



FIT - EUROPE

REGIONAL CENTRE EUROPE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS
info@fit-europe.org

**Draft Minutes of Steering Committee meeting held
at the offices of the BDÜ, Kurfürstendamm 170, Berlin,
on 4 October 2008**

The meeting started at 10.10 a.m.

1. Opening, attendance and apologies

The meeting was opened by JEF.

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

2. Observers

No observers were present.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously approved.

4. Minutes of previous meeting (Bologna, 6-7 June 2008)

It was noted that the minutes, which had been distributed by e-mail, had been unanimously approved. (The final version was already on the FIT Europe website.)

5. Letter from President of FIT

JEF noted that Marion Boers had sent a letter of encouragement to the informal meeting of FIT Europe associations in Berlin. This would be read out to the meeting that afternoon by the host association, BDÜ. The Steering Committee welcomed this positive gesture and asked JEF to send an appropriate reply.

6. Follow-up of present projects

EUATC (European Association of Translation Companies)

JEF reminded the meeting that TO would be representing FIT Europe at the EUATC conference on 20-21 November in Paris. TO said that he would submit an outline of his paper to the SC by the end of October. The SC agreed that there was a need for a dialogue with translation companies and that it was open to the possibility of collaboration with EUATC.

Admission Criteria

This project was being taken a step further by producing a simple matrix showing the main points of every association's admission rules in English and French. Natascha Dalügge-Momme (ADÜ Nord) and Silvia Cerrella Bauer (ASTTI) had recently sent out a small Excel file (15 yes/no questions) for completion by the member associations.

Rates survey

The working group (coordinated by JS) had recently sent out a draft questionnaire for comment. JEF reminded the group that it was to report to the General Meeting in Paris on 6 December 2008 about the technical and financial feasibility of the project.

Code of Ethics

The draft version of this project (RH) had been sent to the members and would be voted on at the General Meeting in Paris. No further action could be taken until this had happened.

Bad Payers

The project had compiled a wealth of material, including an article from ATA, which was available to members on the FIT Europe website. JS said that efforts would be made to secure contributions from the missing European countries. It was agreed that FIT Europe should contact FIT EC about extending the project beyond Europe and inviting further non-European contributions.

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TO reported that there was little happening on this front. Greater activity could be expected in the run-up to the review which CEN had to conduct after the standard had been in force for 5 years. He said he would try to evaluate the ASTTI material on checklists for translators before the General Meeting in Paris.

EMT

JEF reported that he was regularly invited to the meetings for the European Masters on Translation.

Interpreting

In view of the general lack of progress and apparent lack of interest, it was decided that the project would be suspended and – unless Sandro Corradini had anything positive to report – discontinued.

E-learning

There was a need here for more information on E-learning offerings. The group should look into the possibility of FIT Europe providing an information platform on E-learning opportunities without actually running courses itself.

Structures and means

JEF reported that although the working group was agreed on a large proportion of desirable changes to the Bylaws, it had been unable to reach agreement on certain fundamental aspects such as the degree of independence from FIT, and had therefore refrained from presenting a document to be voted on in Paris. TO pointed out that since the new FIT Council was itself making a review of its own Bylaws, there was considerable scope for cooperation and synergies. The SC agreed that a mandate to actively pursue such cooperation should be sought at the General Meeting in Paris with a view to dovetailing bylaws at the two levels. Assuming the VÜD amendment to the Bylaws was carried in Paris, the results of the review could be put to a vote at the next European annual meeting.

7. General policy issues

Following clarification of various points arising from recent E-mail correspondence within the SC, it was unanimously agreed that there was a need to seek better cooperation with other FIT bodies, though without any substantive change of direction. A start had already been made by inviting FIT Council to attend the General Meeting in Paris as observers.

8. Preparation for the afternoon's informal meeting of associations

JEF informed the meeting that the minutes of the informal meeting would be taken for the host association BDÜ by Antje Kopp.

It was agreed that JEF would report on current activities, calling upon the other SC members for explanations where necessary.

Regarding the "current state of the Steering Committee", it was decided to inform the informal meeting about the present situation concerning candidatures for election in Paris. AE and TO would definitely not be standing for re-election, RH would definitely stand. The remaining members of the SC were still unsure. The associations were to be urged to ensure a strong new SC with a good regional spread by identifying suitable individuals for nomination from their own ranks in good time.

9. Preparations for General Meeting in Paris

TO reported that the necessary documentation had been sent out at the beginning of September. A list of possible hotels would be sent to the associations shortly. He would make sure that sufficient voting cards were available on the day and would also prepare an attendance list for delegates and observers.

The SC agreed that in view of lack of information or clarity on the following points in the existing bylaws, the main business of the meeting should be preceded by three votes by the members present:

1. Vote on whether to allow proxies
2. Ratification of SC decision to invite FIT Council as observers
3. Vote on any other observers

10. Any other business**Dues**

It was decided that the SC had provided sufficient concrete evidence of useful activities during its period of office to justify introducing membership dues for the coming period. Opinions would be sought from the informal meeting about the idea of annual dues of between 100 and 300 EUR.

Profile

It was felt that the SC should invite interested persons to volunteer for membership of a working group on the “Profile of a European Professional Translator”.

Website repository for SC documents

RH suggested that an area be set up within the website with access restricted to the SC only, for use as a repository for SC documents. JEF said he would look into the possibilities.

Donation:

JS informed the SC that ASETRAD had made a donation of EUR 500 to FIT Europe.

The meeting closed at 12.15 p.m.

14.10.2008

Terence Oliver, Secretary

