



Association Européenne des Enseignants  
European Association of Teachers

## Minutes of the European Committee of the 5 and 6 October 2002 in Brussels

**Present:** Paolo Farnararo, Yves-Henri Nouailhat, Christos Collocas, Fritz Mairleitner, Jose Manuel Vega Perez, Claude Reckinger, Jean-Claude Gonon, Benoît Guillaume, Pierre Kernén, Sophie Malinowski, Silvano Marseglia, Hugo Ramon, Brigitte Thibaudet, Corneliu D Zeana, Maurice-Paul Gautier, Rod Holmes, Jürgen Kummetat, Suzanne Rober, Willy Devaere, Stefka Kitanova, Manuel de Novoa Barron, Martine Meheut, Francesco Giglio, Kitty Deville, Rick Matser, Maria Carmen Mendoza

**President :** Paolo Farnararo

**Translation by :** Maurice-Paul Gautier

### *In Memoriam Pierre Vanbergen*

*This Committee will go on record as the one in which the memory of Pierre Vanbergen, Honorary President of AEDE, who died) during the past year, was perpetuated. Late last Saturday morning, members of the Committee were privileged to receive Mme. M Vanbergen, the spouse of Pierre, together with his son Jean-Pierre Vanbergen, his wife and two children.*

*At the ceremony Paolo Farnararo and Yves-Henri Nouailhat spoke for AEDE, and Monsieur Jean-Pierre Vanbergen and Madame Marthe Vanbergen for the family. Extracts from his writings and poems showed how profound his work had been and reminded us of the depth of Pierre Vanbergen's commitment to Europe. His opinions have still very often an amazing relevance now. The ceremony included the unveiling of a memorial plaque and the inauguration of a "Pierre Vanbergen" room on the ground floor of the boarding school.*

*A booklet entitled "News from Pierre Vanbergen", containing a wide selection of important examples of his ideas, will be sent to every National Section in the near future.*

### **1. Welcome by President Paolo Farnararo**

P. Farnararo welcomed members and encouraged them to put flesh on the plans and not to get bogged down in sterile discussion.

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The changes that the President proposed in the order of items on the Agenda were approved.

Similarly, the organisation of working in groups during the afternoon was accepted.

Maurice-Paul Gautier readily acted as translator.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 13 October 2001.**

These were accepted nem. con.

### **4. Report of the Meeting of the Executive Bureau of 6 April 2002 in Ostuni**

Pierre Kernén took up again the work that has now been implemented and the plans that were to be approved by the present Committee. Paolo Farnararo received the comments (by J.Kummetat) regarding the presence of so many elected members of the Committee. However, he remarked that the President was fully authorised to invite specialists to attend the Meetings of the Executive Bureau.

### **5. Legal Status of our Association**

The Committee unanimously endorsed a formula prepared by the Executive Bureau, the Motion from three National Sections (EBB/AEDE, EVOP and AEDE Netherlands) regarding the legal status of AEDE Europe, in Brussels, under Belgian law.

A paper will be drafted, addressed to all National Sections, explaining the need for a legal basis in order to obtain subsidies and why there has to be this technical "subterfuge" by Belgian law (Christos Collocas).

### **6. Relations between AEDE and National Sections**

From the general discussion, it transpired that young teachers should find that AEDE could satisfy their demand for European documents that are specifically adapted for them. With this in mind, National Sections expect that European institutions will operate a policy of increased co-operation between Sections. Particular attention is needed in contacts with groups or New Sections from Eastern Europe.

The Committee unanimously approved the Motion (by Rick Matser and Jürgen Kummetat) that a questionnaire should be sent to each Section in order to discover what their needs are, their plans, their activities and their hopes for the future (reply by the Internet).

The Committee also approved the Motion (by Rick Matser) that a Group to plan for the future of AEDE should be created. It was proposed that Yves-Henri Nouailhat should chair this Group, and that it should bring specific proposals to the next Committee Meeting.

## 7. AEDE Website

The Committee approved the Motion (by Hugo Ramon and Rod Holmes) that the reorganisation and management of our website should be handed over to EUN Schoolnet.

This organisation, financed by the various states of Europe, would guarantee a long-term working structure, professional management and use that would be facilitated by a didactic language that is easily understood.

Every National Section would be asked to nominate someone to take charge of information, and a European Webmaster would be required to manage everything by collaborating with EUN Schoolnet. The costs budgeted for the annual setting up and running of the scheme would be well spent to obtain professional services. The site would comprise three sectors: that pertaining to National Sections, to European AEDE and to the links.

Rod Holmes was warmly thanked for all the work he had done and his total commitment to the Association, which had thus successfully begun to work with IT within AEDE.

## 8. Report on the Five Working Groups

The Groups mentioned below have each undertaken to provide a brief account for the National Sections, which will be expected to make use of this as a basis for constructive proposals. The few lines which follow give merely an indication of the initial discussions in the Groups and the Committee.

▪ **“Regulation of AEDE” Group, Rapporteur Christos Collocas:** Our Association functions on a democratic basis (Law of Numbers). But, in order to avoid the “small boys” being crushed by the “big boys”, some balancing is needed. Hence, subscriptions and representation are both related; if one is changed, we must change the other. Besides, the idea has arisen from the need to consider also the number and the value of activities of each Section.

▪ **“Finance” Group, rapporteur Claude Reckinger:** According to the paper which everyone received from Claude Reckinger, our chronic lack of money has existed since 1998 and the subsidy indirectly given to National Sections by the reduction of their membership subscriptions cannot continue this year. Sections are, therefore, asked to pay now without delay according to the table attached (see attached paper). A special contribution of 50 Euros for each National Section is requested, in order to increase the compensation fund, from which we assist the Sections of Central Europe to pay for the journeys of their representative to our events.

**To pay their subscription, National Sections are asked to use straight away the new account number, code and address, as follows:**

1. Account Number IBAN-LUX: **LUX 14 0090 0000 0741 8601**

2. Bic Code of Raiffeisen Bank : **CCRALULL**

3. Address : **Raiffeisen Bank, Beckerich, 3 Dikrecherstrooss, L-8550 NOERDANGE**

In 2000 all National Sections received a subsidy larger than the amount of their subscription.

In 2001 the subscription was paid by every Section. In order to operate properly, European AEDE needs 20,000 Euros p.a.

The Section of the Canary Islands, which recorded a deficit of 17,000 Euros after the Congress, asked for a cancellation of its subscriptions in 2002, that is, about 5,000 Euros. The Committee approved this request by a majority (2 against, 2 abstentions).

A proposal was made (by Suzanne Rober) that a future committee Meeting should be held in the German-speaking part of Belgium, in which, through the support of the Authorities, a large subsidy could be granted. Several ideas were floated to assist the state of the finances, among which was setting the subscription according to the size of the country, but this suggestion was felt to be unfair and anti-democratic (Yves-Henri Nouailhat). Another idea was that a major campaign should be organised on a Europe-wide basis with an innovative project (Manuel Vega Perez).

From the discussion it emerged also that European AEDE should act in concert with the organisers of events both at the European Level (Congress) and National Level (proposed by J.Kummetat for the activities launched by National Sections).

The German Section, through the words of its President Jurgen Kummetat, stated that it was now considering the option of leaving AEDE, following the decisions taken in the areas just discussed. Jean-Claude Gonon referred to the major charitable work accomplished by Benoît Guillaume and himself as secretaries to launch activities linked to the SOCRATES and COMENIUS programmes - and Citeuract (the Congress, Graz, etc.) in particular. He also referred to the recent submission to the new SOCRATES programme which supported Associations. He then said that he could not accept this double language as a form of blackmail as a start.

▪ **“AEDE and the European Convention” Group, rapporteur Yves-Henri Nouailhat:** The Group felt that AEDE was in favour of the establishment of a Political Europe, of the formation of a Federal Constitution, of the creation of a stronger Commission, whose

members would be elected by the European Parliament, of an expansion of the role of the Parliament (legislative authority), of the inclusion in the Constitution of the principle of subsidiarity, etc.

A Motion (presented by Francesco Giglio), which will be put to the Convention and all the European organisations, was approved by a unanimous vote.

▪ **“AEDE Congress 2004” Group, rapporteur Fritz Mairleitner:** It was proposed to ask the young Czech Section to organise the next Congress at Ceske Budejovice, a university town and capital of South Bohemia, lying 40 km from the Austrian border, 200 km from Prague and which can be reached by train and bus. Bosch Industries, the premier employer in the town, could be approached to support this initiative. The German, Austrian and Dutch Sections all intended to support those colleagues involved.

The alternative to this initial project is Hungary with Budapest, which is acting in partnership with the Council of Europe. Hungarian colleagues, who have close contacts with the Dutch Section, would be invited to Graz.

Fritz Mairleitner suggested that we consider the participation of pupils’ parents, and of pupils, too, as at Strasbourg.

Paolo Farnararo, Fritz Mairleitner, Jurgen Kummetat and Jean-Claude Gonon will take the necessary steps to organise the next Congress.

▪ **“Programme for 2003” Group, rapporteur Jean-Claude Gonon.** The rapporteur informed the Committee of the broad SOCRATES community outline for associative development to which our Association very recently made a submission. Under this Project, for a few European associations, which will be selected by the end of next November, there will be financial aid for their planned scheme of work for a period of three years.

According to the scheme of work proposed by the AEDE Secretariat, this project is intended to

- achieve a better understanding of AEDE (new electronic media, website, etc.)
- improve the exchanges between Sections (development of partnerships)
- improve active European citizenship (organisation of seminars)
- improve the information about SOCRATES and COMENIUS.

Among the specific objectives, we may quote: modernisation of the website; progressive shift from paper help to electronic help; the setting-up of an office in Brussels with a part-time male or female secretary; the organisation of seminars linking several different National Sections, modelled on those at Ortenburg, Wuppertal and Graz, etc.

The criteria for eligibility specify that the Association must have members in at least 12 European countries taking part in the SOCRATES programme; that clearly means that, if chosen, active participation by all our Sections is absolutely vital for the Project to succeed.

#### **Other Projects, Activities and Proposals**

▪ For activities in 2003, the President appealed to all Sections to inform the whole of AEDE by using the questionnaire prepared for that very purpose (see item 6 above).

▪ Suzanne Rober proposed that the whole of AEDE should be informed about a Belgian activity, the completion of a Questionnaire about current topics, which was extremely popular among young people. A final meeting to establish an overall report could be hosted by the European Parliament. The complete report on the Belgian activity will be sent to everyone.

▪ Jurgen Kummetat called on each Section to publish any COMENIUS Projects linking AEDE schools across Europe on the sites <aede.org> and <Deutscher Bildungsserver: www.dbs.de>

▪ The Committee unanimously adopted a Motion by F. Giglio listing common European problems for discussion at the Congress of 2004.

#### **9. Activities which have been completed or are in train at European AEDE level.**

▪ The Bruges Seminar (Project Citeuract) has been postponed. Sections are asked to obtain the participation of the Faculties of History or Sociology of two new Universities.

▪ Jean-Claude Gonon announced that COMENIUS 3 Projects will be able to be organised by linking their results from the Activity of AEDE-E.O.P.E.I.

He reminded us again that the MICE Project carried out by colleagues from the Dutch Section is very important for the evaluation of COMENIUS Projects. This text is available on the website: <europa.eu.int> (by following successive pages: activities, education, socrates).

▪ The summary of the Citeuract Project is available in French and English on our Internet site.

Additionally, the “Handbook to Publicise ACTIVE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP”, an offshoot from the same Citeuract Project, available in French and English, would be distributed to everyone (Benoît Guillaume).

▪ More than one hundred colleagues have registered for the next Seminar in Graz: about forty for SOCRATES and more than sixty have registered as trainers (Fritz Mairleitner). At this Meeting the new Hungarian Section will be launched with the support of the Dutch Section (Rick Matser).

#### **10. The Project: “AEDE and Youth Mobility”**

Sophie Malinowski, the organiser, issues the following information about the main points of the project:

- There will be accommodation, lodging and an opportunity for the Young People to get to know each other. A boarding school has the advantage that it possesses many links with other schools and offers the opportunity of discovering the environment.

- The young people will be grouped according to their age: from 6 to 12 and from 13 to 18.

- There are two times when visitors can be accommodated: one during the holidays, the other during the school year, for an ideal stay of 2 to 3 weeks.

- The parents will be asked to make a financial contribution. There is still a problem for families from Eastern Europe. As this project answers a real need for European exchanges, support by the Commission must be forthcoming (Programme SOCRATES, COMENLUS 3, see the website “Europe”).

- The project could start from July or August 2003.

**Sections are asked to contact the Heads of boarding schools now to inform them of the project and request them to contact Sophie Malinowski.**

#### **11. PIERRE VANBERGEN European Prize**

The Committee unanimously accepted the proposal by the President, Paolo Farnararo, to create a Pierre Vanbergen European prize, to be awarded to a young researcher investigating European themes. The Executive Bureau will handle the launch.

#### **12. “The Charter of the European Teacher”**

This paper is very important, since it contains the specific details from our point of view of any teaching about the creation of a New Europe. F. Giglio, S.Marseglia, S. Malinowski, M. de Novoa Barron and S.Rober are the members of the group charged with bringing the text up to date, in particular based on the comments from Sections, which should send them in by 1 January 2003. The final text will be made avail-

able to Sections, who are requested to translate it for all their members.

#### **13. “How to be a European Teacher”**

This document, which is just as important as the last, was published at the Congress of Nijmegen in 1989, and has been updated by the President, Paolo Farnararo. The same procedure applies, as far as comments by the Sections, translation and circulation are concerned.

#### **14. Any Other Business**

- The Council of Europe has now launched 2 integrated cross-curricular activities:

The first is to “combat violence in a democratic society”. Teachers from AEDE are asked to give examples of situations straight away. A seminar (coordinated by J.-P. Titz) will round off this enquiry (see the site: [www.coe.int](http://www.coe.int) - Seminar in French and English - travel and accommodation expenses paid for by the organiser).

The second, details of which are available on the site, as quoted above, is entitled “History and Citizenship” and indicates the value added by our Association.

The President, Paolo Farnararo, thanked Jean-Claude Gonon for all the work he had done and repeated his condolences on the death of his father. He also particularly thanked Maurice-Paul Gautier for his work as the translator.

Pierre Kernen

Assistant Secretary-General

Speaking on behalf of all the members of the Committee, the Secretaries would like to thank Sophie Malinowski and the catering team for the warmth and superb quality of their accommodation, which contributed considerably to the establishment and strength of the links that unite all Europeans!!!