

EUROPEAN FORUM
Minutes
August 9, 2003
8:00–10:00 AM
Grand Hotel, Reykjavik, Iceland

Chairman: Cor Wolff-Heins

Reporters: Sigríður Jónsdóttir and Áslaug Brynjólfssdóttir

The program brochure handed out included:

- ◆ The *Constitution/International Standing Rules*, and European Forum Goals for 2002–2004
- ◆ Meeting Agenda
- ◆ Minutes of the European Forum meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas on July 31, 2002
- ◆ European Forum Rationale
- ◆ Recommendation Form
- ◆ Endorsement Form.

WELCOME

The meeting started with a warm welcome from Cor Wolff-Heins and she introduced the members of the Forum Committee.

WORD OF INSPIRATION: BIRGIT SVENSSON

Birgit mentioned the three regional directors since the establishment of the Europe Region. Many things have been done these five years and we have to continue and look to the future. Cooperation is important, we have a capacity even if we are few, seven countries in Europe are now member countries. They are different in many ways, the languages for instance, but we have also a lot in common, as being educators and Delta Kappa Gamma members. We all have multilingual children. Leadership is important and training is important. Let us move forward!

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- ◆ Minutes of Little Rock, Arkansas, 2002—Cor introduced the minutes. Marianne Skardeus, chairman of the European Forum 2000–2002, pointed out that the minutes were from a decision taken at the Forum meeting at the regional conference in Malmö 2001.
- ◆ Recommendation for guidelines for the European Forum—Cor told about the Forum meeting in February where many ideas were discussed. There was an agreement there on the election procedure. It is important to have the rules, the guidelines will be used. She mentioned that it was now the second year of the biennium. She asked members and countries to send in a name of a representative they wanted to have in the Forum committee from their country.

She said that new members must be elected before the International Convention in Mineapolis in 2004.

- ◆ Process of nominating new officers 2004–2006—Cor introduced the recommendation and endorsement forms and encouraged members to use them. Dorothy Haley pointed out that state organization presidents should be Forum members because it were important for them to meet and they could meet at International Conventions. Mary Wardrop said that the guidelines were not definite, they were a part of a process of change.
- ◆ Any other business—Sigrún Klara said that it was interesting to look at new rules. She mentioned that the regional directors were not very visible, they had difficulties to visit other countries. They should be able to meet state organization presidents and show up at Forum meetings, but they had no financial expenditure. It is important to look at finances for regional directors, it is not fair that they have to pay for their own tickets as they have no budget. If state organization presidents are chosen they can meet at International Conventions. Joan Carroll mentioned the importance of a motion amendment about regional directors having a budget to travel.
- ◆ Proposal from Gunhild Kihlberg—“We have, as you know, rich and useful sources of information and communication between all members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International: The *Delta Kappa Gamma Bulletin*, *ΔKT NEWS* and info letters for the different member states. And we have a fairly recent on-line channel in *EuForia*. I take the opportunity to thank Joan Carroll and her team for her commitment as an editor of *EuForia*. For the benefit of all our members from all European countries and in order to strengthen the links between the member states, I suggest that each European country considers the possibility of putting on line, in addition to general information of “practical character” and if the editors accept it, a summary of current education issues of importance to the respective member states. Just to mention an example from one of the workshops conducted these days; *Challenges in Norwegian Secondary Education* by Kjellbjörg Auestad. Today’s Forum shows us that there is much knowledge to share. Thank You.” Gunhild Kihlberg, Alpha, Stockholm, Sweden.

LECTURE: ECO SCHOOLS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN ICELAND: Sigrún Helgadóttir

The Eco-Schools Programme was developed in 1994 on the basis of the need for involving young people in finding solutions to environmental and sustainable development challenges at the local level, as identified at the UN Conference on Environment and Development of 1992. The programme was initiated by member organizations of the Foundation for Environmental Education with the support of the European Commission. The Eco-Schools Programme aims to raise students’ awareness of environmental sustainable development issues through classroom study together with school at action, and provides an integrated system for environmental management of schools. Eco-Schools were first designated in Iceland in the year 2002. The Eco-Schools Green Flag, awarded to schools achievements in their programme, is a recognised and respected eco-label for education and performance. Sigrún showed in her speech and through pictures some examples of how this programme is adapted and integrated in some Icelandic schools with a great success. Eight Icelandic schools have now managed to be awarded with the Green Flag.

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL TELL ABOUT THEIR SPECIAL ITEM—Liisa Peltomaa, Finland Environmental education is a big issue in Finland. Eco-schools projects are in some schools and kindergartens, important that young children learn to respect their nature. Robina Scahill, Great Britain There is a law in the national curriculum to teach environmental subjects. Environmental surveys for the older children, younger children deal with how to improve the environment, make changes in the school buildings, do rain water recycling researches. Marion Huizing-van der Kroft, The Netherlands Environment is an important topic in Holland as it is the most densely populated country in Europe. Environmental education is integrated in many subjects in the curriculum in all schools. The emphasis more than ever now. Ingrid Stjernquist, Sweden Environmental studies are not only biology but also a policy. The question is what kind of people we want for the future. There are multi-disciplinary studies at university level, living forest, clean water and so on. Environmental studies are integrated in other subjects in the schools. There are environmental goals for the whole society.

CLOSING—At the end of the meeting the chairman, Cor Wolff-Heins, thanked the speaker for a very interesting speech and the members in the panel for their contribution. She also thanked the members of the Forum committee for their good work and cooperation.

Concept approved by the members of the European Forum, Hoofddorp, November 14, 2003.

It will be approved at the European Forum meeting during the International Convention in Minneapolis, July 2004.

Cor Wolff-Heins, Chairman

THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR

PROPOSAL

For the financing of the regional director's work (travel costs, etc.):

- ◆ The state treasurer shall send 1.= euro per member before **October 1** directly to the regional director.
- ◆ The regional director presents a financial report before **July 1** each year to the state organization presidents.
- ◆ The state organizations are responsible for the hosting of the regional director.

RATIONALE

- ◆ The Europe regional director has no budget and this proposal would make it possible for her to have a better and more direct contact with the member countries.

If this is passed by all European countries then a system needs to be established for collecting and accounting the dues. This could possible be done by the next European Forum Committee. If this is put into practice then each country will need to recognize it in it's by-laws.

PROPOSED TERM OF OFFICE FOR FORUM MEMBERS

PROPOSAL

- ◆ Each biennium three members (50 percent) and the chairman are replaced instead of all seven members of the Forum.

RATIONALE

- ◆ Expertise is carried on into the European Forum Committee for the next biennium.