

MINUTES

Present: Yves-Henri Nouailhat, Christos Collocas, Fritz Mairleitner, Claude Reckinger, Jean-Claude Gonon, Benoît Guillaume, Pierre Kernen, Sophie Malinowski, Silvano Marseglia, Hugo Ramon, Brigitte Thibaudet, Maurice-Paul Gauthier, Rod Holmes, Jürgen Kummert, Joachim Grölllich, Willy Devaere, Stefka Kitanova, Manuel de Nova Baron, Martine Meheut, Irma Golubeva, Eugène Linster, Saviour Grech, Rick Matser, Zdenek Kohout, Bedrich Pazdera, Brian Sandford.

President: Paolo Farnararo

1. Welcome by the President, Paolo Farnararo:

After greeting the representatives of the two new Sections, of the Czech Republic and Hungary, Paolo mentioned the 3 important points of the Meeting, the Statutes, the Financial Report and the Organisation of the Congress in 2004.

2. Agenda: The Financial Report, the Statutes and the Congress will be dealt with at the start of the Meeting.

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting of October, 2002: Adopted.

4. Financial Report: Claude Reckinger commented on the 5-page detailed paper (presentation of the receipts and expenses demanded by members of the Committee at the last Meeting). The cupboard is bare! In order to rectify this situation and to begin with, Claude asks that Sections pay immediately their subscriptions for 2003 and for 2004 from the beginning of that year. He remains available for members to reply to any question or detail about the finances of our Association.

5. Welcome to the Hungarian Section: Irina Golubeva, the President, is delighted with her welcome and replies that the members of her new Section sincerely desire to make their contribution to the thinking and decisions of AEDE.

6. Welcome to the Czech Section: Zdenek Kohout and his colleague Bedrich Pazdera receive their welcome with pleasure and wish to contribute actively in the creation of the Polish and Slovakian Sections. The applause that greeted this announcement showed how pleased the members of the Committee were to welcome these three enthusiastic colleagues. The two new Sections were sponsored by the German (Jurgen) and Austrian (Fritz) Sections,

as well as by Klaus Engel from Ortenburg.

7. Statutes: As there was no European Statute for Associations, our Statutes were deposited in Belgium, thus subject to Belgian Law, which has its own requirements and special needs. The project presented by Jean-Claude Gonon takes up, as faithfully as possible, the statutes adopted at Strasbourg. Only 2 Articles, Nos. 23 and 26, have had to be added. The demands of the Belgian lawyers related to several points of detail, the necessity to organise a Congress every 3 years and the absolute need to eliminate from the texts any interference in the workings of the National Sections.

For the AEDE, the rapid registration of its Statutes is simply a question of survival, since, if we do not, our Association is no longer recognised by the European Commission! Hence, we must act quickly, and consider the comments of the lawyers. Some minor modifications have been accepted to Articles 5, 22 and 26. A Proposal was made (Manuel) that we should accept the European legislation as soon as it was promulgated. The version of the document to be submitted to the Belgian authorities would be sent to everyone.

8. Internal Regulation:

This accompanies and lays down how the Association is to work, but has itself no legal status. The Project, written by Christos Collocas, is attached to this paper:

✧ For the Belgian (State Education) Committee, Mr. Gerard M. announced the following projects:

1. As part of Special Education, this project aims to study and use Sign Language for Deaf Children. Other Sections are invited to collaborate.

2. Project on the environment and the handling of rubbish

3. Organisation of “immersion” language courses.

✧ Benot Guillaume:

1. *GEDECITE, Environmental Project for Comenius 2.1* in collaboration with packaging manufacturers. Budget of 135,000 Euros, of which 55,000 have been contributed by the commission

and 30,000 by the manufacturers. Participation by the, Universities of Arlon, Barcelona and Amsterdam, German, Belgian, French and Spanish Sections and representatives of the manufacturers. The final document is almost complete and the English translation has been done by the devoted John Jeffery. Other possibilities are that there should be translation into Castilian, Catalan and Dutch. An appeal, based on these documents, is made to each AEDE Section to organise a group in their own country.

2. *History Project, the First World War*, and its consequences, at the beginning of January 2004 in Brussels. Preparatory visit part of the Comenius 2.1 In-Service Education, programme. A comparative analysis of National Syllabuses in education during this time has been planned, as well as public shows (cemeteries, films, etc.). Sections should each send one AEDE teacher, who will submit to his Socrates Agency the registration form, accompanied by answers to Points 2 & 3, which the Secretary-General has once again sent out. The working language is French and all the costs are borne by the Agency.

9. Congress, 2004:

Fritz Mairleitner described the contacts made and steps he had taken in the Czech Republic, accompanied by the preparatory team composed of Claude, Jürgen, and Klaus Engel. Zdenek Kohout took part in the initial financial estimates for the Congress, which might be held at Ceske Budejovice, whose accommodation (rooms, hotels) met the conditions laid down by AEDE for an event of this kind. After a lively discussion, which was explained partly by the wish of all members to hold the enlargement Congress in a relevant country, and on the other hand, the wish of our Czech friends, the following decisions were taken:

✧ to hold the Congress at Ceske Budejovice, in the Czech Republic

✧ to hold this Congress at the end of October 2004, from Friday 29 to Sunday 31 October, and even on Monday 1 November, All Saints' Day. The newly-elected Committee would meet on the morning of Monday 1 November.

✧ to allocate provisionally a subsidy of 10-12,000 Euros

✧ to arrange, should there be any major financial obstacles, an alternative venue in Italy, a solution suggested (ultima ratio) by the Italian Section, which everyone thanked them for.

✧ to have the Congress debate the following subject:

“The Expansion of Europe, a new challenge that is at once educational, social, economic and political”.

✧ to entrust the general co-ordination to Jean-Claude Gonon

✧ to form 3 distinct working-groups:

1. Financial: Claude, Paolo & the Czech representatives

2. Material: Zdenek, Fritz and Klaus Engel

3. Pedagogical: Silvano, Fritz, Hugo, Jürgen & Manuel

Other members of the Committee are expected to join and support these groups.

✧ to fix December 2003 as the deadline for the detailed pedagogical programme, with the names of workshop leaders

✧ to ask Sections to make comments and suggestions for the Congress on the basis of the document that will be sent to everyone. Every suggestion for a workshop will be accompanied by the name of the person available and capable of leading it.

10. Seminars:

✧ *Graz*: 3 Comenius Projects that included teachers from the EU and aspirants started life at the Contact Seminar at Graz. These Contact Seminars, organised by national Socrates Agencies, are an intellectual and financial contribution to the central European body of AEDE.(Fritz)

✧ *Ortenburg*: This seminar, like many others before it, is the happy result of a long and fruitful collaboration between the head of a Protestant boarding school, Klaus Engel, and the German Section through Jürgen Kummertat. 30 participants from 10 European countries have benefited, among others, from the advice given by Rod Holmes for the use of the web and information technology for launching and conducting Comenius projects. With the collaboration of the Bavarian Socrates agency, this meeting is thus a product of the German Section itself without any support from European AEDE.

✧ *Ostuni*: This Comenius 1 Contact Seminar, which is to be held from 10-14 December 2003; is the fruit of a collaboration between the Jean Monnet Centre, the Ostuni Region and the Italian Socrates Agency. The title of the Seminar is: “The Enlargement of the European Union. A Challenge for Teachers”. The objectives are: to promote Action 1 Comenius through the search for partners, to bring about the “enlargement” of the European Union. Recipients: Heads of School and teachers of every

type of school, from the Countries of the European Union and of the countries applying for entry, including Bulgaria, Romania... and Switzerland. The Italian Socrates Agency has already contacted all the other European agencies and 4 or 5 study grants are at the disposal of every country. 6 countries have already signalled their willingness to participate. An urgent request is made to other Sections to search out several AEDE members (establish a priority) interested in this meeting.

11. Conclusions by the President:

Paolo Farnararo proposes that in 2004 schools should be asked to speak about the European Constitution with future European Citizens. Enlargement is actually a reunification of Europe. Elsewhere, a seminar in Palermo will be organised to consider the question of the Euro-Mediterranean and of how it is dealt with in the educational world. As 2004 will anyway be the European Year of Sport, it will be a question of looking at the degree to which we can associate ourselves with this idea of contributing to the strengthening of Europe through sport.

12. Any other Business:

✧ Motion intended for the CIG and the constitution: Jean-Claude will produce a short text which he will circulate to everyone.

✧ The Commission is launching an appeal for Proposals regarding the Year of Sport. We hope to reply to this.

✧ Benoît Guillaume has submitted his resignation as Assistant Secretary-General for health reasons. He will nevertheless continue as Head of the ongoing Projects. The Members of the Committee showed their understanding of his situation and expressed their sincere and real thanks.

✧ The Belgian Section (state education) has obtained the collaboration of a (lady) secretary who could also be of great benefit to the European secretariat.

✧ Bibliographic and pedagogical archives at Florence: Sections are asked to send their most important documents there.

✧ Web Site: At Rod's suggestion, the Committee accepted that a small group of specialists (Hugo, Claude & Jean-Claude) meet with G. Wijngaards of EUN, an Organisation from which European AEDE will ask a minimum service for a very modest sum. Essentially it concerns safeguarding the name of the site "AEDE.ORG" and to keep up-to-date the European entry for the site, which will enable access to be gained to the sites that are owned by the National Sections.

✧ In view of the state of the finances, the Secretary-General repeats that various correspondence will, from now on, only be delivered by e-mail. He would hope that every Section will acquire a high-output address for the transmission of "bulky" papers.

Assistant Secretary-General
Pierre Kernén

Follow-Up to the Committee Meeting of 4-5 October 2003

Appeal to Sections

All correspondence will in future be conducted by e-mail, in both directions, from the Secretariat to the Sections and *vice-versa*.

E-mail address: Jean-Claude Gonon
<aede.sgeurope@wanadoo.fr>

January 2004:

✧ Subscriptions for 2004: All Sections are requested to pay their European subscriptions by this month *in order to provide a secure financial basis for our Association to work.*

Training:

✧ Armed with the future document *G d cite*, every Section must be able to undertake in 2004 the training on a national basis of interested teachers.

✧ Sections are requested to organise decentralised Contact Seminars: this is a way of recruiting teachers for building-up Europe while receiving subsidies from national Socrates agencies.

6 Useful Addresses:

www.aede.org; www.aedenazionale.org
www.ebb.aede.com; www.evop.aede.be

7. Communications: So as to channel to interested Sections complete pedagogical documents, the European Secretariat would like each Section to send in quickly a "high-output" electronic address.

For the European Secretariat
Pierre Kernén