

INFO-Bulletin based on the 3rd Meeting of the EMU Presidium Liberec, Czech Republic on 22 and 23 February 2008

Present were:

Gerd Eicker (president), Paolo Ponzecchi (vice-president), Katalin Asztai, Timo Klemettinen, Helena Maffli, Paolo Ponzecchi, Viktor Zadnik, Gerrie Koops (secretary general, report).

Excused were: Marion van der Hoeven

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Opening and welcome by the president, Gerd Eicker. He gave a special thanks to the President of the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic the Senate, Premysl Sobotka, to the Mayor of Liberec City Jiri Kittner, and to the Association of Basic Artistic AZUS for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting in Liberec. He again stressed the importance of holding the EMU presidium meetings in EMU member countries. To get to meet their board, the national and local authorities, and; to introduce EMU and to be informed about the activities of the member association.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Draft minutes and action list Presidium meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in December 2007

Agenda point 2: proposal payment membership fee: the membership fee shall be paid during the first **three** months of each calendar year (before 1 April).

The minutes (appendix 1) were approved.

Referring to the motions enclosed in the minutes and the action list and not mentioned in the agenda:

. Evaluation European Youth Festival in May 2007 in Hungary (*appendix 2*): the presidium noted that the evaluation doesn't include reactions from the participants. Katalin explained that the evaluation form had been sent to all countries but that only 3 countries returned the form.

. Membership European Forum for the Arts and Heritage (EFAH): Marion contacted Piet Hagenaaars, board member EFAH, about the benefits of a possible membership for EMU. Hagenaaars advice to Marion was to participate in EFAH, as EMU could give the music schools in Europe a stronger voice through EFAH. EFAH was founded in 1992 to ensure that cultural associations, operators and artists have a voice in Europe. EFAH monitors European Union legislation and policy in cultural affairs. EFAH's members represent over 5,000 organisations across 25 EU Member States and beyond, active in all cultural domains, ranging from orchestras to writers' associations, academic institutions to heritage conservation organisations, national theatres to international cultural networks, conservatoires to choirs and festivals to foundations.

The presidium concluded that - although the aims of EFAH might be on too abstract a level for EMU - it might be interesting for EMU to become member. *The final decision for membership will be taken in December, after the next general assembly of EFAH in October 2008. Gerd will join this meeting.*

. Contact with national cultural contact points by presidium members: Katalin reported that the Lifelong Learning - Sectoral programmes Comenius is interesting for projects between music schools in Europe. http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/lfp/structure/comenius_en.html

The programme aims to promote teachers' and pupils' mobility. Target groups are associations, schools, teachers and pupils. Directors who participate in our directors' meeting in October can also apply for funding in their own country.

Gerrie received from the Dutch cultural contact point a link to the culture programme 2007 – 2013 'Support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture' : http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/culture/calls2007/strand_2/index_en.htm

Although the deadline for submissions (5/11/2007) has expired, the information might be worthwhile preparing for the next call for proposals. *Gerd, Timo and Gerrie will start a research.*

. Payment of the membership fee 2007: Gerrie reported that all fees for 2007 have been paid by all members.

3. Financial results 2007 and balance per 31 December 2007 (*appendix 3a, 3b, 3c and 3b*)

The annual accounts have been closed with a positive balance per 31 December of appr. € 4096.22. The transferred positive results from 2006 ad € 16,000 have not been used. The presidium is pleased with the positive results but remarked that positive results could have a negative effect when EMU applies for EU funding.

Gerrie explained that the positive results of the balance in 2006 had to do with the sudden stroke of president Timo Veijola and therefore a reduction of the EMU activities in 2006. In 2007 the presidium decided to move the decision for the new meeting point to 2008. The bureau costs include a small sum of € 50 per month for the president who doesn't have an own office since retiring in September 2007.

The presidium concluded that because EMU has (structural) financial commitments, for instance for the secretary general, a financial reserve is important.

The presidium approved the financial results 2007 and balance as of 31 December 2007.

The presidium decided to increase the monthly bureau costs for the president to € 100 per month per 1 January 2008. All documents will be sent to the auditors Ruth Hochuli (Switzerland) and Klaus Beck (Liechtenstein).

4. Membership autonomous territories in Europe (*appendix 4*)

Gerd has been in contact with Prof. Dr. Sabine von Schorlemer, Chair of International Law, Law of EU and International Relations, Technische Universität Dresden, regarding the consequences of an EMU membership by autonomous territories like the Faroe Islands.

In the discussion with Prof. Von Schorlemer, the situation of the Faroe Islands in relationship to the State of Denmark became very clear. Also significant is that a lot of regions in Europe are in the same situation. Regarding the EMU statutes, Prof. Von Schorlemer advised EMU to offer autonomous territories like the Faroe Islands the status of an observer with the right to speak but without the right to vote, otherwise EMU will get the status of an organisation of European regions.

Regarding the advice of Prof. Von Schorlemer, the presidium decided that the Faroe Islands may participate in the EMU as an observer. It means that the Faroe Islands may participate as participant in EMU meetings with the right to speak but without voting rights. Besides participating in EMU meetings, the Faroe Islands will receive all the information that is sent to EMU members.

The annual fee for the status of an observer will be based on the difference of the total expenses of all the members of Denmark and the Faroe Islands minus the fee that Denmark pays. Attached you will find the fee structure. Gerrie will inform the Faroe Islands (and copy to Denmark) by letter. The General Assembly will be informed about the decision above.

5. General Assembly and Conference "Music Education in Middle European Countries" from 24 to 27 April 2008 in Brussels (*appendix 5*)

Marion and Gerrie visited Pierre Kolp in Brussels to lend a hand in the organization of the meeting, which was very much appreciated by Pierre Kolp.

The presidium is pleased about the applications to the meeting: 70 people: 3 honorary members, 24 member countries, 2 invited countries. Croatia and Poland are unable to participate.

Proposal programme and agenda:

Gerrie is in contact with Pierre Kolp and with all speakers to the meeting and will provide them with the needed documents.

. Guide lines to chair the working groups are: 1) reports by countries that have experience with EU projects (what kind of projects; what about funding etc); what kind of projects could be interesting for member schools next coming years; which countries might be interested to participate; what are the benefits of international projects for pupils, teachers and music schools.

Gerd will ask Urvi Haasma (Iceland), Ruth Hochuli (Switzerland), Philippe Dalarun (France) and Harry Rishaug (Norway) to chair the working groups 'EU policies and funding' and the possibilities for collaborative projects between EMU member (schools), and will send them the guidelines.

. Pierre Kolp will organize a preparatory meeting for the Conference in February.

. The 'Membership autonomous territories' will be a separate item on the agenda.

. EMU activities in 2008: short statistics (table 1, 6, 7, 8, 12 and 13): Gerrie will prepare a practical solution to get an updated version of the statistics 2006; Katalin will inform the meeting about the guide to funding possibilities on the Internet; promoting music education in South European Countries: will be connected to the conference next year. Paolo will prepare the conference in 2009. Gerhard Gutschik from Austria will be asked for assistance.

6. European Youth Music Festival 2009/General Assembly 2009

Gerd received an updated budget for the festival.

7. Directors' seminar from 14 – 17 October in Livorno (*appendix 7a, 7b and 7c*)

The presidium received a proposal from Italy to host the meeting in Livorno in Italy. The presidium decided that the meeting will take place in Livorno although the costs for hosting and organizing the meeting should be reduced. Participants should stay in the same hotel if possible near the city center. Paolo will ask Andreas to send a new proposal.

The seminar will focus on international projects in which music schools from different countries participate. Prerequisites for the participants are:

. An interest in international cooperation with 2 to 4/5 music schools (the final number of music schools per country depends on the total applications)

. A background in HR and finance, as the project must raise a contribution of its own (normally: 50%). 'Man-power,' administration, etc. also have an important role to play.

. Ideas for, e.g., teacher exchange, the development of curricula/standards, etc

. Only participants with a high level of decision-making authority are entitled to conclude alliances and allocate financial resources.

The programme of the seminar and registration form will be handed out during the General Assembly in Brussels and will be sent by email to all associations at the end of April.

The national associations should complete the registration for the Seminar as well as the payment.

The deadline for registration is 15 June 2008. Minimum participating countries: 8.

Confirmation of the registration should be sent before 1 July 2008.

General managers of national associations are welcome to attend the seminar but registration will depend on the number of applications by music school directors (maximum 55).

Gerd and Marion will chair the seminar. If financially feasible, Gerrit Walstra (Haute Europe) will be asked to give the first day a common and very practice-oriented structure. Otherwise a person from a cultural contact point or an organization for international exchange could be worthwhile asking.

8. EMU concert in EU parliament (*appendix 8*)

To ensure the needed participants in the concert, the presidium concluded that EMU needs an official invitation from the parliament. Other questions to Timo's proposal in appendix 3c: What is the budget? (we need a closed budget); main coordinator of the project? Participating countries? (Belgium and countries near Belgium, Slovakia? Finland?).

9. Working programme and budget 2008 (appendix 9a and 9b)

The working programme and budget 2008 has been sent to the members. No comments have been received. For that reason the working programme and budget 2008 are considered approved.

10. EMU news, news from presidium members and member countries

. The presidium received positive news concerning the founding of an association of music schools in Iceland (*appendix 10*).

. Latvia elected a new president (Aivars Broks) and vice-president (Dace Strodaha)

. EMC: Timo will present EMU at the annual EMC meeting from 17 to 20 April in Brno, Czech Republic. Timo has been asked for the chair of EMC president.

. IMC: still having financial problems. Main activities are the development of music education and musical life in several countries and a big project on music education.

. EMU received a declaration for the foundation of a European association of national parents' associations in music schools. In several countries a national parents' association has been active for several years. They have asked EMU to give room to promoting the European federation of national associations during our meeting in Austria. The presidium concluded that such an association could be positive for national and European policy. Gerd will inform them that they should contact Austria.

11. Next Presidium meetings; General Assembly 2008/2009, Management meeting 2009

. 23 - 27 April: presidium meeting and General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium

. 3 - 5 October: Liechtenstein

. 12 - 14 December: Latvia

2009

. 27 February - 1 March

. 18 May (arrival presidium Sunday 17 May)

. 16 - 18 October

. 11 - 13 December

The schedule for the GA/Festival in Linz;

. Sunday 17 May arrival presidium

. Monday 18 May presidium meeting in the morning / arrival participants GA in the afternoon

. Tuesday 19 May GA

. Wednesday 20 May GA

. Thursday 21 May departure or transfer to Linz for EMU members who will attend the opening and the festival

. Friday 22 May Festival

. Saturday 23 May Festival and closing in the evening

. Sunday 24 Departure

Note : it means that EMU members attending the opening of the festival can either attend the opening and leave after, or can stay extra nights at their own expense in Linz (hotel costs 50 Euro per night).

The management meeting in Prato will be held from 30 September - 3 October.

12. Miscellaneous and Closing

. The presidium received by email via Timo some documents prepared by the Nordic countries concerning the future of EMU.

Timo explained that the Nordic countries would like to have an open discussion in Brussels among members about the future of EMU.

The presidium remarked that an official proposal by member countries should be sent to the General Assembly one month before the meeting. However, a discussion on the future of EMU during a General Assembly could be very interesting, but it should be prepared very well beforehand. Therefore the presidium will advise the Nordic countries to postpone this item until the General Assembly in Linz in 2009.

- . Gerd handed out a VdM brochure "Musik – Ein Leben Lang!" and a report of a speech by Jan Figel' during the Bundeskongress 'Kultur Macht Europe' in June 2007 in Berlin.
 - . Katalin presented 3 projects which she will present during the meeting in Brussels.
 - . After that the president thanked the presidium members for their contribution and closed the meeting.
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