

INFO-Bulletin based on the minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the EMU Presidium Reykjavik, Iceland on 7 and 8 December 2007

Present were:

Gerd Eicker (president), Paolo Ponzecchi (vice-president), Katalin Asztai, Marion van der Hoeven, Helena Maffli, Paolo Ponzecchi, Viktor Zadnik, Gerrie Koops (secretary general, report).

Excused were: Timo Klemettinen

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

Opening and welcome by the president, Gerd Eicker. He gave a special thanks to the Association of Music School Teachers in Iceland for their hospitality and for hosting the meeting in Reykjavik. He remarked that it is a great honor for the EMU presidium to hold their meetings in EMU member countries. To get to meet their board, national and local authorities; to introduce EMU and to be informed about the activities of the member association.

Timo Klemettinen is unable to participate but he sent his contribution to the meeting by email.

Gerd remarked that the Management meeting in Prato in October and the meeting with Euro commissioner Jan Figel' in Bratislava in November meant lots of extra work for Gerrie and he thanked her for her contribution.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Draft minutes and action list Presidium meeting in Prato in September 2007

The minutes (appendix 1) were approved.

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

. Membership EFAH: Marion hasn't yet contacted Piet Hagenars, board member EFAH, about the benefits of a possible membership for EMU.

.The presidium decided that – because EMU also has financial commitments during the year – in April 2008 the presidium will propose to the General Assembly an amendment to Article VIII – 2 of the statutes: The membership fee shall be paid during the first four months of each calendar year.

The change to the statutes will also give clarity to the right to vote during the General Assemblies since most meetings take place in April and May.

. Evaluation festival by Hungary: Katalin informed the presidium that the evaluation will be sent this week.

. Evaluation management meeting in Prato in October: the reactions from the participants in person and in writing after the meeting were generally positive: a good start; a fruitful and constructive meeting; well-prepared by EMU and well-organized by the Italian organization; meeting management colleagues and talking about management issues; EMU enhance its profile as an international association of national associations.

Some suggestions: pragmatic advice on how to develop national music school associations; pragmatic decisions how to make changes in music school unions and music schools; advocacy at EU, national and local levels; leadership training; organization of board members in member countries; EMU festival; more concrete arrangements regarding EU projects and funding; more time for discussions; tendency to hold long discussions on the level of the development of music education (teachers' level) instead of on the development of the national associations; a pity that not all members participated.

The presidium concluded that the meeting was very successful and decided that the next management meeting will held in October 2009. Paolo proposed to hold the meeting in Prato again in 2009. The presidium accepted the proposal and thanked Paolo for his hospitality.

. Study 'Music schools in Europe' by the pre-college working group 'Polifonia': Mrs Tchernoff informed Gerrie that the study has been rounded off but that before publication, the study has been sent to all members for a final check. Slovenia, Croatia and Liechtenstein haven't yet responded.

3. General Assembly and Conference "Music Education in Middle European Countries" from 24 to 27 April 2008 in Brussels (appendix 3a, 3b and 3c)

. The presidium decided to focus the conference on the management of the associations of the Middle European Countries: Belgium, England, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands. The conference in 2009 will focus on the 'Southern' European countries: Austria, France, Spain, Italy and Switzerland. , Euro commissioner Jan Figel' accepted EMU's invitation to hold a keynote speech as the start to the Conference in Brussels on 25 April in the afternoon. Pierre Kolp will invite the Belgian Ministry of Culture/Education.

. EMU received a letter from Ap de Vries, Kunstconnectie concerning regional development in a European setting. He proposed in his letter that EMU could also focus on activities and exchanges on a regional scale, whereby it could also involve the level of the managing directors of music schools. As an example he referred to the IMS, the International Music School Seminar. This is an exchange network between directors of music schools in Nordrhein Westfalen and Saarland (Germany), Flanders (Belgium), Wallonia (Belgium), Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These regions take turns in organizing an annual three-day exchange to discuss developments and innovations in music education and to demonstrate best practices. EMU has been invited to the next IMS meeting in March 2008 in the Netherlands.

Marion will present EMU at the IMS meeting in March 2008. A delegate of the IMS in the Netherlands (as organizing country in 2008) will be invited to give a presentation on the activities of the IMS.

. Marin Prchal, AEC, will be invited to a presentation of the ERASMUS Network for Music 'Polifonia' – results from European research on pre-college music education.

. Pierre will invite the mayor of Brussels and the Minister or a representative of the Ministry. Pierre will arrange a meeting with the delegates of the middle European countries to prepare the general presentation of these countries.

. Marion and Gerrie will make an appointment with Pierre in January to visit the meeting rooms and hotel, make arrangements concerning needed equipment and facilities, and provide support for other activities around the meeting.

. The main theme of the open space working groups will be 'EU policies and funding': EMU project 'output-oriented curricula' and the opportunities for collaborative projects between EMU member countries on the European programmes of life-long learning and mobility of teachers.

Introduction by Marion on EMU projects; Katalin will give a presentation beforehand on EU projects and funding in Hungary.

EMU members will be asked to provide support for the projects and to send 3 or 4 persons per country who are interested in cooperating in a project to a directors' meeting in October 2007 (14 to 17 October in Pisa or Ljubljana). Applications should include possible project ideas.

Viktor and Paolo will research the possibilities and costs of organizing the meeting in Pisa, Milan or Ljubljana). Paolo will ask Andrea Pellegrini (director music school in Pisa) if he would be able to organize the hosting of the meeting if it takes place in Italy.

Presidium members will send content proposals concerning the directors meeting in October 2008 to Gerd before 1 February.

. EMU concert in EU parliament 2008: 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?).

4. European Youth Music Festival 2009/General Assembly 2009

The festival office has launched a very nice website. The brochures will be sent in the middle of December to the associations. *EMU will ask the festival office if the festival logo is also available in English.* Gerd visited Mr Reicheneder and Wolfgang Reifeneder, festival manager. So far everything has been arranged perfectly and professionally.

The opening ceremony as well the closing ceremony will take place in Linz. The quota of the participants per country has been based on the inhabitants per country. The deadline for a non-

binding preliminary application is 31 March 2008. For the opening ceremony on 21 May, a European Youth Orchestra comprising two participants of each EMU member country will be constituted. The pre-festival takes place on 19 and 20 May 2009. Music schools with an interest in establishing a long-term partnership with an Austrian music school can apply for the pre-festival.

The festival organizers asked EMU to send information material about the festival to all music schools. Because EMU doesn't have all addresses of the music schools it might be more efficient if the festival office sends the information to the associations.

5. Evaluation meeting Jan Figel' in Bratislava in November (appendix 5a and 5b)

The meeting with Jan Figel' was very interesting. The report of the meeting has been published on the EMU website with Figel's consent. Gerd sent a thank-you letter to Figel', invited him to the General Assembly in Brussels and asked him for financial support for the EMU office, especially for the general secretary.

Jan Figel' accepted the invitation for the General Assembly in Brussels. For the financial support he advised EMU to consult the EU website to find useful information and to contact the Cultural Contact Point in the Netherlands.

Gerrie will contact the Cultural Contact Point to arrange a visit together with Marion. Culture contact points have been established in all EMU member countries. Presidium members will contact their national Cultural Contact Point.

http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/culture2000/contacts/national_pts_en.html)

6. Mission, vision, goals and objectives EMU (appendix 6)

The presidium concluded that it might be too difficult to summarize the extended version, available on the Internet, in a compact statement.

7. Line of policy / activities next coming 4 years (appendix 7)

Gerrie made a summary of the 'mind mapping' session in Bratislava.

The broad lines are:

- . Continuation of steps towards Europe: researching all possibilities on cooperation between member countries, music schools, teachers etc.
- . Promoting partnership / collaboration between national associations, music schools and regions in Europe.
- . Starting a project similar to the Polifonia project: output-oriented curricula
- . Fostering contacts with AEC
- . Adding a guide to funding possibilities to the website (special button)
- . Presidium meetings in member countries and meeting the board and authorities in these countries.

8. Working programme 2008

Will be based on the broad lines under point 7 and the working programme 2007.

Concerning the re-design of a new EMU meeting-point as advised by the web group and the management meeting in Prato, the presidium remarked that although the management meeting held the opinion that a meeting point might be useful for the exchange projects, more research on the purpose and the estimated use of the meeting point should be done beforehand. *The general assembly will be asked for advice.*

The proposal for the working programme and the budget proposal 2008 will be sent to the presidium members before sending it to the members at the beginning of 2008.

Dividing the tasks (appendix 8): a concrete proposal will be discussed later on.

9. Membership autonomous territories in Europe

The presidium discussed a possible membership of autonomous territories in Europe.

Although it might be reasonable that some autonomous territories such as the Faroe Islands and Scotland could become member of EMU, following the lines of the Olympic Games, the present EMU statutes don't allow the membership of autonomous territories. The presidium discussed a possible

associated membership without voting rights. *Gerd will ask advice from Sabine von Schorlemer, chair of public international law of the EU, University of Dresden. Faroe Islands will be invited as participant to the General Assembly in Brussels.*

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

- . Paolo: the first week of May will be the week of music education in Italy. The music school in Prato and Florence will organize an international seminar for string group teaching in May 2008.
- . Katalin announced a 'Kodaly Marathon' for all music school in Hungary on 12 December
- . The presidium received a report (appendix 9) from Andrea Pellegrini (director music school Pisa) who represented EMU and Italy at an Italian festival in Lithuania in October, where he talked to some people about the founding of an association of music schools. *EMU will offer Lithuania support in founding an association and will invite them as participant to the GA in Brussels.*
- . Gerd announced two new projects in Germany: 'Early learning' and 'Music in the third part of life'.

11. Next presidium meetings

- . 22 - 24 February: Liberec, Czech Republic
- . 23 - 27 April: presidium meeting and General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium
- . 3 - 5 October: Liechtenstein
- . 12 - 14 December: Latvia

12. Miscellaneous and Closing

- . Gerrie will make a list of Presidium members' cell phone numbers
- After that the president thanked the presidium members for their contribution and closed the meeting.
