier Sancho

The meeting started at 10.10 a.m. on **Saturday, 8 March 2008**.

The following is a summary of the results/conclusions:

#### A. THE PAST

- a. Checking Luxembourg conclusions against reality  
The principal aims identified in Luxembourg were to raise/improve
  - Visibility
  - Communication
  - Awareness
  
- b. Achievements, i.e. projects successfully launched
  - Certification recommendations  
Widely noted and appreciated, including in Latin America (where EN 15038 is regarded as a possible basis for a new standard)
  - Barcelona conference on TM copyright etc.  
Favourable feedback, and requests for more on this topic.  
But: Friction with FIT Copyright Committee  
(need to improve consultation/coordination with specialist committees in the future)
  - Website  
Site exists, is alive and regularly updated.
  - Facilitation of contacts and sharing of information between associations  
In place, functioning
  
- c. Actions/projects in need of improvement
  - Interpreting project not going well
  - Bad payers: Useful progress, but more input needed (important countries missing: Netherlands, Ireland; need to include the USA)
  - Information gathering: Reminders to associations to supply information  
Regular footnote to any mailing shots to associations,  
also reminder of ITI Events Calendar
  - Website: Needs wider range and more content, e.g.
    - Bylaws and other formal documents
    - SC Minutes (also reports on informal European meetings?)
    - Useful links (if a volunteer found, as it involves considerable work)

General conclusion: We have made progress against our own concrete objectives, but there is still room for improvement. There are no grounds for recommending that FIT Europe be wound up.

#### Recommendations:

- Interpreting project:  
If no suitable persons can be found by or in Bologna, the project should be discontinued.
- Admission rules:  
Natascha Dalügge-Momme has done a good job, but assistance is needed for further analysis.
- Codes of ethics:  
Reiner Heard is working on draft European code over Easter. Paper needed by Bologna.
- Translation standard project:  
Largely completed for the present. Follow-up only if need arises.
- Non-commodity brochure:  
Support for further dissemination and other language versions needed (being prepared)

## **B. THE PRESENT**

### d. RCE Bylaws and other regulations

Partly in view of the change of name, there is in any case a need to update, correct and amend the existing RCE Articles of Association. TO will produce a draft revision of the English version for comment.

Depending on any changes which may be made in Shanghai to the Bylaws and other regulations of FIT, it may be necessary and/or desirable to replace our Articles of Association with new Bylaws/Articles of Association for FIT Europe. JEF and TO will examine the extent to which the FIT Bylaws can be adapted for this purpose.

Both proposed documents need to be available by Shanghai, so that they only need to be modified to take account of last-minute developments at the Congress.

### e. FIT Bylaws and regulations

AE and TO are to examine possible ways of embodying the principle of subsidiarity and regional self-administration in the FIT Bylaws (Clause 4?). Also any other desirable changes or clarifications that seem important.

### f. Preparing Europeans for Shanghai Congress

Proxy questionnaires: Only 5 received to date:

- 4 from associations intending to be present in Shanghai and prepared to accept proxies  
(ASETRAD, ASTTI, BDÜ, TEPIS)
- 1 from an association which will not be in Shanghai and has assigned a proxy  
(UEG Austria)

Offers to accept proxies are also expected from at least: ADÜ Nord, ITI, VÜD, Aticom, Chambre Belge, SFT, AITI.

(Note that members of FIT Council - excl. President and Secretary General - may each carry up to two proxies, but cannot vote on their own account.)

FIT Europe as a body has done what was requested at Barcelona and should not take any further action on this front, but personal contacts should be used, particularly in Bologna, to encourage full use of the proxy facility. The main problem is likely to be getting the smaller and less active associations to assign proxies to those willing to accept them.

g. Next European General Assembly

Must be held mid November 2008 onwards (minimum of one week after Shanghai for administrative organisation of information/documents, plus 3 months notice of any proposals). Could be at SFT meeting in Paris or, if this is too early, ASTTI meeting on 14 November.<sup>1</sup>

Since six months notice must be given, the invitations must go out by mid May at the latest.

### C. THE FUTURE

h. Recommendation:

All present projects to be continued with the possible exception of Interpreting (see above).

i. New projects

- Consider drawing up model profile of “European Translator” (also uses material from Admission Rules, Codes of Ethics, EN 15038, etc.)

This, together with any adjustments needed to take account of new structural requirements, is considered to be enough for the moment.

### D. INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

j. - EU Commission:

Lönnroth and successor as DG: Institutionalise contacts including second level.

Also seek to establish institutionalised contacts with:

- EU Parliament
- EU Council (own DG)

AE to inform whom should be approached and how.

k. Maintain close contact with CRAL

Create contact with ATA (effectively regional centre in its own right): JEF to investigate with ATA President in Bologna.

Also Canada? (Less promising)

Australia/NZ currently out on a limb, consider how to involve them more (possibly as observers, like Israel).

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<sup>1</sup> We have since heard that the Paris meeting is to be held on Saturday 6 December 2008, which is ideal.

1. Others:

JIAMCATT (continue)

EUATC (explore possibilities – JEF to invite their Prez to AITI conference in Bologna)

**E. HUMAN RESOURCES, WORK STRUCTURES**

m. Sub-regional representativity in SC is recommended.

n. New work structures

The possibility of institutionalised committees was discussed, but the present practice of working groups/task forces was felt to be more flexible and appropriate.

The session ended at about 6.00 p.m.

**Sunday, 9 March 2008**

The meeting re-opened at about 10.45 a.m.

F. It first discussed information received from Sandro Corradini in connection with the Bologna conference in June.

- Confirmed policy on Interpreting project: Either pursue energetically and make progress, or discontinue after Bologna.
- Informal meeting of associations: heard information given by Sandro
- Federcenti didn't reply to AITI's invitation to attend their conference. Jef to contact Liz Robertson (EUATC President) and invite her
- Suggestion of e-learning project for translation skills in European languages. Steering Committee believes the most we can do on present resources is to provide a platform for publicising/promoting such courses. AE to contact Alan Wheatley (ITI) about possibilities. JEF to get infos about the platform run by Colegio de Buenos Aires

G. Amendments to FIT Bylaws: Amendments to be tabled for Shanghai (at least two months notice required, plus time to be sure there are no glitches affecting receipt by FIT Secretariat, i.e. submit proposed amendments by mid May)

- Clause 33(a) specifies a maximum of 2 candidates per association.  
Proposal to add limitation to: 1 person elected per association (plurality of votes)  
2 persons elected per country (plurality of votes)  
TO and AE to draft wording for approval by Steering Committee.

JEF, AE and TO are to examine the FIT Bylaws to see whether “FIT Europe” can meaningfully be substituted for “FIT” in relevant passages, i.e. determine suitability of Bylaws for adaptation to replace Articles of Association.

The meeting ended about 1.00 p.m.

Terence Oliver, 31 March 2008