



MINUTES STEERING COMMITTEE

Brussels, 15th May 2004

Present:

Hans van Aalst; Frans Schneider; Birgit Hook (replacing Wolfgang Stutzmann); Leif Haar; Louise Rosthoj; Leila Lahti; Peter Hodgson; Laurence J. Kavanagh, Stefano Tirati, Birgitta Johansson, Jos Leenhouts; Geoff Scaplehorn and Marián de Villanueva.

Chairman: Peter Hodgson

1. Apologies

No communication from Greece and Portugal.

Wolfgang Stutzmann, National Rep. for Germany unable to attend. He was represented by Birgit Hook.

Kent Andersen was not able to attend, he sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the last Steering Committee Brussels, 31 January 2004

Approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. Portfolios and national reports

Portfolio reports from Leif Haar, Kent Andersen, Louise Rosthoj, Jos Leenhouts and Birgitta Johansson were sent before the SC meeting.

The other portfolio holders and National Reps. should send it as soon as possible to Marián de Villanueva.

Portfolio Review: A brief discussion was initiated about reviewing the distribution of portfolios and the allocation of such areas to Steering Committee members and indeed involving EfvET member organisations. There are of course budgetary issues to be considered and this review will be discussed at the next AGM in October.

Suggestions about possible portfolios should be sent to Peter Hodgson by the National Reps.

Louise Rosthoj reports that, for the time being, she will take up the portfolio to send the information to countries in Europe which do not have a National Rep. yet.

4. Membership:

It is important to increase the number of the membership, but we should determine the fee to be paid for the big regional associations. Leif Haar suggested to have a written proposal about the fee, before the next AGM. Louise Rosthoj argued that it is not a good policy to have a different fee and a common criteria should be defined. Frans Schneider stated that it was agreed a long time ago in the S.C. that the regional associations in the various countries could come up with a proposal for a fee for "block membership", since the set up of those associations in the various countries differ from each other.

Although Jos Leenhouts handed out a proposal of the BVE Raad (the Dutch association of colleges) for a "block EfvET membership fee" for all their members, which still needs to be approved by their board, she thinks that it could be appropriate to make a proposal for a membership strategy and proposes to elaborate on that during the Annual General meeting. Pete Hodgson agreed to draft an initial discussion paper with Jos Leenhouts in the first instance to progress the discussion.

Hans van Aalst reported about Dublin meeting. He has contacted a member of the German Ministry. Birgit Hook will inform Marián de Villanueva if Wolfgang Stutzmann has already contacted him

Markku Kantonen (Finland and Geoff Scaplehorn (UK) will contact the Russians to collaborate with them.

Memberships fee payment and drop out:

Frans Schneider has send out an updated list of membership debtors. He asks the National Reps. to help him chase payments and it was agreed that he will discuss this list with each National Rep. individually to decide which bad debtor will be written off.

Kent's email: Frans Schneider and Louise Rosthoj will address that.

5. Service to Members

Newsletter: Leif Haar reminded the Steering Committee about the deadline of the next newsletter and asks for the various promised articles to be sent to him a.s.a.p.

Geoff Scaplehorn will prepare a guide about Lisbon for the newsletter

Central Office: we need to have a secretary in Brussels with a high qualification to be in contact with the Commission. At the moment there is no money for that yet. Generally agreed in principle but clearly requires better financial stability

Dissemination of projects: there are now 4 projects where EFVET is a partner as disseminator and there are more in the pipeline.

Conference NGO2 Brussels 17 May 2004: Peter Hodgson informs that there are 100 examples of Good Practices on the web.

Hans van Aalst congratulates Peter Hodgson and the other members who have collaborated in the preparation of the Conference and provision of good examples of practice. The Commission was well impressed with the report sent.

6. Conferences

Cardiff 2003:

Final figures almost completed – the event was highly successful but looked like making a small loss of some 6000 Euro

A full set of accounts are currently being prepared with the Accountants and will be formally presented at the next Executive Team meeting.

Italy 2004:

Stefano Tirati reports: Since the last meeting changes of venue. Better than the other one. Draw-back that it is 40 Km from Lucca in the country side. A shuttle bus will be arranged for the participants.

There are 70 pre-registrations.

Hans van Aalst suggested to have at least 5 representatives from each new accession country during that Conference in Italy. Stefano Tirati asked for the names of the contacts.

Each National Rep. will send the names and addresses to Stefano Tirati.

The conference team would be meeting directly after the Steering Committee.

Hungary 2005:

Hungary is happy to organise the next EFVET International Conference in 2005. We acknowledge its offer, but suggested that they should become members of EfVET –after which we can allow them to use our logo and letter headed paper etc. Leif and Frans to pursue this. They will go to Budapest in August after the IVETA conference in Vienna to look at the venue the organisers have picked and to instruct them how to proceed.

Hans van Aalst reported on the positive profile EfVET was given when he was invited to speak at a series of Conferences.

7. International Cooperation

Leila Lahti: The international Conference of IVETA (International Vocational Education and Training Association) will be in Vienna, Austria on August 25.-27. More information on www.iveta.org.

The 3rd World Federation (WFACP) World Congress has been postponed and moved from South Africa to Dubai: 8 and 9 March 2005. It will be entitled: "Riding the wave: Education in turbulent times"

The website for more information is: <http://wfacp.hct.ac.ae/index.aspx>

Frans Schneider reports that in his view the federation is becoming a very Anglo/American organisation. EFVET should continue to support African and other countries to ensure global coverage. Hans van Aalst will go to the Congress if there is budget.

8. Relations with EU and other associations.

EU Parliament and DG's: build the relationships with them, participating in forum of discussion and so on.

Hans van Aalst informed the Steering Committee that a meeting of key persons was to take place on Sunday 16th May – with Jos Leenhouts (BE Raad NL), Jo Clough (AoC UK), Louise Rosthoj (Denmark) and Leila Lahti (representing Markku Kantonen) to build a strategy and set objectives.

Peter Hodgson informs that the Executive Team is working closely with EVTA to develop new projects. He has had a meeting with Tommaso Grimaldi in the morning of 14 May to discuss further collaboration, particularly related to platform. It has been a very positive meeting, and it will secure and influence the development of VET policies in Europe.

9. Financial situation

Frans Schneider hands out papers which show that cash flow is better currently and all expenses outstanding have been met with the exception of his own claims, which need to be signed by the president and vice president, the new claims and NGO 2 project.

However we still need to be careful looking at the outstanding amount of not paid membership fees.

Draft financial papers, balance sheet and profit/loss account will be ready for the next E.T. meeting.

He will try to make an appendix for the people who do not understand the official and legally required presentation.

10. Other projects

EFVET has been approached to collaborate in Consortium Aid bids with a view to providing training in a variety of vocational areas to support major development initiatives (USA aid and EU funding deal with it) to training the trainers. This will be a good opportunity for members.

Peter Hodgson reported on a project to support development of business/Co-operatives, distribution, warehousing, logistics and international trade to support the reinstatement of orchards and fruit farming in Afghanistan: there is a very good opportunity for EfVET members.

IMC Consulting is a UK organisation which has contacted EfVET: they want to tender in association with EfVET and other collaborative partners to create a new VET framework for Egypt, Turkey and Algeria. EfVET to provide vocational expertise and educational management. SC agreed that Pete Hodgson and Frans Schneider should pursue these opportunities for the benefit of members

11. Matters arising

-Jos Leenhouts explains the preparation for the Conference in Maastricht, The Netherlands, later this year about VET. Leonardo projects will be presented.

-Hans van Aalst: Association of Local Authorities for LLL has invited EFVET to be a member – it was agreed that a reciprocal arrangement for exchange of information would be more effective than subscribing as members. He will contact them to interchange information.

-EFVET and CEDEFOP want to prepare a database of Good Practices

-IVETA has invited EFVET to its next Conference in August in Vienna. Leila Lahti and Frans Schneider will represent EfVET.

12. Date and time of the next meeting

Next Steering Committee meeting: the morning of 27 October 2004 at 09.00 hours in Tuscany

Next Executive Team meeting will be 8th July 2004 in Brussels