



FIT - EUROPE

REGIONAL CENTRE EUROPE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS
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Draft Minutes of Steering Committee meeting held at the Savoia Regency Hotel in Bologna during the AITI Conference on 6 - 7 June 2008

The meeting started at 2.15 p.m.

1. Opening, attendance and apologies

The meeting was opened by JEF, who welcomed the entire Steering Committee.

Present: João Esteves-Ferreira (JEF), Chair
Birgitte Jensen (BIJ)
Terence Oliver (TO), Secretary
Sandro Corradini (SC)
Andrew Evans (AE)
Reiner Heard (RH)
Javier Sancho (JS)

2. Observers

No observers were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Minutes of previous meeting (Gryon, 8-9 March 2008)

The minutes, which had been distributed by e-mail, were unanimously approved. (The final version has been uploaded to the FIT Europe website.).

5. Reports on activities and meetings since last Steering Committee meeting

- a) AE gave a brief summary of the FIT Council meeting held in Alexandria (USA) on 25/26 April 2008.
 - 8 persons physically present, 2 more via Skype
 - Rules for electronic voting slightly improved.

- Various questions relating to accounts:
 - Problem of weak dollar means fall in value of members' dues
 - Unsatisfactory answers to questions about appropriation/investment of restricted funds.
- Recommended action plan 2008-2011
- Relations with regions: FIT Europe invited to review its own bylaws.
- Diane McKay (Executive Director) resigned with effect from 31 October 2008. Associations invited to submit bids for taking on administration.

b) JEF gave a summary of his activities as FIT Europe representative as follows:

- European Masters' in Translation (EMT) meeting in February 2008
 - JEF urged that translators' experience be taken into account in the form of credits.
 - EMT logo to be awarded only to those establishments that conform to conditions.
- FIT Regional Centre Latin America (CRAL) meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, on 24/26 November 2007: JEF was observer at SC meeting and General Assembly.
 - CRAL's concerns and disappointment similar to those of FIT Europe
 - JEF gave presentation on European standard, which met with great interest.

6. Update on ongoing and future projects

JEF reported that the **Admission Criteria** project was to be taken a step further, with Natascha Dalügge-Momme (ADÜ Nord) and Silvia Cerrella Bauer (ASTTI) producing a synopsis of the main points of every code in English and French.

He also mentioned that **EUATC** (translation companies) had invited FIT Europe to send a speaker to its next European congress in Paris in November 2008, to talk about relations between translation companies and freelance translators. In parallel, TO had been invited to speak on the same subject by Enrique López-Ebri (DQS). The SC agreed that TO should represent FIT Europe at this event.

RH had presented his paper on the **Code of Ethics** project at the AITI conference that morning. JEF and the entire SC thanked him for his work on the project, and the SC decided that the draft be translated into French and both versions be sent to all European associations with a request for feedback in time to produce a revised draft for submission to the General Assembly.

JS reported that the **Bad Payers** project had now compiled a wealth of material, including an article from ATA, which was available to members on the FIT Europe website. Contributions were still needed from the Netherlands, Ireland and the Nordic countries.

TO reported that the flow of replies about the progress of certification (**EN 15038**) in the individual countries had dried up. On a practical level there was a need for check lists, or even a model quality manual, for individual or small TSPs, but this would require considerable input and should therefore be shelved until after Shanghai.

7. Working group on structures

The working group (JEF, BIJ, AE) reported on their analysis of the structural strengths and weaknesses of FIT Europe.

Problems included:

- Lack of financial resources
- Membership – lack of regional freedom to accept/reject members
- Accountability to FIT

Strengths included:

- Support from European associations
- Dedication
- Efficiency (including ad hoc informal work)
- Mandate to review own structure

Conclusions: Any suggested changes/improvements should be based on or aim at:

- Legitimacy
- Efficiency
- Effectiveness
- Stability (stable structures)

The SC decided that member associations should be informed of these conclusions and the review of regional structure before Shanghai. The draft of the new bylaws (and, if time allows, the rules of procedure as well) should be sent out as soon as possible, with the aim of submitting a revised version for approval by the General Assembly in Paris.

8. Next meetings, including General Assembly 2008

The letter convening the General Assembly 2008 was sent to the associations by E-mail on 25 May 2008. The General Assembly will be held in Paris on 6 December 2008, venue to be announced.

A further meeting of the Steering Committee will be needed after the Shanghai Congress and before the General Assembly, probably in September/October. The date was left open for the moment.

9. Any other business

The Polish association TEPIS had suggested an amendment to the Translator's Charter to take account of the fact that anti-trust legislation in many countries made it impossible for translators' fees to be regulated. JEF pointed out that only the individual associations (and not FIT Europe) were entitled to submit motions to Congress, and that TEPIS or its proxy would have to do this from the floor.

The meeting adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

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The meeting resumed on Saturday, 7 June 2008, at 11.05 a.m.

There was no firm agenda, the meeting having been called largely to discuss wishes expressed by European associations at the previous evening's informal meeting.

- A. Arrange brief informal meeting for European associations just before Statutory Congress**
It was unanimously agreed that this was best handled by an individual association and not by FIT Europe, and that the SC's contribution should therefore be confined to speedy discussions with individual presidents to find a volunteer.
- B. Problem of language used for informal meetings**
While most of those present can understand both French and English, there are always one or two who cannot understand one of these languages. This means that they may be unable to follow and contribute to a large part of the meeting (in the worst case more than half). It was therefore agreed that hosts of informal meetings should be urged to organise basic interpreting facilities.
- C. Amendments to European bylaws**
The need to send out the draft amended FIT Europe bylaws to the associations as soon as possible was reaffirmed.
- D. E-mail address for comments on code of ethics**
JEF said he would try to set up a separate e-mail address for communication about the draft code of ethics (ethics@fit-europe.org). (Note: This has just been done, 19.06.2008)
- E. European rates survey**
It was unanimously decided to establish the working group suggested by the informal meeting (Sabine Colombe, Antje Kopp, Perpetua Uiterwaal), with Javier Sancho as the coordinating member of SC. As basic principles for the survey, it was unanimously decided that:
- The survey should be confined to association members
 - Individual members should be informed about the survey through their associations
- F. Best practice rules**
JEF reminded TO of this project, which TO promised to resume after Shanghai.
- G. Media contacts**
It was noted that the following items had been or would shortly be published:
- Interview with AE for ITI Bulletin (UK)
(note: published version did not take account of changes requested by AE)
 - Interview with JEF for MDÜ (magazine of BDÜ/Germany)
 - Report on Barcelona seminar in "translatio"
(sent before end of 2007, not yet published)

H. Meeting in Berlin, 27 September 2008

RH said that he would be unable to attend the Berlin meeting due to a previous commitment, but that he would ensure that his association was represented.

JEF said he would investigate the possibility of a presentation about the “Colegio” e-learning platform (Argentina) for the Berlin meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

19.06.2008

Terence Oliver, Secretary