

European Forum, 27 July 2012, New York

The meeting started at 3.25 pm. Eija Paukkuri (Chairman) welcomed 71 European members to the Forum and introduced the reporters, Diane Billam (GB) and Anu Ariste (EST), Kate York (GB) who would proof-read the final version, timekeepers Bjorg Nakling (NOR) and Margarita Hanschmidt (EST), and Catherine Bringselius Nilsson (SW) and Kamini Nielsen (DK) organisers of the attendance sheets. She also introduced the other member present of the European Forum Committee, Ingibjorg Jonasdottir.

The booklet which had been distributed to all those present included the agenda, and minutes from the last Forum meeting in Baden-Baden in August 2011, the Forum Committee meeting in Tampere in November 2011, and the suggested Forum Operational Guidelines to be approved at the EF Meeting of 2012 in New York City.

In Memoriam: deceased members were honoured, a white rose was presented by Ingibjorg Jonasdottir, and members observed a moment's silence.

Words of Inspiration: Diana Bell (GB) spoke of a formidable Englishwoman who had been a role model and inspiration for her, Fanny Craddock, who had presented cookery programmes on English television with her long-suffering husband, and wrote a number of cookery books. Diana explained why this unusual woman was a role model for her, and asked members to consider who had influenced them.

Minutes of meeting in Baden Baden: Eija highlighted that we had not had copies of the minutes of the previous meeting available, except online. It was agreed that paper copies also needed to be available for transaction of business: hence we had the booklet for this meeting. She emphasised that it was still important for European members to keep in touch with one another. It was agreed that we should speak to the agenda and follow parliamentary procedure. It was proposed by Diana Bell (GB) and seconded by Sigrun Klara Hannesdottir (Iceland) that the minutes be accepted. This was **agreed**.

Eija reminded members that the European Forum is made up of 9 European member states. Each Forum is (currently) awarded \$3,000 for a meeting each year. The financial report prepared by the Chairman had been agreed at the last Forum Committee meeting, when areas of activity had also been agreed. €25 is contributed by each state each biennium towards the European Achievement Award, and €1 per member is contributed towards the Regional Director's travelling expenses.

A copy of the following 3 proposals had been made available to each member attending:

Proposal 1: The European Forum Committee proposal that the Forum Operational Guidelines should be approved at the European Forum Meeting of 2012 in New York City was discussed. It was proposed by Gitta Franke-Zoellmer (Germany) and seconded by Mary Wardrop (GB) that this proposal be accepted. This was **agreed**.

It was noted that a section was missing from the Forum Operational Guidelines which was included in the booklet distributed at the EF Meeting in NYC: Organizational Structure: the last paragraph e) should read as follows: 'Details are published by the end of January of the conference year'. Paragraph f) was also

missing: ‘Activities of the European states, and all minutes of Forum meetings, are put on the European Forum website, run by the European Webmaster. A committee of five members, agreed by the Forum, supports the webmaster. The committee members are: The Forum Chairman, Regional Director, one state webmaster, European Webmaster, and a representative of the Communications Committee’.

Proposal 2 was made to the Chairman and members of the European Forum Committee by Dorothy Haley (GB) [Chairman of the Forum Committee 1994-1996], and proposed 2 amendments to the Operational Guidelines under Article VIII concerning the Report made by the Committee to the Forum. Kate York (European Regional Director) suggested that we needed guidelines for Forum meetings and reports, especially the heavy type items. It was agreed that the agenda should also be distributed electronically on the website, and that the minutes of the previous meeting should also be available online one month before the date of the meeting, together with the itemised agenda. This was proposed by Sjöfn Sigurbjörnsdóttir (Iceland), seconded by Ingrid Stjernquist (Sweden) and **agreed**.

Proposal 3, which had been passed at the GB State Conference, was introduced by Diane Billam: “there should be a 2-part competition, open to all members of DKG, for an alternative DKG international song: Part one for the best lyric, part two for the best musical setting for the chosen lyric”. After discussion, this proposal was **defeated**.

EuForia: this publication had been started by the Committee to improve communication between the European states at a time when electronic communication was not so common. Joan Carroll (GB), who had edited the publication from the beginning, had asked whether this should continue, and if so, in what form? It is intended as a report from each member state on recent events, and a report from the European Regional Director. Sigrun Klara Hannesdóttir (Iceland) said that EuForia was extremely important in keeping us in touch with each other and that Joan had been doing a very important job. Members were reminded that EuForia also appears on the European Forum website. It was proposed by Gisela von Engelhardt (Germany), seconded by Sheila Roberts (GB) and **agreed** that the publication of EuForia should continue. It was also proposed by Oddny Damsgaard (Norway), seconded Astrid Skaaland (Norway) and **agreed** that it should consist of a brief, concise, factual report of events from each state.

Financial Matters: Eija reported that the Committee meets annually in November, and is currently awarded \$3000 by International towards expenses. Last year 75% of travel costs of representatives was paid. In New York, any Forum requesting audio-visual equipment at meetings had to pay for it. We could not have a PowerPoint presentation in New York unless we have this equipment.

GoToMeetings can now be used for meetings, but we do need members to meet face-to-face for the first year, so that they can get to know one another. It could be electronic for the second year.

The Next Biennium: member state representatives were listed in the agenda. The new Chair, Ingibjörg Jonasdóttir, thanked members for the support they would give her over the next two years. It was important to make this a forum for European DKG business. We should find ways to accomplish goals and turn them into activities. A

draft can be prepared which can be discussed by each country. The added activities can be discussed in November and agreed in August 2013 at the next European Regional Conference in Amsterdam. We must activate our goals to unite our members. We have to find ways to work together: European members need to know what the Forum is about. The Forum is our platform, and we need a competent programme and website. We must be strong together.

Kate York introduced Marika Heimbach, European Regional Director for 2012-2014 and summarised her involvement in DKG. Marika has a good knowledge of DKG and how it works. Kate passed to Marika the role of European Regional Director, entrusting her with the representation of our Region on the Administrative Board, and wishing her every success with overseeing next year's Regional Conference in Amsterdam. She asked all members present to welcome their incoming Regional Director, Marika Heimbach. Marika accepted the role, strongly emphasising her belief in networking.

European Website: it was reported that this had not altered much during the last biennium. We should concentrate on the use of the website as we now have it. Social media should also be considered, and this will be discussed at the next Forum Committee meeting. We are 15 years old as a region soon, and will need a 'history'. For Amsterdam we should collect together what the European Forum has done. We might also repeat the very successful pre-conference day devoted to educational issues at last year's Regional Conference in Baden-Baden. The Constitution Committee encouraged member states that have not completed revision of their Bylaws to do so: there are three such European states.

Presentation: Eija made a presentation to Kate York to thank her for all she had done in the previous biennium for the European Region. She gave her a hand-made heart-shaped brooch.

The meeting closed at 4.50.