



Sharing our vision – strengthening our society

Minutes of the European Forum committee meeting held in Paterswolde, The Netherlands

November 2nd – 4th 2012

Present:

Estonia – Anu Ariste
Finland - Heli Pikkila (Treasurer)
Iceland – Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (Chair)
Germany – Dagmar Ullman
England – Kate York (representing Sheila Roberts)
The Netherlands – Riet Smits-Hoenederken
Norway – Oddny Damsgaard
Sweden – Catherine Bringselius Nilsson
Denmark – Kamini Nielsen

Apologies:

Marika Heimbach (Regional Director) – attending Administrative Board meeting in Austin.

Friday 2nd November: The meeting started at 19.30

1. Opening of the meeting

Ingibjörg opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. Kamini would take the minutes for Anu to edit and Kate to proofread. The agenda was presented and the goal was elaborated - planning the next two years. Riet presented words of inspiration: it is important to be here and to stay friends across borders.

2. Minutes from EF meeting in New York

The EF Committee recommended the minutes to be accepted by the European Forum at the Regional Conference in Amsterdam.

3. DKG Purposes and EF Goals

Catherine read the Purposes of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Oddny read the Goals of The European Forum. It is important that we remind ourselves about both purposes and goals.

4. Expectations

We want to make the European region more credible, we should be seen as one organisation. We should make use of the strong aspects of each country and find issues that unite us. Oddny suggested that a pool of speakers be established within two years. We should focus on enlarging our membership. The European website is a good platform for discussions; we should look at ways to make it more visible and attractive to our members.

5. Europe Forum today

In 2015 the European Regional Conference will be held in Sweden. It is crucial that the dates of the conference are suitable for all our members. The EF Committee members will ask the State Presidents to send Ingibjörg information about the school summer holidays in their countries. Having this information the Regional Director has good grounds for discussing the dates with International Headquarters.

The meeting closed at 21.10

Saturday 3rd November: The meeting started at 8:30

Business meeting

6. Europe Forum Operational Guidelines

Catherine read the Forum Operational Guidelines.

II. Goals:

Ingibjörg proposed to add a third goal to the Forum Operational Guidelines:

- To find ways to accomplish these goals and turn them into activities.

The proposal was accepted.

IV. Finances

The Committee proposed:

- To change item **a)** as follows: The fiscal year is July 1st – June 30th. A budget prepared by the chair, is agreed by the European Forum Committee each year and submitted to the International President.
- To change item **b)** as follows: The European Forum budget of **currently** 3, 000.00 U.S.D, is allocated from the Available Fund by the Administrative Board. This supports the Forum committee members for a proportion of their travel and accommodation costs for the **Committee** meeting.
- To change the wording in item **f)** as follows: Each country should decide how to facilitate participation in their state conferences by members in other countries.

V. Organisational Structure

The Committee proposed:

- To change item **f)** as follows: 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 **International** Communications Committee.

VII. Areas of Activity

The Committee proposed:

- To change item **b)** as follows: The European Forum Committee meets annually for planning and discussion **preferably** in the first weekend of November.

7. Financial Affairs

Regional Directors expenses: Kate reported on her travel expenses for her second year as Regional Director.

European Forum budget and the meeting budget: Ingibjörg presented the proposed budget for the European Forum. It was agreed that 70% of the travel expenses of state representatives would be reimbursed.

The sum of €1 per member from each state (apart from Sweden) was contributed towards the Regional Director's travel expenses.

It was proposed that the Regional Director should be asked to submit a projected budget for travel expenses for this fiscal year.

Heli suggested that a separate EF account should be set up, preferably in a member country which uses the Euro as its currency.

8. European Achievement Award

Members considered the nominations and made a decision which will be announced at the Regional Conference in Amsterdam.

9. Letter from the Regional Director

The Forum Committee noted the letter, discussed it and has taken the Regional Director's recommendations into consideration.

10. SAP for the European Forum 2012-2014

Ingibjörg presented the draft of the SAP for the European Forum. It was decided that each EF Committee members should have an area of responsibility – names and dates should be added to the plan. Ingibjörg stressed the importance of developing our website as a tool of strengthening the ties between member countries.

11. Planning the Forum Meeting in 2013

The Forum meeting in Amsterdam will follow the pattern of the previous Forum Meetings – there will be a business meeting followed by a lecture.

It is essential to maintain the continuity of the European Forum and be aware of its history. It was suggested to have a consultant to the EF Committee who has knowledge of the EF business and history. It was proposed to ask Diana Bell to be our consultant.

12. Planning the Pre Conference in 2013

Committee members shared ideas about topics for the pre-conference seminar in Amsterdam. It was suggested that the title for the seminar is "Education for everyone". Each state should send ideas/names of possible speakers to Ingibjörg by the 5th of December, 2012.

13. Discussions and proposals for the future – a DKG song

The Committee likes the idea of a more modern song and will take this idea back to each state.

14. Date and venue for next meeting

Date of the meeting: November 1-3, 2013 or November 8-10, 2013. Place: plan A: Denmark, plan B: Germany.

The meeting closed at 19.30

Appendix

ENQUIRY ABOUT ADMIN BOARD DATES IN 2013

SENT 12 October 2012

Dear Bev,

Apologies for troubling you at a busy time.

I am representing GB at the European Forum committee meeting on 2nd and 3rd November because our state president is unable to attend. You may have heard that Marika should be present at this meeting, but cannot be because she needs to be at the Administrative Board?

To prevent another clash of dates next year, we should probably amend our Operational Guidelines so that we don't specify the 'first weekend in November' as the time at which the committee will meet!

Are you able to let us know how likely it is that the Administrative Board will meet at 'more or less' the same time in 2013, please?

Kate

BEVERLY'S REPLY

Sent: 12 October 2012 14:37

To: York Subject: Re: PLANNING AHEAD

Kate, we will try to work around first weekend. So she won't have to miss.