



# Minutes Executive Committee Meeting, 10 May 2001, Bremen

These minutes have been approved by the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

Participants: Sue Brown, Mogens Damm, Françoise Danset, Arja Riitta Haarala, Teresa Hackett, Britt-Marie Häggström, Barbara Lison, Jan-Ewout van der Putten.

**Observers:** Marian Koren, Winnie Vitzanzky.

## 1. Opening and announcements

Britt-Marie Häggström (President) opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Executive Committee to the last meeting of the current Executive Committee.

There were no further announcements.

## 2. Apologies for absence

The secretariat received apologies of absence from Rossella Caffo, Elspeth Hyams, Erik Norberg and Nuria Lloret Romero.

## 3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with the following addition to Any Other Business :

- Status of Greek Library Association membership;
- development of Information Europe magazine;
- re-election of National Front to some town in the south of France.

## 4. Approval minutes Executive Committee meeting 30-31 March 2001

Barbara Lison requested that the English title of the "Deutscher Bibliothekartag", as described under Item 6 Short Country Reports, be corrected as follows: "91st German library congress".

Françoise Danset provided information on the lending right debate in France and also reported on problems created for libraries by the re-election of the National Front to some towns in the south of France (*see Any Other Business*).

The minutes were approved.

## 5. Council meeting briefing

Council meeting programme and agenda review. Discussion of items.

### *Item 5. Full membership request for Iceland.*

At the Executive Committee meeting in Dublin 29-30 September 2000, a request was received from the new Icelandic association, *Information - the Icelandic Library and Information Science Association* to become full members of EBLIDA. The Executive Committee recommended to the Council that the application be supported. It was noted that a representative of the association, Thórdís T. Thórarinsdóttir, was attending the Council meeting and, it was agreed, would be asked to introduce the association to the Council.

### *Item 6. EBLIDA activity report.*

Teresa Hackett introduced the EBLIDA activity report, one of the background documents for the Council meeting. The activity report is the first time such a comprehensive report has been produced and could be a model for an annual EBLIDA report, one of the recommendations of the strategy group.

Arja Riitta Haarala asked if a membership list was available. There is currently no published membership list, and this certainly could be included in the annual report. At present, the EBLIDA website contains a list of European associations, who are in effect, full members. Pending approval from members, a membership list could be made available on the website.

### *Item 8. Financial reports.*

Barbara Lison, Honourary Treasurer, agreed to present the EBLIDA financial report 2000 and the budget 2001, based on the activity report.

### *Item 12. Work programme 2001-2002.*

The Executive Committee agreed to the draft work programme 2001-2002, based on elements of the strategy plan, pending approval by the Council.

## 6. EBLIDA Strategy Review

The strategy review is a major item for discussion by the Council in 2001. It is hoped that the review will give EBLIDA a renewed mandate and a solid focus with which to continue its work. The objectives and process of the review are covered in the activity report. *Strategy for*

*the Future v3.0* has been distributed to the Council as part of the background documents.

A discussion on the next stage of the strategy review took place. The Executive Committee all felt that it was very important that there should be an open discussion and that all views and comments should be taken into account.

Teresa Hackett remarked that the review had been sent in hardcopy to each member and had been published on the website since mid-February, with an online ballot form with which to submit comments. It was therefore hoped that members would feel that adequate time and opportunity had been allowed for feedback.

Several discussion formats were discussed e.g. group discussion on the chapters, common discussion on strategic and operation levels, etc. The Executive asked the Director to present the report in detail by chapter, followed by a discussion.

## **7. EBLIDA statement on the role of libraries in lifelong learning**

Following the EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting in March 2001, it was proposed that EBLIDA issue a statement on the role of libraries in lifelong learning in order to ensure that libraries play a fundamental role in the development of strategies for education and lifelong learning in Europe. EBLIDA would submit the statement to the European Commission as part of their consultation for their [Memorandum on Lifelong Learning](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html) ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/index_en.html)). A Commission Communication is expected towards the end of 2001.

EBLIDA is also co-operating with the *European Association for the Education of Adults*, who are co-ordinating a platform of groups with an interest in lifelong learning. Through EAEA, EBLIDA has requested an invitation to a conference on lifelong learning in September 2001, organised by the European Commission. The results of this conference will be fed into an action plan and eventually a Communication from the Commission.

A new draft statement was produced for the Council, who will be asked to comment. To facilitate discussion, a speaker from the UNESCO Institute of Education in Hamburg has been invited to address the Council.

Mogens Damm said that it was very important for EBLIDA to become involved in this area and noted that there seems to be some competition between the education and library sectors on this subject.

Britt-Marie Häggström wanted to encourage members to translate the statement into their national languages for wide dissemination.

For information on the European Association for the Education of Adults : [www.eaea.org](http://www.eaea.org)

UNESCO reports on lifelong learning:

[www.unesco.org/education/uie/news/index.shtml](http://www.unesco.org/education/uie/news/index.shtml)

## **8. EBLIDA elections 2001**

The election of the EBLIDA Executive Committee 2001-2003 will take place during the Council meeting. One nomination for President, supported by eight associations, and ten nominations for the Executive Committee were received by the secretariat by the closing date of 27 April 2001.

According to the constitution, the Executive Committee may comprise of between four and ten members. It was agreed to ask the Council how many members they wished to have on the Executive Committee this term. If ten members were accepted, then the Council would be asked if they wished to accept the nominations without a formal ballot.

## **9. Council meeting The Hague 2002: meeting date**

It was decided at the last Executive Committee meeting to hold the Council meeting 2002 in The Hague, the tenth anniversary of EBLIDA. It was agreed to hold the meeting on 10-11 May 2002.

**Note: the date of the Council meeting was later changed to 3-4 May 2002.** This is because the 9 May, when the Executive Committee meet and when most delegates travel to the Council, is a public holiday in many European countries. In addition, this extends into a holiday weekend into many countries.

## **10. Any Other Business**

### Status of Greek Library Association membership

The Greek Library Association full membership subscription is outstanding since 1999 and the situation discussed at the last meeting in Dublin in September 2000. The secretariat received payment of 147 Euro towards the outstanding amount of 1395 Euro in March 2001, for which the Executive Committee expressed their thanks.

The GLA have failed, however, to update the secretariat on the latest situation following elections in the GLA (due April 2001), nor have they provided a payment schedule in time for the meeting in Bremen, as promised. The Executive Committee expressed their deep disappointment at the lack of communication and instructed the secretariat to write to the GLA with a deadline for an update and a payment schedule. If this is not forthcoming, then suspension of Greek Library Association membership will be discussed at the next meeting.

### Development of *Information Europe* magazine

A major decision must be made within the next six months on the future of *Information Europe*. This is because the contract ends in January 2002. There are a number of influencing factors:

- the magazine earns no revenue either for EBLIDA or the publisher;
- the magazine has not fulfilled its full potential;
- the advertising agency is keen to develop IE and would like to propose some changes to increase advertising revenue. These include possibly increasing the frequency, making it more news focussed, etc.;
- the publisher is also keen to develop the title and does not wish to continue on a "project" basis;
- the strategy review concluded that IE is a good product and a valuable marketing tool for EBLIDA.

Beishon Publications recently made some suggestions for improvements which were discussed in detail.

Winnie Vitzansky agreed with the basic proposal and offered for the communication person from the Danish Library Association to liaise with EBLIDA. Our information needs to be more selective and more targeted.

Britt-Marie Häggström agreed with the proposal but stressed that costs must be carefully examined e.g. inserts can be very expensive.

Sue Brown remarked that flexibility of style is crucial if the content is to become more current. The Library Association will be happy to assist in discussions with the publisher, who is based in the UK.

Mogens Damm felt that sometimes there is too much information, so a two month interval was good.

Arja Riitta Haarala asked if we should we include more current information in IE.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten would be happy for IE to develop, but stressed that we must look at costs. We could offer one issue per year as a promotional issue for individual members.

It was agreed to ask the Council for their views and to take forward negotiations with the publisher and advertising agency. The Executive Committee would then be in a position to have an informed discussion at their next meeting.

#### Re-election of National Front in some towns in the south of France.

Françoise Danset reported on problems created by the local elections in France where many rightwing authorities were re-elected. In some towns in the south of France, libraries are being used for political

purposes, thereby undermining the role of libraries. In France, the mayor has the power to veto library acquisitions.

Mogens Damm agreed that the long-term effects are insidious and offered to raise the issue with the IFLA FAIFE committee.

Britt-Marie Häggström suggested commissioning a journalist to report on the situation, an idea supported by Mogens Damm. Jan-Ewout van der Putten can help provide funds for the journalist.

Barbara Lison pointed out that this day, 10 May, is the anniversary of the day of bookburning in Germany and should be mentioned in any letters we write.

EBLIDA has campaigned on this topic before and has sent letters to the French government and MEPs. It was agreed to write a further letter. Teresa Hackett will take up with Françoise Danset.

## **11. Next meeting**

The next meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee will take place after the election on 11 May 2001 in Bremen.

## **12. Closure**

Britt-Marie Häggström thanked the outgoing Committee for their work on the Executive Committee and looked forward to a continued co-operation.

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*Last Updated: 31 August 2001*