



**Executive Committee meeting**  
**BVÖ, Vienna, 14:00 – 17:00, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2009**  
**Minutes**

Minutes agreed by the Committee.

Chair: Gerald Leitner, EBLIDA President

Participants: Toby Bainton, Saara Ihamäki, Gerald Leitner, Barbara Lison, Jill Martin, Gloria Perez-Salmeron, Aldo Pirola, Bas Savenije, Joanne Yeomans (mins).

**1. Opening and announcements**

Gerald Leitner opened the meeting, welcoming the Executive Committee (ExCom) to his home town of Vienna.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Pernille Drost, Karin Åstrøm Iko and António Pina Falcão but Pernille and António will attend the Council Meeting.

**3. Approval of agenda**

The agenda was approved with no comments.

**4. Approval Draft Minutes Executive Meeting, Istanbul, March 2009.**

Small corrections were requested by Toby Bainton and Barbara Lison to p. 3 (section 8.1: change to “TB thanked JM for CILIP’s help in sending letters to the European Parliament.”) and p. 5 (8.4: change to “... that the bid had been won by the Federation of European Booksellers and a publisher group.”). Otherwise the minutes of the Istanbul meeting were approved.

**5. EBLIDA Finances and Draft Budget 2010 (Bas Savenije)**

Bas Savenije explained the revised budget for 2009: it takes into account results of the final financial statement for 2008. Staff costs have been raised in line with the Dutch government salary increases and the amount for temporary staff increased since Carmen also left EBLIDA and there was a need for her to work some extra time until the new Office Manager could start. The amount for website maintenance is raised following identification of problems and also an amount introduced for training for the new staff members (which in 2008 was classed as legal advice costs).

The income for 2009 is at this stage expected to be roughly the same as originally estimated giving an overall small profit for the year.

Gerald Leitner suggested that the amount for salaries might in fact end up lower than expected due to these staff changes, and asked for a recalculation of this when possible. He



also pointed out that depending on the outcome of the discussion at the Council meeting concerning voting rights for associate members, there might be a need to include costs for legal support. It was agreed that as these costs were as yet unknown, they would not be added into the estimates until after the Council meeting.

The 2010 estimates were revised only slightly in light of these points. An amount was kept for temporary staff because of the full turnover of the office and the possibility that someone might be needed to advise in future if procedures are not clear. Training was increased slightly to allow time for the new staff to identify what skills are lacking and so attend courses later. The amount for website development is returned to the level needed to provide maintenance.

All approved the revised estimates for 2009 and 2010.

Bas Savenije proposed to distribute, as previously, p. 3 and p. 7 of the Bouwer and Officier report at the Council meeting. Barbara Lison said that some EBLIDA members would also be interested in the auditor's report on p. 10-11 so it was agreed to also distribute this. Gerald Leitner proposed that the whole report be placed in a restricted web area in future and that printed copies of the report would be made available at the Council meeting for consultation.

## **6. Membership Status and Campaign (Gerald Leitner/Joanne Yeomans)**

Gerald Leitner updated the Committee on the new members since last year's Council meeting: following the meeting in Istanbul when two more associate members decided to join, there are now in total eight new members from six new countries. He congratulated the secretariat who have worked hard on this and achieved a great success.

However, as discussed in Istanbul, two EU countries are still not members: Estonia and Poland.

Gerald Leitner received an email from Estonia responding to the contact made since the last Committee meeting, explaining that although the will was there, the association was experiencing financial problems preventing them from joining. He will, however, raise this with the Estonian Minister of Culture who would be present for the Library Policy Conference.

Poland has given a less-positive response but Barbara Lison pointed out that there may be an opportunity to follow up with one Polish representative who will attend the German Librarian's meeting in Erfurt in June.

Gerald Leitner emphasized that he, the secretariat, and the Committee, should keep trying as it is important to ensure we represent the voice of all EU countries. The next step for increasing membership would be to approach non-EU states in Europe, and the Committee should look out for opportunities like the recent invitation to EGIL from Serbia which resulted in the Librarians Association of Serbia joining EBLIDA.

Joanne Yeomans presented the list of cancellations including those members requesting cancellation for next year, and those who are in arrears. Of the latter, three are Italian organisations. Aldo Pirola said he would try to chase two of them but that he felt sure that Palermo would not be able to renew their membership and so we should write to cancel them

due to arrears. Barbara Lison agreed to speak to the representative from the French organisation about their arrears. Toby Bainton said he would ask the Swedish EGIL members about the member that requested cancellation to see if it was possible to understand the reasons. Bas Savenije agreed to see if he could find out more about the Belgium organisation in arrears. The Secretariat will try to follow-up on these and clarify the cancellations.

## **7. Voting rights**

Following the request to consider extending voting rights to Associate Members the Committee members have consulted their organisations for ideas and advice. Gerald Leitner distributed the briefing paper already discussed in Athens, 2008, which gives options for extending the rights.

He reminded the committee that one person had expressed objections because the type of bodies that can be EBLIDA Associate Members might have conflicting views to Full Members when it comes to lobbying of the EU. For example, members who were part of the government structure might not wish to jeopardy their position by a particular lobbying action.

All committee members said that their organisations supported model 3 in the briefing paper (Full Members allotted 5 votes, Associate Members 1 vote). Gerald Leitner therefore proposed to present this model to the Council in 2009 and send further information in time to vote on it in 2010. This would give Members time to discuss it within their organisation before voting on the issue.

As a vote in favour of change would require a change to the statutes, the Council would need two meetings to agree on this if the first did not reach quorum. In accordance with the legal advice received from the Netherlands the second of these meetings could be held immediately after the first if members are warned in advance.

## **8. Reports from the Chairs of Expert Groups**

### **8.1. Guidelines for expert groups**

Gerald Leitner distributed to the Committee the re-drafted general aims document for the Expert Groups. It includes more practical logistics, three general mission statements, and clearer explanation of information dissemination methods.

The document repeats the statement from the original document that groups should have a three-year lifetime and this prompted a discussion about the reasons for this.

All agreed therefore that:

**Duration of groups:** all groups, irrespective of when they were set up, will be reviewed every two years by the outgoing Executive Committee which will make recommendations to the new Executive Committee for continuance or otherwise. The new committee will mandate the groups for the next two-year period. Mature groups will therefore be reviewed every two years. Some allowance should be made for any group set up during the two-year term of the committee which may not have had time to mature. Groups must submit a report

of past activity, a new work plan for agreement and may revise their mission statement at the time of review.

**Mission:** all groups are expected to present a mission proposal to the Executive Committee which must be agreed before the group is accepted as a new Expert Group. The mission will be examined and possibly renewed at the time of review (every two years).

**Work plan and report:** a work plan for the following two-year period will be submitted at the time of review and may be revised each year and submitted to the Executive Committee for agreement. The work plan will be produced in time to incorporate into the EBLIDA Work Programme, to be agreed by Council. The group will also prepare a progress report at the end of each year which will be included in the EBLIDA Annual Report, also submitted to Council. Chairs of Expert Groups will be invited to the Executive Committee meeting preceding the Council for discussion of these reports and agreement of new work plans and every two years this will be combined with the review of the groups. Care will also be taken to invite Chairs of groups to committee meetings whenever an item arises that might require a reaction from that group.

The ExCom then asked Bas Savenije if he would be able to continue as Chair of the JEGDO group. He agreed but said that the group could only continue if there were more members. He therefore intended to ask for volunteers during the Council Meeting. Due to his own commitments, all meetings whilst he was Chair would need to be held in The Hague. Gerald Leitner thanked Bas Savenije for his commitment.

Gerald Leitner added that it would be easier for Joanne Yeomans to continue being the co-ordinating member of the groups if all groups would hold at least one meeting in The Hague, with at least one other meeting during the year which could be elsewhere.

Returning to the general document, Gerald Leitner thought it was important that the groups ensure they have a European focus to their work. All the Chairs agreed to the three general mission statements and agreed to include them in their slides so that there was coherence across the groups. Each group is free to add a couple of more specific aims if necessary. These mission statements would be put on the website after the Council meeting.

The groups would also develop their work plans over the next months so that these could also be put onto the website.

All four groups will hold a meeting in Vienna tomorrow. The fifth proposed group on Education and Lifelong Learning will also hold a preliminary meeting with three interested participants. Joanne Yeomans will chair the meeting and report back.

## **9. EBLIDA Conference Status and EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting (Gerald Leitner)**

Gerald Leitner reported that 65-70 participants were registered for the Council Meeting and all documents had been distributed in time. He had invited Andrew Cranfield to present the Annual Report and therefore perform his last action as Director.

Concerning the voting of the new Executive Committee, Gerald Leitner proposed that Barbara Lison manage the process as she is not a candidate. All agreed and a discussion

followed about how she should manage the proceedings. As there is only one presidential candidate and nine ExCom candidates (for ten positions) there is no actual need for a vote and the candidates could all be approved by acclamation. It was agreed that Barbara Lison should ask the Council what they wanted and if any single person wished for a vote, then we would vote, and if any single person wished for a secret ballot then it would be carried out in this way. Joanne Yeomans and Gerald Leitner had prepared a voting card for each member for an open vote, and a voting form for the circumstances of a secret ballot. Bas Savenije volunteered to help with vote counting and Barbara Lison said that she would also ask a colleague.

It was noted that for the next elections, proxy forms should be sent out in advance to ensure non-attending members were clearly invited to submit votes.

Discussion moved to the Conference “A Library Policy for Europe” which would take place on May 8<sup>th</sup>. There were nearly 200 registrants for this associated conference and realistically 160-170 were expected. More than thirty countries were represented and around twenty-five NAPLE representatives. Gerald Leitner thought this was probably the largest assembly with such a wide distribution of European representatives and therefore gave enormous authority to the theme under discussion.

Based on the responses Gerald Leitner had received from the conference speakers when asked for three wishes for how the European Commission could develop a library policy, he had developed with NAPLE colleagues, three suggestions:

1. a White Paper for public libraries and encouragement of member states to act on behalf of libraries
2. European funded projects that didn't focus solely on a few prestigious projects but helped to develop a European library infrastructure
3. more work to remove copyright barriers which currently contradict the idea of a European knowledge economy.

Gerald Leitner suggested that the conference be concluded by a declaration covering these points, agreed by EBLIDA and NAPLE, to persuade the EU into action. He distributed to the ExCom a paper detailing the three points and asked for ideas and comments.

Jill Martin asked what was meant by “...and encourages the member states to act on behalf of libraries”. Gerald Leitner said that this was left vague so that, for example, expert groups could work on the detail which might take the form of national legislation if possible, or an alternative if not. The reason for a White Paper is that this is a paper that each country must discuss and is a step further than a Green Paper. A Green Paper around 1998/9 had already been passed and had not been strong enough to effect much change.

Toby Bainton thought that it was a good idea because the EU tends to think only of the internet and IT when considering the Knowledge Society so this might prompt them to think a bit more broadly. Barbara Lison asked where the paper would be sent. Gerald Leitner answered that it was intended for the EC but could be copied to the EP with appropriate lobbying once the new Parliament was in place and there was a clearer idea which members to target. Barbara Lison proposed that it also be copied to the Council of Europe.

Aldo Pirola commented that the third point was very brave and it would be important to find support for this so he asked if there was someone in mind. Toby Bainton recently attended a

meeting in Brussels organised by the Goethe Institute which was not dominated by rights holders and was very positive, and said that evidence there was that support was emerging.

Saara Ihamäki asked how the ExCom could follow-up on these points in 2010. Gerald Leitner thought that points 1 and 3 could be followed up in next year's conference and that item 2 would be easy to follow up because we would see if more projects exist.

Gerald Leitner had agreement from the ExCom to discuss the three points in the paper with NAPLE and to adjust the paper if necessary within the spirit of the ideas to reach agreement with them.

## **10. Annual Council Meeting, 2010**

Saara Ihamäki confirmed that Helsinki would be happy to invite the EBLIDA Council in 2010 in the first week of May (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> May 2010). Gerald Leitner asked if the Finnish Associations had a preference for the theme and Saara Ihamäki said that the "Legalize it" theme discussed at the last ExCom meeting seemed the most appropriate though with a different title. Gerald Leitner explained that the title had been intended to be general enough to cover not only copyright but also other legal themes, for example, library policy, and that would mean that the conference could follow-up on this year's conference theme if that would be interesting.

Gerald Leitner thanked Saara Ihamäki for discussing this in Finland and for the positive response. He also thanked Gloria Perez-Salmeron for the offer from Spain which had been received after Finland's and could be perhaps taken up for the 2011 meeting.

### **10.1 Next ExCom Meeting**

Obviously the date and location of the next ExCom meeting would need to be agreed with the new ExCom members but Gerald Leitner asked for suggestions for a location. Gloria Perez-Salmeron said that the Col·legi Oficial de Bibliotecaris-Documetalistes de Catalunya might be a potential host, Aldo Pirola suggested Matera in Italy which is a beautiful location but not easy to reach. The Committee agreed that Gloria Perez-Salmeron should ask if Barcelona could be the host for sometime around October/November.

## **11. Report from Europeana Meeting (Joanne Yeomans)**

The Europeana kick-off meeting took place on April 2-3 in The Hague. Joanne Yeomans reported on her participation in this and explained that EBLIDA had been invited to contribute only to the licensing group. In The Hague there had not been very much progress on the work plan outlined for this group but she had signed up for further information by email and the group had agreed to work virtually to share drafts of the possible text for a Europeana Content License.

A meeting of the Europeana Projects Cluster Group had been arranged in Prague on May 27<sup>th</sup> and an initial discussion of what licensing problems there were and how these could be more generally addressed would take place. Toby Bainton had agreed to participate in this meeting.

Barbara Lison asked if EBLIDA could not participate more generally. Bas Savenije said that LIBER had tried to get more involved but the project was still dominated by National

Libraries and it was difficult to change the focus. He thought that the JEGDO should indeed try to get more involved. The project is currently a bit too content driven and no-one has found an effective way to find out what the public wants and expects.

Gerald Leitner asked if using EDL Local to bring in the interests of public libraries was possible, and asked Joanne Yeomans to investigate EDL Local and report at the next ExCom meeting what is was and how public libraries were involved. If possible we should try to become a Europeana interest group.

## **12. Any other business**

Aldo Pirola identified a possible date for an EBLIDA dinner meeting in Milan during the IFLA conference. Only the 24<sup>th</sup> August would be possible as other events would take place on other evenings. Aldo Pirola would identify a restaurant and book a table once ExCom members and Expert Group chairs confirmed their attendance.

## **13. Closure of meeting**

Gerald Leitner thanked the outgoing committee members for their work over the last two years and closed the meeting.