

**Minutes of the Europe Forum Committee Meeting
3rd-4th November 2017, in Helsinki, Finland**

Members present:

- Kathrin Hodgson (Chair)
- lida Hyvönen
- Kristín Jónsdóttir
- Ria Logtenberg (Minutes: Friday)
- Anne Marie Solstad
- Ann-Katrin Swärd (Minutes: Saturday)
- Terttu-Triin Tomusk
- Daniela von Essen
- Bjørg Nakling (Regional Director)

Item	Discussion	Actions
Friday 3 November		
Welcome	Kathrin welcomed members and opened the meeting. Ria and Ann-Katrin agreed to record the minutes.	
Previous Minutes – matters arising not covered elsewhere in agenda	EF Committee meeting in Oslo, 2016 European Achievement Award guidelines – Daniela will amend before July and send to all members for comments EF meeting in Tallinn, 2017 (to be completed) lida will send notes to Kathrin, who will summarise and send to all committee members before comments are added. This will then be sent to the European Webmaster (Eyglo) to be posted on the website.	Daniela lida & Kathrin
Continuity of Forum committee members	As a consequence of the failed proposal in Tallinn, the committee considered how to ensure continuity into the next biennium. Committee members were asked who would be likely to continue into 2018-20: Staying: Daniela, Ria and Kathrin Possibly: lida Not staying: Anne Marie – to be replaced by Barbara Carlson Don't know: Ann-Katrin, Kristina and Terttu-Triin Kathrin – as outgoing Chair – will email all members in spring 2018 – asking for nominations for the 2018-20 biennium and names of members willing to chair the Forum Committee for this period.	Kathrin
European Achievement Award	Kathrin had received a letter of thanks from this year's recipient, Liisa Peltomaa – this was shared with the committee	
Saturday 4 November		
Welcome	We welcomed the arrival of Terttu-Triin, who has been asked to represent Estonia; Liilia Oberg, through pressure of work, has sadly decided she can no longer give the time. We thank Liilia for her work for the Forum Committee during two biennia.	

EF Operational Guidelines	These were reviewed in 2016 in Oslo. It was agreed they needed no changes for the moment.	
Financial Affairs	Forum Budget Money was carried forward from the previous year; however, this will be needed to pay for the costs of the meeting in Helsinki, as members' accommodation is in a hotel. Regional Director Björg gave information about her costs; she also has money carried forward from the previous year but expects to use this as she will visit many European State Conferences in 2018. Website The costs for paying Weebly to host the European website are 82 Euros for one year, or 102 Euros for two years: the Committee agreed to pay this for two years, so that individual countries do not need to make a contribution for this period. Kathrin will inform Eyglo. Eyglo has asked for feedback on the site so far: http://dkgeurope.weebly.com Please tell her if you see something that is not good and also make suggestions on changes if you have any. Daniela suggested that the roses on the website are perhaps a little 'old-fashioned' and perhaps something relating to education would be more appropriate. European Achievement Award Kathrin asked if we could use the same contact to make the award for 2019. Daniela agreed to contact the maker of the brooch. Once the guidelines have been amended (see above), Kathrin will ask all European State Presidents to nominate a recipient for 2019.	Kathrin Committee Members Daniela Kathrin
Austin 2018: Forum Meeting & European Breakfast	Preliminary discussions included the following: • Astrid Bie Skåland from Norway • A speaker ??? who can show statistics about the numbers of refugees, asylum seekers, immigrants in European countries • Could we find a local speaker in Austin? • The Children of Kait – film from Holland – can we show extracts from this film? It is too long to show complete. • How much time do we allocate for speakers? Both sessions are 2 hours long. Kathrin to check previous programmes in Nashville, 2016. • Words of Inspiration: It was felt this was not a phrase used by Europeans, so in future would be described as: Starting Words and Closing Words. • Starting Words: lida to organise at both European meetings • Closing Words: Daniela to organise at both European meetings	Bjorg Committee Members Kathrin lida Daniela

Any Other Business	Chapter exchange Ria asked if any chapter would be willing to link with a chapter in Amsterdam. Each Committee member will ask their chapters. New Committee Member Each of us gave a brief presentation, so that Terttu-Triin knew more about us, and we could learn a little about her. This presentation ended in an interesting discussion about the differences and similarities between our different school systems and the teacher education provided. Collaborative Presentation by Forum Chairs Kathrin spoke of a presentation to be made in Austin at the International Convention by the four Forum Chairs: US, Latin America, Canada and Europe. Members were asked for ideas for this presentation to be taken to a GoToMeeting on 7th November. Ideas included: • Increased Membership – share successful examples • Diversity of Membership – age/race` Proposed Changes to the Current Voting System Kathrin is concerned about the possible repercussions of changing the current voting system: • Currently, voting takes place at the International Convention, with each State's President voting according to their allocation, dependent upon the size of membership in that country • One alternative proposal is 'One Member One Vote' – this would require the facility for electronic voting – financial implications? • A second alternative is for members attending the International Convention only to have a vote. This has serious issues attached; attending these events is costly, especially for members from Europe, Latin America and, perhaps, Canada. Kathrin has already compiled statistics about the percentage of members attending Conventions. It is very clear that the voting is biased towards the State and the Region in which the Convention is held. • A comparison of total membership within each State/Region during the last two Conventions may assist these comparisons. Kathrin will look at these statistics.	Committee Members
Favourite Quote	From Ria: "I've never done it before, so I think I can do it!" (Pippi Longstocking) This applies to many of us in DKG!	Kathrin
Date and Venue of Next Meeting	The next meeting will be held in Rastede, Germany on 2-4 November 2018. Flights to Hamburg or Bremen. Trains from Hamburg to Rastede take 2½ hours. Trains from Bremen to Rastede take 40 minutes.	