



Minutes Executive Committee Meeting, 29 September 2001, The Hague

These minutes have been approved by the EBLIDA Executive Committee.

Participants: Frode Bakken, Claudine Belayche, Klaus-Peter Böttger, Mogens Damm, Berndt Fredriksson, Arja Riitta Haarala, Teresa Hackett, Britt-Marie Häggström, Anna Maria Mandillo, António José De Pina Falcão, Jan-Ewout van der Putten.

Observers: Marian Koren, Gianni Lazzari (AIB), Winnie Vitzanzky.

Also present: Simon Pullar, DP Media, Marc Beishon, Beishon Publications.

1. Opening and announcements

Britt-Marie Häggström (President) opened the meeting and welcomed the Executive Committee. The new members of the Committee introduced themselves.

There were no further announcements.

2. Apologies for absence

The secretariat received apologies of absence from Nuria Lloret Romero.

3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved with the following additions:

- EBLIDA attendance at IFLA conferences (*K.P. Böttger*)
- Library campaign: @ your library (*A.J. De Pina Falcão*)
- Update on World Trade Organisation negotiations (*F. Bakken*)
- Approval sought for issuing a warning regarding a certain registration for the EBLIDA licensing workshop (*T. Hackett*)
- EBLIDA letter on the re-election of National Front in some towns in the south of France (*M. Damm and W. Vitzanzky*)
- Point of information on the Bibliotheque Alexandria (*A. R. Haarala*)
- Point of information on Digital Object Identifiers (*T. Hackett*)
- Point of information on new sponsored Top Level Domains (*T. Hackett*)

4. Approval minutes Executive Committee meetings 10 and 11

May 2001

The minutes were approved.

5. *Information Europe, Hot News and Update* : deciding the future for EBLIDA publications. Presentation by *Simon Pullar, DP Media* and *Marc Beishon, Beishon Publications*.

Background to *Information Europe*

The issue of *Information Europe* was discussed by the Executive Committee and at the Council meeting in Madrid in 2000 and in Bremen in 2001. See Executive Committee minutes of 10 May 2001, Bremen for more information. A decision must now be made as the contract with the publisher is due to expire in January 2002.

There are three possible choices:

- cease publication of *Information Europe*, from January 2002;
- develop the content of *Information Europe* by investing in resources and increasing circulation, from January 2002;
- make a decision to develop the magazine, but extend the present contract for one year to allow time to develop content, style, allocate resources, etc.

As instructed in Bremen, the Director took forward negotiations with the publisher and advertising agency and met in London on 30 July 2001, along with Elspeth Hyams, Editor Library Association Record (UK) and former member of the Executive Committee. Because the magazine earns no revenue from subscriptions, the only income stream is advertising. In order to increase advertising revenue, DP Media require a greater print run and are prepared to take on the development costs in terms of circulation and editorial, provided ownership of the magazine is transferred to DP Media and the national library associations distribute the magazine within their own countries.

Presentation of the proposal

The President welcomed Marc Beishon, Beishon Publications and Simon Pullar, DP Media, the publisher and advertising agent respectively for *Information Europe*, and invited them to present their proposals.

Simon Pullar specialises in niche markets and began in the museum sector and in publishing for charities. There are fifteen staff at DP Media with eight sales executives generating advertising. DP Media have a track record in this sector; one of their other titles is *Managing Information* published by UK ASLIB. Simon's vision is to work together with Marc Beishon, who will focus on the editorial content.

Marc Beishon is a journalist with experience in specialist I.T. markets.

His current titles include *Sales Force*.

A discussion of the proposals with the Executive Committee followed.

Marc Beishon pointed out that the magazine barely covers production costs and that the print run is too small. It is essential to have an editorial board for content.

Simon Pullar noted that advertisers work on the cost per thousand issues.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten felt that two issues were of major importance i.e. ownership of title and the change of the user base from a subscription to a free distribution model and remarked that the weakest point is the bulk distribution.

Mogens Damm was concerned at the implications of how to justify the combined models of free distribution and subscriptions.

Winnie Vitzanzky commented that if the library associations are expected to take on distribution, they must be happy with the content, therefore the issue of control is supreme. Some share of the risk should be taken by EBLIDA. However, if the magazine were a big success, it would no longer be fair for the associations to continue funding bulk distribution.

Simon Pullar agreed, and in this case, the issue would be re-examined. In response to concerns about editorial control, DP Media would be happy to include a clause guaranteeing EBLIDA full editorial control, although they may look to influence EBLIDA to include articles of interest to advertisers e.g. document management.

Frode Bakken asked for clarification on the exact meaning of ownership and on the funds EBLIDA is required to contribute.

Simon Pullar answered that ownership means the right to publish and the costs to EBLIDA are the distribution costs.

Arja Riitta Haarala asked about the proposed frequency and how DP Media would control the distribution lists.

Simon Pullar answered that this would remain initially at four issues per year and the distribution terms would be subject to agreement between EBLIDA and DP Media.

Gianni Lazzari remarked that we seem to be changing the nature of the magazine from a vehicle of EBLIDA into a general European magazine. Is this what we intend or want?

Simon Pullar said that EBLIDA would gain a marketing tool. DP Media would take the financial and publishing risk. Because of this, they

require ownership of the title.

Teresa Hackett asked that instead of transferring ownership (a permanent arrangement), whether DP Media would consider an exclusive licence agreement, whereby EBLIDA would licence the title exclusively to DP Media for a set period, with ownership thus remaining with EBLIDA.

Simon Pullar could not comment directly and would need advice from his partners.

Britt-Marie Häggström thanked the guests for attending and we would inform them of our decision in due course.

Discussion of the proposal by the Executive Committee

There followed a full and frank discussion of the issues, opportunities and concerns raised by the proposal.

Mogens Damm reflected on the purpose of the EBLIDA magazine and was concerned that the new product would be a mixture of EBLIDA material and unrelated commercial material. The end result of the proposal is that it will cost the associations more. The contract with DP Media could result in legal and ethical problems for EBLIDA and one, professional information product would be preferable. Politicians don't need more glossy magazines and our specific goals become blurred with this proposal. In addition, we should not give away the title. The offer should therefore be turned down.

António José De Pina Falcão agreed that a magazine with a mix of material is not so appealing and would prefer it to concentrate on European library matters.

Klaus-Peter Böttger commented that costs and advertising is an issue common all our magazines and made the suggestion of including EBLIDA information and lobby messages in the national publications.

Frode Bakken was of the opinion that the proposal of bulk distribution of copies would be rejected by the national associations. EBLIDA needs printed promotional information and must disseminate lobby information to promote the politics of libraries and archives in Europe. But EBLIDA already produces a lot of information, and a product such as *Information Europe* cannot get these messages across effectively. The proposal should therefore be rejected. We can always decide later how to proceed.

Britt-Marie Häggström agreed that the proposed model of distribution is not possible and wondered whether handing out a glossy magazine the best way to promote ourselves. Although the proposal is generous, it should not be accepted.

Claudine Belayche suggested that not many people are really interested in reading *Information Europe*, that the language is a problem and would prefer instead to improve *Hot News*.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten said that there were a number of favourable aspects to the proposal. It would be cost effective for EBLIDA and could result in a nice product. The other solutions don't provide this and so it is a missed opportunity. The snag remains the distribution issue, to which there is no easy solution.

Winnie Vitzanzky suggest that we debate our information needs at our next meeting. We cannot look at one product in isolation.

Arja Riitta Haarala agrees that we should not take up the proposal and asked if we can afford having two or three separate publications and if this is necessary for a small association. If it is a business opportunity for DP Media, we can discuss further at a later date.

Marian Koren commented that we must return to the primary purpose of EBLIDA and that all our energy must focus on the lobby activities. We we need a clear image to illustrate what we stand for. Lobby, promotional material is therefore very necessary. For this, we need a good, fast tool for the national library associations. In order to conduct an analysis, we should produce a matrix of our information requirements, illustrating the aim, the type of information needed and who produces it.

Claudine Belayche agreed that we need a focussed, lobby newsletter for our members, rather than the general public. It should be regular and timely.

Teresa Hackett agreed that the language was a barrier to take-up around Europe. The idea of EBLIDA providing information for inclusion in publications of the national associations was appealing. Some *Information Europe* sections could be transferred to the web e.g. MEP profile and country reports. These could be updated and improved with links, etc. It is planned to produce an EBLIDA annual report. As suggested, the next meeting will feature a debate on developing an information strategy, a recommendation from the EBLIDA strategy plan.

Anna Maria Mandillo remarked that it is important for EBLIDA not to lose sight of our specific role and to have clear aims and goals.

The conclusion

The conclusion was that the contract for *Information Europe* will not be renewed. The last issue will be Winter 2001, Vol. 6(4), published in January 2002. Members and subscribers will be informed accordingly. Some sections of *Information Europe* may be transferred to the website. A review of all EBLIDA information products will be

undertaken.

EBLIDA Council meetings

6. Council meeting 2001 in Bremen. Review and discussion

There were forth-two registered participants at the annual Council meeting in Bremen, representing sixteen countries.

There were twelve responses to the evaluation form sent to participants, with the following conclusions:

3 The majority of participants found the meeting very useful and the programme good.

3 The majority were in favour of having one whole day for internal affairs.

3 The majority were satisfied with the venue and facilities and the documentation was unanimously voted as very good.

3 There was a mixed response to the presentations, illustrating the issue of the level of the audience and presentation style.

The lessons drawn include:

- there were too many presentations on Saturday;
- speakers must allow for a range of understanding of English and of the issues;
- a library visit should be included in the programme.

Some questions to consider:

- What is the purpose of the Council meeting?
- Who is it intended for i.e. national library associations or associate members or both?

Mogens Damm said that the basic purpose of the Council meeting is to keep the organisation going and to ensure democratic discussion of the issues at hand. It is intended mainly for the full members and the national associations. The first priority is to discuss library issues in Europe. The programme in Bremen was too technical. It is a question of having a time limit which allows enough time for discussion.

Britt-Marie Häggström suggested to change the title of the first day from Internal Affairs. The first day is the Council meeting and the second day is the conference.

Claudine Belayche agreed that it is important to have a whole day to discuss Council matters and that half a day is too short.

Frode Bakken pointed out that if there are decisions to be made, then good discussion should be promoted. If there are differences of opinion, there should be presentations with the opposing views.

Britt-Marie Häggström favoured having group discussions.

Marian Koren had an alternative suggestion for the format of the meeting i.e. hold the conference on the first day and the Council meeting on the second day. In this way, participants have got to know each other and discussion is easier.

A summary of the Bremen meeting is available at:

www.eblida.org/conferences/Council01/council_summary.htm

7. Council meeting The Hague, 3-4 May 2002. Planning discussion

The EBLIDA tenth anniversary Council meeting will take place in The Hague, the founding city of EBLIDA. The meeting will take place in the *Haagse Lobby*, a rooftop conference venue in the new city hall. Teresa Hackett and Marian Koren visited the venue in July and a quotation for the venue and facilities will be supplied.

Some organisational ideas were discussed including a tour of the city library, involving IFLA in the programme and having a photo display of past EBLIDA meetings. Some programme ideas are the eEurope initiatives and the implications for libraries in Europe and some suggestions for keynote speakers were discussed. Ideas for the social programme include a boat trip to the tulip fields.

The Council meeting is usually hosted by the national library association. EBLIDA will produce a budget and will discuss further with the Dutch associations. It will also seek sponsorship.

Mogens Damm supported the city library tour and involving IFLA.

Frode Bakken suggested including WTO issues, copyright, lifelong learning and EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe. For WTO issues, he suggested a two hour slot with an introduction from one key WTO representative and one library person. He also suggested inviting a prominent cultural figure.

Arja Riitta Haarala suggested having three themes and to invite Erkki Liikanen, European Commissioner for Enterprise and Information Society.

Gianni Lazzari warned against repeating the copyright conference.

EBLIDA Strategy Review

8. Implementation of the EBLIDA Strategy Review

Following discussion at the Council meeting in Bremen, the EBLIDA Strategy Review was ratified with minor amendments. The final version will be produced shortly. It will be sent to members and will be

available on the website. A quotation for printing has been requested, when it will be decided whether this can be funded during 2001. The next stage is implementing the terms of the review.

Key issues include:

- Adopting an active membership approach.
- Reviewing information products and services.
- Increasing membership.

Mogens Damm said that the strategy review should be discussed at each Executive Committee meeting to ensure that it is an integral part of the work of the organisation.

Britt-Marie Häggström said that the strategy plan should be further discussed by the Council.

António José De Pina Falcão felt that the development of professional skills is very important and requested that it is included on the agenda at the next Executive Committee meeting.

9. Assigning roles to Executive Committee

The Strategy Review recommended that the incoming Executive Committee review its role, in particular, the offices of Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary. These were subsequently discontinued by the new Executive Committee. In order to support the secretariat with key aspects of the work programme, the review suggested that specific, practical responsibilities could be taken up by Executive Committee members.

The following was agreed:

Klaus-Peter Böttger: improving information products and services / marketing.

Mogens Damm: attracting greater political influence.

Berndt Fredrikson: becoming more representative of archive organisations.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten: financial resources and personnel.

Projects

10. CELIP project : progress report

Background information on CELIP: Executive Committee minutes September 2000 and March 2001 and www.eblida.org/celip.

The CELIP review took place in Luxembourg in June 2001, attended by the project co-ordinator (EBLIDA), project manager (Tuula Haavisto, Knowledge T:mi) and the Commission reviewers: Alice Keefer (Unversidad de Barcelona, Spain) and Robbert Fisher

(PricewaterhouseCoopers, The Netherlands), as well as the project officer (C. Fernández de la Puente).

CELIP got a good review with the recommendation to continue without modification.

Other comments:

3 CELIP is a good example of transfer of knowledge which has built up from the previous EC projects, beginning with European Copyright User Platform (ECUP). Licensing is a very pertinent topic for libraries at this moment so the project is timely.

3 The project is fully meeting its objectives and in some cases exceeding the expectations, i.e. workshop participation.

3 The project is on target and no major deviation has occurred.

The following recommendations were made:

- The CELIP web site should be improved and continuity assured.
- CEE library schools should be approached about including licensing issues in their curricula.

The final steering group meeting will take place in Helsinki to co-incide with the European ICOLC conference in December 2001.

11. PULMAN project: progress report

Background information on PULMAN: Executive Committee minutes March 2001.

PULMAN began on 1 May 2001 and will run for 24 months. A kick-off meeting for the management board took place at EBLIDA on 14-15 May and a kick-off mini conference took place in Antwerp in June. The next management board meeting will take place in London in November 2001.

EBLIDA is the lead partner in Workpackage 3-Policy support and cross-sectoral constituency development and comprises the policy work of PULMAN. There are 13 other partners in this workpackage.

The overall aim is to develop dialogue and encourage co-operation. This involves liaising with 26 country co-ordinators to identify key contacts in libraries, archives and museums, to co-ordinate 26 national workshops (September-November 2002) and to evaluate the outcome (February 2003), culminating in a major policy conference in February or March 2003. Possible conference locations are Greece (EU Presidency), Ireland, Portugal and Lithuania.

EBLIDA is responsible for producing two Guidelines; the public interest in copyright protected materials and licensing initiatives and legal issues in the technical environment e.g. privacy, data protection.

In addition, EBLIDA is on the management board.

It is planned that EBLIDA will use existing resources and will also hire extra staff as follows. The Director will attend management board meetings and provide intellectual and financial management for EBLIDA participation, estimated at a total of 4.5 months. The EBLIDA Administrative Assistant will work 1 day per month on the project, estimated at 1.5 months. A Project Assistant has been hired to work 8 days per month to manage co-ordination of workpackage 3 and assist with policy co-ordination work, estimated at 9 months. It is planned to engage a local conference organiser to manage local organisation of the policy conference. Sub-contracts are currently being negotiated with two sub-contractors to produce the two sets of guidelines.

Marian Koren, PULMAN country co-ordinator, revealed that The Netherlands will be putting in a bid to host the PULMAN policy conference. In addition, NAPLE, an association of national library authorities, plan to hold a conference in October 2002 on library policies. Both events should be used to broaden the base for library policies.

12. Network of excellence on legal aspects in purchasing electronic material to libraries: project proposal

Tuula Haavisto, Project Manger for CELIP, asked the Executive Committee to consider a proposal for a follow-on project to CELIP, with EBLIDA as the co-ordinating organisation. Details were supplied for the proposal on pan-European co-operation on licensing issues. The network would be a large consortium with a full-time post as co-ordinator.

Frode Bakken thought that proposal contained many interesting ideas.

Arja Riitta Haarala said that the issues raised are important. Other aspects that could be included are licensing policies in Eastern Europe and the costs of library consortia.

Mogens Damm said the east/west co-operation was valuable, but the role of EBLIDA and the required resources should be carefully considered first.

Marian Koren said that it was important to relate future EBLIDA projects to the strategy plan.

Teresa Hackett reported that the strategy group recommended that projects be carefully selected for their strategic interest to EBLIDA and in order to gain maximum visibility. The strategy review group therefore advised against EBLIDA taking on the role of co-ordinator, which carries a largely unseen administrative overhead.

The Executive Committee asked the Director to thank Tuula Haavisto

for her proposal and to relay the information that EBLIDA cannot undertake the role of project co-ordinator. EBLIDA may, however, have the capacity for a different role and is happy to consider any future proposals.

Lobby activities

13. EU copyright Directive : progress report

The *Directive 2001/29/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 May 2001 on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society* was published in the European Commission Official Journal on 22 June 2001, when it officially came into force. Member states must implement the Directive by 22 December 2002.

The EBLIDA copyright group met in Brussels in June 2001 with Dr Jörg Reinbothe, Head of Unit Copyright and Neighbouring Rights, DG Internal Market to discuss national implementation. EBLIDA will co-ordinate information on national implementation plans and interpretation.

Frode Bakken reported that there will be a meeting of the Nordic countries in November to discuss policy issues.

Winnie Vitzanzky provided a copy of the Danish library position which has been sent to the Danish Ministry of Culture and will supply an English translation.

Arja Riitta Haarala reported that the Finish Ministry has organised a hearing for interest groups.

Teresa Hackett has made enquires with the UK Library Association about holding a seminar on national implementation in London in February 2002. *See also Item 16 EBLIDA events.*

14. EBLIDA participation in The Frankfurt Group

During the last two years, the TECUP project established a platform for the different players in the academic information and publication field seeking consensus building on key issues concerning electronic use of publications on libraries.

The main results are concentrated in the TECUP *Memorandum of Understanding*. This describes the areas where consensus has been reached and sets out the main issues for further co-operation. Professor Thomas Dreier further elaborates on the legal and business aspects in his report: *Towards consensus on the electronic use of publications in libraries. Strategy issues and recommendations*. Both documents are available for downloading from:

<http://gdz.sub.uni-goettingen.de/tecup/workplant.htm#papers>

As a follow up activity, *The Frankfurt Group: Consensus Forum for Academic and Research Information* was founded in May 2001. The Frankfurt Group is a unique platform for progressive discussions between organisations involved in the publication and distribution of academic and research information within Europe. The aim of the group is to reach consensus on topics of common interest.

Members include representatives of authors (EWC), publishers (ALPSP, STM), libraries (EBLIDA, LIBER), research centres (INIST), subscription agents and intermediaries (ASA) and rights organisations (European Group of IFRRO).

The first statement of The Frankfurt Group is on the EU proposals concerning VAT on electronic products and services. A draft version was circulated to the Executive Committee and EBLIDA copyright and WTO groups for comment. When the statement has been ratified by all the groups concerned, it will be published and a meeting sought with the European Commission.

Winnie Vitzanzky mentioned the special situation in Denmark, which uses the higher rate for both print and electronic information, which means that Denmark may take a different view.

15. The role of EBLIDA in European Commission proposals on lifelong learning

Following discussion at the Executive Committee in March 2001 and at the Council in May, an EBLIDA statement on the role of libraries in lifelong learning was submitted to the European Commission as part of their consultation on the Memorandum on Lifelong Learning. The draft statement was circulated to the Executive Committee for comment. The final statement will be sent to EBLIDA members and posted on the website, where a section on lifelong learning will be added. More examples of good practice can be included.

A European Commission Conference on Lifelong Learning took place in Brussels in September 2001, as part of an NGO consultation. EBLIDA joined the workshop on bringing learning closer to home. The conference is the last phase in the consultation process and will help form an action plan which will specify a policy strategy, concrete initiatives and indicators for implementing lifelong learning in Europe.

Other

16. Greek Library Association membership : progress report

The Greek Library Association full membership subscription is outstanding since 1999 and the situation was discussed in Dublin (September 2000) and Bremen (May 2001). The secretariat received a communication from the GLA in July 2001, following new board elections, saying that the GLA is keen to participate in EBLIDA and is

making an effort to pay their outstanding membership dues. The Director clarified the outstanding amount, proposed a payment plan to the GLA and asked for a response for the Executive Committee meeting on 29 September. No response to the proposal was received.

The Executive Committee therefore agreed that if an approved payment plan is not in place by 1 January 2002, membership of EBLIDA will be suspended in accordance with Article 9(a) of the EBLIDA constitution.

17. EBLIDA events:

EBLIDA licensing workshop, 28 September 2001

The first EBLIDA workshop on the licensing of electronic resources was fully subscribed. Participants are limited to twenty and there is a reduced rate for EBLIDA members. There were twelve registrations from members and eight from non-members. A reduced fee was offered to participants from CEE countries nominated by the CELIP Steering Group. The workshop raises the profile of EBLIDA and earned extra revenue.

Feedback from the workshop was positive and it is planned to run it again in Spring 2002. If national associations would like to hold the workshop in their country, in English or with interpretation, please contact the Director.

Claudine Belayche, who attended the workshop, was pleased that it gave very practical information and was an opportunity to meet interesting people from different types of institutions.

Mogens Damm remarked that this was a better way of generating revenue than having sponsors.

More information at:

<http://www.eblida.org/conferences/licensing/licensing.htm>

Possible EBLIDA copyright Directive implementation workshop, February 2002

The Director recently circulated the idea of organising a European workshop on the national implementation of the EU copyright Directive. This would report on national progress so far and would act as a discussion forum to share experiences and to pool ideas in order to obtain the best results for the library community.

The UK Library Association have kindly agreed to assist in the organisation. The location is London and the timeframe is February 2002. Interest has been expressed by a number of people and the Director will take this forward.

18. Short country reports

Mogens Damm suggested that short country reports could in future be made available on the EBLIDA website.

Teresa Hackett agreed and referred to the earlier suggestion that the *Information Europe* country report section could be transferred to the web.

In Norway, the Parliament decided in June to merge the library, archive and museum policy organisations. In addition, public and research libraries are to merge. Frode Bakken asked about other similar initiatives e.g. the new UK joint policy organisation, *Resource*.

Britt-Marie Häggström reported that the sectors are starting to work together in Sweden.

Klaus-Peter Böttger reported that plans for a new innovation centre, proposed as a substitute for the former German Library Institute (eDBI), are in difficulty and may not come to fruition.

19. Any other business

EBLIDA attendance at IFLA conferences

Klaus-Peter Böttger felt that it was important for the EBLIDA Director to attend IFLA meetings and that this should be included in the budget. This will be done from 2002.

Library campaign: @ your library

António José De Pina Falcão asked if EBLIDA has a role in the "@ your library", the campaign for the world's libraries. EBLIDA is not involved in this campaign.

More information: www.ifla.org/@yourlibrary/index.htm

Update on World Trade Organisation negotiations

Frode Bakken, who is involved in IFLA WTO activities, suggested that EBLIDA should support the IFLA WTO statement. EBLIDA has a special role and should consider lobby activities within the EU. This will be progressed by the WTO working group.

Approval sought for issuing a warning regarding a certain registration for the EBLIDA licensing workshop

Teresa Hackett explained a situation which arose from the EBLIDA licensing workshop on 28 September, where registrations were received from three persons claiming to represent the Nigerian Institute of Librarians. It seems as if EBLIDA was supplied with false

banking information and the institute cannot be traced. EBLIDA would like to issue a warning to other library associations who may be approached by the same people.

Point of information on the Bibliotheque Alexandria

Arja Riitta Haarala provided information on the inauguration of the Bibliotheque Alexandria. Marian Koren suggest that EBLIDA liase with IFLA to send good wishes.

Point of information on Digital Object Identifiers

Teresa Hackett reported on a workshop on Digital Object Identifiers at the recent WIPO ecommerce conference in Geneva. DOI is an international system for identifying and exchanging intellectual property in the digital environment. It provides a framework for managing intellectual content in any form and at any level of granularity, enabling automated copyright management for all types of media. The international DOI Foundation manages development, policy and licensing of the DOI.

Teresa suggested liasing with IFLA to monitor developments and to ensure that any library requirements are fed into the debate.

Claudine Belayche commented that DOI is one of the only ways to identify document and to control rights management.

For more information: DOI Foundation : www.doi.org

Digital Object Identifier by Frode Bakken, Information Europe, December 1997, Vol. 2(4)

Point of information on new sponsored Top Level Domains

Teresa Hackett also reported briefly on a new sponsored Top Level Domain *.museum*, one of seven new TLDs. Registration to *.museum* is restricted to museums, museum organisations and individual members of the museum profession according to the definition established by the International Council of Museums. The registry is managed by the Museum Domain Management Association (MDMA).

Teresa suggested liasing with IFLA to monitor progress and to ensure library involvement in any future related developments.

For more information: www.musedoma.org

EBLIDA letter on the re-election of National Front in some towns in the south of France

Discussed at the Executive Committee meeting in Bremen, Mogens Damm and Winnie Vitzanzky enquired about progress, as FAIFE are

waiting to take up the issue. EBLIDA drafted a letter in English which was sent to the ABF in May. This letter was adopted, with some amendments, at their conference in June. It was decided to send the letter to MEPs in September, after the summer holidays. Unfortunately, due to pressure of work at EBLIDA and the need to coordinate closely with the ABF, no action was taken in September. It was agreed to do so in October. The Executive Committee will receive a copy of the amended text in French and English.

Britt-Marie Häggström raised the matter with the Swedish Ministry of Culture and endeavoured to have it tabled at a meeting of the European ministers of culture.

In the meantime, an article was published in the magazine of the Dutch public library association (NBLC): *Franse bibliotheken in de tang van extreem-rechts*, Carinne Elion-Valter. *Bibliothekblad*, 31 August 2001, Vol. 5(17).

20. Next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Rome on 22-23 February 2002.

21. Closure

Britt-Marie Häggström thanked the Executive Committee for their lively contributions.

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