



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR KEY WOMEN EDUCATORS
DELTA KAPPA GAMMA

EUROPEAN FORUM MEETING 2010

**At the International Convention
in
Spokane, Washington State, USA**

**Wednesday 21 July
2.00pm - 4.00pm**



***Leading women educators
Impacting education worldwide***

MEETING of the EUROPEAN FORUM
Wednesday 21 July 2010, Spokane, USA

Agenda

Welcome: 2.00pm

Words of Inspiration: Heli Piikkilä (Finland) 8 min

Introductions: 2 min

Reporters: Mette Heiberg (Norway) and Di Billam (Great Britain)

Timekeepers: Unity Harvey and Lavinia Soul (Great Britain)

Attendance sheets: Ingibjörg Jonasdottir (Iceland) and Anu Joon (Estonia)

Business meeting: 2.10pm

- In Memoriam 2 min
- Minutes of Oslo 2009 4 min
- Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda 4 min
- Matters for AOB / proposals 5 min
- EuForia 3 min
- Financial Accounts 4 min
- Aims, Goals and Strategic Plan for 2008 - 2010, report 4 min
- Introduction and Installation of Officers 4 min

European Forum Committee 2010 – 2012

Denmark	Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen*
Estonia	Gled-Airiin Saarso
Finland	Eija Paukkuri* (Chair)
Germany	Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser*
Great Britain	Diane Billam
Iceland	Ingibjörg Jonasdottir
Norway	Mette Heiberg
Sweden	Catherine Bringselius Nilsson
The Netherlands	Vivian Repko* (Treasurer) * <i>second biennium</i>

- Introduction of the New Regional Director for 2010-2012 by Birgit Svensson, Regional Director, (Sweden). 3 min
- European Website: Management Committee for European Website 7 min
- The role of the European Forum: representation report back 5 min
- Other business

Close of business meeting

Lecture Introduction: Cor Wolff-Heins (The Netherlands)

Speaker: Ria Bleeker (The Netherlands). A presentation on, '*Diversity in Culture and Religion in Amsterdam Schools – connected with Quality in Education*'.

Followed by a discussion on *Quality in Education* moderated by Diana Bell and Ria Bleeker.

Close of meeting: 4.00pm

MINUTES of the EUROPEAN FORUM MEETING Saturday 8 August 2009, Oslo, Norway

8.30am **Welcome:**

Diana Bell, Chairman of the Forum, welcomed 161 European participants plus 16 guests from the USA and introduced the members of the Forum.

Diana Bell apologised for errors made by the printer in the agenda and Standing Rules. Rule 5.51 should have been updated and after 5.3 they are Regional Rules.

Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser (Germany) should have been included in the agenda and would raise the question of the age limit for membership.

Introduction of Reporters: Anu Joon (Estonia) and Carin Ahlberg (Sweden). Kate York (Great Britain) to proof-read the final version.

Timekeepers: Vivian Repko (The Netherlands) and Unity Harvey (Great Britain).

Attendance sheets: Astrid H Bie Skaaland (Norway) and Helga Thorlacius (Iceland).

Word of inspiration: Brigitte Wichmann (Germany)

Brigitte Wichmann reflected on the words *activate* and *vision*, because the theme of this Regional Conference was Activate your Vision. She had first consulted her dictionary in order to find out what different meanings these words might have. She spoke about the importance of having a vision - a vision for your life, your loved ones, your job, your chapter, state, the Society. Visions are not just something for the young. Everybody must have a vision. She concluded that all it takes is a vision – and then the necessary action, day after day.

Business meeting:

In Memoriam:

Deceased members were honoured. Diana said she would send cards to Carol Mueller and Paula Dent who have lost family and friends. Trijny Schmitz du Moulin said that she had already organised cards that were being sent around for members to sign.

Minutes of Chicago 2008: Agreed

Matters for AOB/proposals:

1 European Website:

Marianne Skardéus, representing the Swedish State Board, talked about the need for changes, to go beyond good to great and to involve all members and by:

- making the Society more international
- making necessary changes in the administration
- the European Forum being replaced by the European Regional
- limiting the number of committees
- increasing the membership and especially having a focus on young teachers
- reaching all members by setting up a website

Diana Bell referred to the European Website Workshop and stated that Eygló Björnsdóttir has agreed to set up the first version of the website. The audience supported this. Money and professional support are needed to be able to go forward. All were asked to contact their state presidents and Forum representatives if they had good ideas about what was to be included in the website. Diana Bell also mentioned there will be a link to a new Social Networking program, which HQ has bought, to enable contacts between members in the future.

The audience discussed the role of the European Forum and how to make the European meetings more professional by emphasizing educational research.

2 Age limit:

Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser gave eight arguments for doing away with the age limit:

- age does not tell you how motivated someone is
- even being still active does not guarantee activity
- lots of women stay 'active' after they have retired, whereas
- others have finished working at an earlier age
- any former teacher who wants to donate her time and experience should be welcome
- we should not risk our good reputation by discriminating against our fellow-teachers
- as we get older ourselves it's paradoxical to say someone our age should not be member
- Article 27 of the Declaration of Human Rights

She was told either to put in an amendment with endorsement from the EF or send a paper to the Constitution Revision Committee. This was to be included in the minutes.

3 European Forum Representation:

Dorothy Haley (GB) gave the historical background for the Forum and the role of the Regional Director compared with that of an Area Representative. She proposed that the state presidents should be the state representatives in the Forum and that the Forum money should be used to invite the RD to the meetings.

Birgit Svensson, Regional Director, was glad that this question was raised. All member states had earlier agreed to pay for the RD to be able to attend the Forum meetings except one state. The RD is ex officio member of the meetings but it is important that she can attend.

There were some discussions and questions regarding the role of the Forum and suggestions that the money for the Forum instead goes to the RD. This should be considered in the revision of the appropriate documents. The Forum committee members were asked to discuss this at their November meeting and report back in Spokane. The need for information and communication between the Forum Committee and the members was highly stressed.

4 European Data Base:

Kate York, (GB) explained that so far we have waited for a website which now will be set up. There are problems involved because some members do not want their names and contact details published. This could be addressed by using a

protective password. She asked if we could proceed on an opt-out basis. The database should include names and ways of contacting, e-mail addresses etc. Data Protection legislation may be different in each country.

Kate submitted a motion: 'It is proposed that contact details for all members in Europe should be included on a password-protected website unless individual members wish to opt out, in which case they are asked to notify their State Presidents by November 1, 2009.'

The majority of the audience were for, with a few against.

European Achievement Award:

Diana Bell presented this to **Dr Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir** who was recipient of the 2009 European Achievement Award. The citation was:

'Dr Sigrún Klara Hannesdóttir was recognised as having extensive knowledge of the Society. She has been involved from the time she became founder of the first chapter in Iceland in 1975, and has held many positions on chapter, state, regional and international levels.

She is well known within the DKG Society and has served as the European Regional Director. During her biennium she visited most of the European States. This biennium she is the first European member to serve in the position of a vice president on the Administrative Board. She is the former National Librarian of Iceland, the first woman to hold that position in the country. She is always ready to do work for the Society and is a very worthy representative of the European Membership.'



The award was a design in silver, 'one woman is special and she is in gold and in the centre of the group (ruby) She is cherished and supported by the organisation of women, the other female symbols. The ruby can also be seen as the rose that symbolises the DKG society'. (The designer's explanation).

Other business: There was no other business.

Diana Bell thanked Ria Bleeker for being such a good chair of the last Forum Committee.

Marianne Skardéus introduced the Swedish History book II and gave a copy to each state president.

Lecture:

Anu Joon (Estonia) introduced the speaker **Meeri Sild** (Estonia).

The theme of her lecture was **Collaborate, share, create – in the new way.**

'In today's rapidly changing world the need to be informed and quick information exchange is vital. The presentation focuses on ways to make the best use of new technologies for strengthening and growing the organisation through net-working, vital practice communities and electronic tools.' (Link to The Power Point presentation: <http://dkgeesti.blogspot.com/>)

Close of business meeting:

Diana Bell closed the meeting at 10.10am.

Numbers attending: (collated from the attendance sheets)

Denmark 1, Estonia 5, Finland 14, Germany 11, Great Britain 18, Iceland 14, The Netherlands 18, Norway 31, Sweden 49, USA 16.

EUROPEAN FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING
6 – 8 November 2009, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Present: Committee members

Denmark - Ruth Hjorth-Nielsen

Estonia - Anu Joon

Finland - Eija Paukkuri

Germany - Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser

Great Britain - Diana Bell - in the chair

Iceland - Helga Thorlacius

The Netherlands - Ria Bleeker for Vivian Repko (Treasurer)

Norway - Astrid H Bie Skaaland

Sweden - Carin Ahlberg

Birgit Svensson (Sweden) - European Director

European Forum Committee Report in brief

The European Forum Committee met in Amsterdam in early November 2009.

Travel costs were kept down; Ria Bleeker and Vivien Repko kindly provided accommodation

Committee members discussed a number of issues, such as membership age limit, money for the Regional Director's travel, Aims and Goals for 2008 – 2010 and how we are doing.

Regional Director, Birgit Svensson, will take our concerns about difficulties with the European Conference dates, (the present schedule prevents some members attending) to Headquarters.

We looked at the evaluation from Oslo and were pleased to see members thought that the Forum was one of the best we've had. We agreed that 'Regional Rules' will be put in one document, and that the European Achievement Award Pin, at €300 Euros (€25 annually for each state) for a 'one-off' special symbolic piece of jewellery, was reasonable. We had some first thoughts about a European Project and the possibility of applying for an Education Award.

We also discussed who can/should be members of the European Forum Committee and decided to minute all the points made. For Spokane 2010, we agreed that our speaker will talk about '*Quality in Education*', leading to an open discussion. Financial matters were examined and an out-turn Statement for 1st July 2008 – 30th June 2009 was provided. The Budget 2009 – 2010 was tabled for agreement with minor amendments.

Start-up costs for the development of our European Website were agreed; these will be funded from the Forum budget. Some website rules, thanks to Gloria Redston's (GB) paper, were agreed and have now been passed on to state webmasters, editors, Oslo meeting attendees, and state presidents for their agreement. We are seeking permission from presidents and webmasters to link all state sites, and asking state webmasters to include a paragraph in English on their sites.

I am delighted to report that Eygló Björnsdóttir, (Iceland), our first European Webmaster, is making excellent progress with the site.

The full minutes are now available at www.dkgeurope.org

Diana Bell, Chair of the European Forum 2008-2010.

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN FORUM: Organisation, Rationale and Rules

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V - ORGANIZATION

Section D. International Organisation

4. The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International shall have forums as designated in the *International Standing Rules*. The plan for each forum shall be determined by its participants. These forum units serve the interests of members, insofar as they reflect the Purposes of the Society.

INTERNATIONAL STANDING RULES

5. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

5.5 Forums

- 5.51 Annual planning meeting costs and communication expenses for the Canadian, European, Latin American and United States Forums shall be funded in the Available Fund budget. The Canadian, European and Latin American Forums shall be funded at U.S. \$3,000 per year. The United States Forum shall be funded at U.S. \$12,000 per year. Annual Budgets and accounting reports of funds shall be submitted to the Business Services Administrator.
- 5.52 The funds shall be used to communicate with state organisations and members in the forum unit and to allow each forum unit to have meetings of representative groups for the purpose of planning and may be used to take action on educational activities that are of concern to the forum unit.
- 5.53 The chairmen of forums shall be members other than elected officers of the International Society and shall be selected by members of each forum by a method they determine.

REGIONAL RULES

Ratified at the European Regional Conference in 2003

Rationale

The European Forum aims to fulfil the Purposes of the Society as outlined in the CONSTITUTION (ARTICLE V, Section D4) relevant to a specific European context and setting (in particular ARTICLE II, Section A. Purposes 2, 6, & 7).

Purpose

- To unite the European members, and celebrate their diversity.
- To give opportunities to discuss, in an open situation, issues of educational importance.

Structure

- The committee consists of one representative from each of the member countries. If the representative is neither the state organisation president nor a member of the state organisation executive board, she shall be an ex-officio member of the state organisation executive board. Any representative is encouraged to assume the role of the chair of the committee if required.
- The Europe Regional Director shall be an ex-officio member of the European Forum Committee.
- The Forum Committee shall serve for the period of one biennium.

- Names of each country's representatives shall be submitted to the outgoing chairman of the European Forum by March 1 of the even-numbered years.
- The current chairman shall then circulate the names of the new representatives to all state organisation presidents, members of The Forum, and elected incoming members.
- The chairman of the European Forum shall be elected within the committee.
- The incoming members of the committee shall elect the chairman from the candidates sent in by May 1 of even-numbered years and send the names to the present chairman of the European Forum Committee.

Finance

- As outlined in the INTERNATIONAL STANDING RULES, 5.51, the Forum shall be funded at no less than \$3,000 per year.
- A budget in written form shall be produced for these funds, and approved by the Forum Committee.
- Each European Forum Committee is permitted to set up its own budget.

Accountability

- Each representative is accountable to and shall report regularly to their state organisation president and members.
- There shall be a biennial review of the Forum meetings by the Forum Committee based on an evaluation from participants.
- A statement of accounts shall be presented at the International Convention Forum Meeting.

AIMS, GOALS and STRATEGIC PLAN for 2008 - 2010. Report

Our goals continued the work of the previous Forum Committee.

- a) Plan both Regional and International Forum sessions through regular meetings of the Forum Committee.
- b) Continue to strengthen the nine member states by using electronic news letters and homepages with English summarizations.
- c) Maintain co-operation between Regional Director and members' states.
- d) Encourage members to attend state conventions and the European Regional Conference.
- e) Recognise ongoing research by members establishing contacts between members and member's schools.
- f) Portray DKG events and projects through contacts with the media.
- g) To organise pre-conference seminar or workshops.

- We met in Norway, November 2008 and Amsterdam 2009, staying with members who kindly offered us accommodation to keep our costs down. At these meetings both Regional and International Forum sessions were discussed and organised in detail. The Oslo Forum meeting was well attended and we were pleased to see in the evaluation that members thought the Forum was 'one of the best we've had'.
- We support the creation of a European Website. We believe this will strengthen links and communication between our nine states. Each state has been asked to give permission to link the website with their own state site, and to include a paragraph in English on their site, although there is now a translation facility offered by the web.
- Our Regional Director's advice has been sought when organising the agenda of Forum meetings and committee meetings, she has been welcomed, and accommodated with members for our committee meetings.
- Forum Members have encouraged others to attend state and regional conferences. We believe a European website will help this, by, for example, showing a calendar of events and highlighting meetings well in advance.
- We are also hopeful that the new website will allow some research to be highlighted, or for example, some interesting work in schools to be mentioned, so that members can use their contacts. (A link to the main DGK Social Networking site would help with this).
- Germany reports some success with the media; otherwise we have not managed any media contacts regarding the European Forum.
- Our pre-conference workshop in Oslo, on use of websites, was welcomed.

Suggestions for the future:

- Support, and use, the DKG European Website www.dkgeurope.org
- Look for ways to involve the media in our events.
- Look into an educational project that will involve European Members.

The European Forum Committee
Members for 2008—2010
Left to right.
Back row: Christa, Anu, Ria (for Vivian)
Astrid, Carin, Ruth, Eija
Front row: Diana, Birgit (RD), Helga.



