

MINUTES OF THE EUROPEAN FORUM COMMITTEE MEETING IN TAMPERE



November 4th- 6th 2011

Present:

Estonia – Anu Ariste
Finland – Eija Paukkuri – in the chair
Germany – Christa Dunker-Hopferwieser
Great Britain – Diane Billam
Iceland – Ingibjörg Jonasdottir
The Netherlands – Vivian Repko
Norway - Bjorg Nakling
Sweden – Catherine Bringselius Nielsson
Kate York – European Regional Director – ex officio

Apologies:

Denmark - Apologies from Mette Plug who could not attend the meeting.

Saturday 5 November: the meeting started at 10.00

1 Opening of the meeting

Eija opened the meeting by welcoming all those present. Anu would take the minutes for Diane to edit and Kate to proofread.

2 Minutes from the EF meeting in Baden-Baden and Spokane

Eija presented the minutes from Freudenstadt and Baden-Baden.

The minutes from Freudenstadt were **accepted** with the following corrections: page 1 – the date was Friday 5 **November**; page 3 – Agenda – Aims, Goals, and Strategic Planning for **2010-2012**.

The minutes from Baden-Baden were **accepted**.

It was noted that at the EF meeting in Oslo both the incoming committee members and the outgoing members participated, which was beneficial for maintaining continuity. Ingibjörg commented that we should go through the goals every time we meet for continuity.

Eija agreed, saying that goals would be discussed later. It is important to plan both the Regional and International Forum sessions through regular meetings of the Forum Committee. In particular, we need to be ready for New York. We need to find good speakers. Suggested topics for the Europe Breakfast: a link between Europe and the USA – Kate to organise. Speakers for the Forum meeting would be selected from those who led sessions at the European Forum Seminar in Baden Baden.

3 Summing up the experiences from the Regional Conference

Christa: we should improve the exchange of information. Kate has prepared a detailed report and an overview report for the administrative board, charts of activities and jobs for the steering committee, with job descriptions. The plan was to assist with continuity.

We should use GoToMeeting and Skype more for communicating with each other.

There should be a change-over period at each level of the society.

The pre-conference seminar was a success, covering important educational topics.

4 Letter from Dorothy Haley

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

5 Group discussion on: “Where are we heading in the DKG? “ Discussions and proposals for the future

Ingibjörg presented the comments collected at the EF meeting in Baden-Baden on August 6 2011 after the lecture by Sigrun Johannesdottir. Following discussion, it was **agreed** that **comments from Baden-Baden should be forwarded to all states (presidents and members) and attached to the minutes of this meeting, together with a brief summary of how Iceland had succeeded in expanding. The members of the Forum Committee have undertaken to take back the comments and make sure these are discussed in their states, in particular by their executive committee meeting.**

6 Standing Rules of the EF

Possible changes were discussed and recommended. The revised Guidelines will be attached to the minutes.

7 Proposals from the member states in Europe

Issues raised included:

- Need for more European input into `The Buzz`. Kate asked members to put the matter on the agenda of their executive board meeting and send any contributions to Gisela Baronin von Engelhardt at g.von.engelhardt@online.de
- Guidelines for what was required would be helpful.
- Need to make European members of International Committees much more visible.
- Networking is very important.
- We should focus on the seven purposes of the Society.
- It is important to share positive attitudes and joy between countries.

Kate: We can create secure interest groups using the DKG network.

8 Financial Affairs: Accepting the Regional Director's expenses

Kate detailed her expenses, which were **agreed**: total 1117.58 €, received 621 €, balance 496.58 €.

9 Financial Affairs: Accepting the Budget for the meeting

Eija presented the proposed budget for the EF Committee.

The following was agreed:

Administrative costs – 60€

EF in New York (printing the booklet, etc) - 200€

Travel expenses of the 8 members attending the meeting in Tampere totalled 1895€. (**Agreed** that 75% of the travel costs would be reimbursed).

All costs for hosting the committee meeting in Tampere in November should be reimbursed.

10 Financial Matters: European Achievement Award

The Forum reviewed two aspects: the cost of the brooch, and whether the 25€ per state should be collected annually or biennially. After lengthy discussion, it was **agreed** to recommend the States pay 25€ biennially for the Award, that the money should be collected in odd-numbered years (next time money should be collected in November 2013). It was noted that the 2012 brooch exceeded the budget and that the Chair should be reimbursed for paying the shortfall. This would leave a reduced amount available for 2014.

11 Other business: Changes in the EF Committee in 2012

A discussion was held about the lack of continuity within the Forum committee if the majority of members stood down at the same time. Continuity is lost when the whole committee begins afresh. The importance of outgoing members briefing their successors was noted. The ideal situation would be an overlap of continuing members at the end of each biennium.

Prospective new members should be asked if they would be prepared to Chair the Committee. Brief biographical details of those willing would be circulated to all incoming representatives.

12 An action plan for the EF meeting in New York

- Preparing the booklet:
Workgroups looked into and discussed the following matters include from the Constitution (revised 2010) Article V Organization (section D International p. 435-453) and Standing Rules V. Organisation 5.5 Forums
 - 1) Goals of the EF
 - 2) Report
 - 3) Suggestions for the futureEija and Anu will work on the booklet and the draft will be sent to the others for review.
- The speaker for the European Breakfast: themes – a link between Europe and the United States (15-20 minutes), Catherine will ask the Swedish Embassy
- The speaker at the two hour Forum meeting, suggestions:
 - continue on the subjects discussed at the pre-conference seminar in Baden-Baden, to be followed by a worthwhile discussion;.
- Words of inspiration 8 min about any (educational) topic: 1) Estonia (Anu will ask Urve Läänemets); 2) Sweden (Catherine will ask Bärbel Westphal).

Further Suggestions: Ingibjörg – the In Memoriam could have music or a poem, a candle could be lit, have a white rose, mention the names of the deceased to be more personal (ask the State Presidents).

Matters for AOB/ proposals – should be notified in advance. Ask at the beginning of the meeting if anyone has any other business which they wish to be included.

Replace 'EuForia' with "communication" (see p 2).

13 Planning the next EF Committee meeting

Eija asked how we should continue with the Forum work and preparations for New York.

For the two-hour EF meeting in New York – suggestion: a one-hour business meeting with timed items, and a presentation followed by discussion in the second hour.

The meeting closed at 19.00

The formal EF Committee meeting on Saturday was preceded and followed by informal discussions on Friday evening and Sunday morning to enhance the joint contribution of the committee members. Some of the time on Sunday morning was used to create a European Forum group on the DKG Social Network.