



# Minutes of twelfth EBLIDA annual Council meeting, Estoril, Portugal, 15 May 2004

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These minutes were approved by the Council in Cork, Ireland, May 2005.

## 1. Opening and announcements

EBLIDA President and Chairman, Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken (Netherlands), opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the twelfth EBLIDA Council and Estoril. He especially thanked Executive Committee member António J Pina Falcão and the Association of Portuguese Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists (BAD) for organising and hosting the EBLIDA Council in Estoril.

Two announcements were made regarding lunch and dinner. Lunch had to be paid for, however some delegates were not aware of so and EBLIDA paid for the costs. The President asked those delegates to pay an amount of € 10, 00 to EBLIDA in return for such costs. Moreover, he announced that dinner would take place at 'Visconde da Luz' instead of 'O Marégrafo' as previously announced.

There were no further announcements.

## 2. Apologies for absence

The Secretariat received apologies of absence from the following members:

Frode Bakken	Norwegian Library Association, Norway
Sue Brown	CILIP, UK
Robert Mizzi	Malta Library and Information Association, Malta
Barbara Schleihagen	BDB, German Library Association, Germany
Jakob Winding	Danish Union of Librarians, Denmark

## 3. Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved.

## 4. [Draft EBLIDA Strategy 2004-2007](#)

The President pointed out that it was decided by the Executive Committee to revise the EBLIDA Strategy every two- three years. The first draft of the Strategy, aimed at having a brief statement and clear wording, was revised in Ljubljana (Slovenia) in February this year. Sue Brown, CILIP (UK), President of the new working group on professional education and María Pía Gonzalez Pereira, EBLIDA Director, liaised to review the amended draft Strategy. The second draft, with amendments to include professionals in the Mission Statement, was approved in February and finally adopted by the Executive Committee on 13 May in Estoril.

## President's Foreword

Marc Storms, Flemish Association for Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (Belgium), referred to the second last paragraph in italics "...EBLIDA should promote and defend the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals working **for European citizens**" and suggested to change "European citizens" so as to avoid misinterpretations. J E van der Putten explained that the expression was meant to refer not only to libraries but also to users, without discrimination.

It was agreed however to replace it with "**for the people living in Europe**" to avoid any misreading.

### 1) Mission statement

With regard to the first and second paragraph, Pernille Drost, Danish Union of Librarians (Denmark), welcomed the introduction of '**professionals**' and highlighted the significance of such at a time when a new working group on professional education had been created.

Paul W J L Gerretsen, Leiden University Library (Netherlands), stressed that the Mission Statement was rather impressive and asked whether the four key points (bullets) were equally important or should they be prioritised. J E van der Putten explained that the four key points tagged along with a general approach following European developments in those areas, without prioritising. In response, Mr Gerretsen suggested that it would be wise to stress the political significance of **securing access for all** (key point 4).

It was therefore agreed to lift key point 4 to key point 1 instead.

- "Securing access for all to the benefits of the information society in all formats"

Liam Ronayne, Library Association of Ireland, said that the EBLIDA Strategy as well as the work of the organisation in general showed that there still are some unresolved issues at the heart of EBLIDA, in particular regarding the role of cultural policies and the sort of work that library associations and, on their behalf, EBLIDA have in shaping cultural policy at European level. He referred to key point 2 of the Mission Statement "**making culture and cultural diversity accessible, and securing their preservation**" to point out that when looking at EBLIDA policy issues, previous discussions at both Council and Executive Committee level, there had been some tension between people who felt that Intellectual Property Rights was really the main issue of EBLIDA and those who felt that there is a job underdone in shaping cultural policy in favour of libraries.

With regard to the second paragraph "EBLIDA should promote and defend the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals working for the European citizens by ..." Pernille Drost agreed with the importance of national responsibilities to lobbying. She underlined that supporting lobbying at national level would not be sufficient however for EBLIDA to carry out its work without national organisations lobbying at their own level and thus, suggested that a third key point (bullet) be introduced to explicitly require national organisations to cooperate and work at national level.

It was agreed to either introduce a third key point or amend key point two to take her request into account.

Marc Storms referred to the second paragraph "EBLIDA should promote and defend the interests of the library, archive and information sectors and professionals working **for European citizens**" and suggested to change "**European citizens**" so as to avoid misinterpretations.

It was agreed to replace "**for European citizens**" with "**for the people living in Europe**" as in President's Foreword.

Gerard Briand, ABF (France) agreed with Marc Storms on possible misinterpretations when reading **European citizens** but pretty much liked the expression itself, thus he suggested to keep it as it was but add up "... **and all users**". The President preferred to keep the expression

as suggested by Marc Storms to include not only users but also potential users.

Pernille Drost mentioned that the term "**user**" should be avoided since the organisation aimed at defending the right to information for all, regardless they are or not real users of the library.

## 2) Objectives

Marc Storms referred to key point 2 (bullet) of **Item 2. Objectives** (primary objectives) and noted that the **Council of Europe** (CoE) was not mentioned. He asked whether the CoE was intentionally excluded or it had been forgotten. J E van der Putten asked Finn Vester, Danish Library Association (Denmark), Executive Committee member, who said that the CoE was not seen as an European institution related to EBLIDA.

EBLIDA Director explained however that EBLIDA had worked together with the CoE in previous years, for instance, the Council of Europe/EBLIDA guidelines on library legislation and policy in Europe (October 2000) and suggested that it would be wise to include the CoE in view of covering up future developments in cultural and other related matters if arisen.

Marc Storms also referred to key point 4 of primary objectives "to serve and promote other interests of the library and information science profession, its institutions and its professional workers in Europe" to point out the omission of the archives profession. The President said that this had also been brought up by Executive member Berndt Fredriksson, Swedish Association of Archivists (Sweden) at the Executive Committee meeting held on 13 May. He explained that archives were an important issue as it could be seen in the second paragraph of **Item 2. Objectives** "to increase the influence, impact and cohesion of the library, **archive** and information sectors and professionals in Europe" and clarified that the archives sector could also be added up but had been omitted following the original text of the EBLIDA Constitution.

Berndt Fredriksson was happy but suggested to modify the Constitution to bring archives into place within the work of the organisation. Marc Storms pointed out that amendments to the Constitution should not affect the statutes of the association. Both President and Director agreed, however the President clarified that changes to the Constitution would increase the costs of the organisation, thus it would be taken into account so as to make all necessary changes to the text of the Constitution at once.

## 3) Operational elements

Liam Ronayne referred to the first paragraph of **Item 3.A Lobbying and monitoring issues** "The allocation of EBLIDA lobbying issues to one category or the other **depends very much on the current approach by the European Institutions' agendas towards those matters.** The EBLIDA Annual Work Programme reflects this classification on a yearly basis" to say that it was difficult to argue against this approach, but asked whether it was for the Commission to always set the agenda for EBLIDA or EBLIDA has any role in trying to set up its own agenda. The President explained that cultural policy had always been at the heart of discussions within the Executive Committee and Council, however EBLIDA could only 'fight where the fight was' due to lack of resources, the reason for EBLIDA to prepare its work based on EU agendas.

Liam Ronayne mentioned that although there might not be any legislation on cultural policies under preparation, there is significant EU funds in which libraries are not taken part. He pointed out that EU funds under cultural and other policies were very significant, but the library presence had been rather low, thus there was not sufficient access to such funds. He suggested having a discussion on how to increase EBLIDA budget so as to allow it to fight in these terms e.g. budget proposed for cultural policies. The President agreed to further discuss culture and cultural diversity and to revise what possibilities EBLIDA have to take further action.

Toby Bainton, SCONUL (UK), supported Liam Ronayne wishing to be an active rather than a reactive body. He regretted that EBLIDA seemed to always be responding to initiatives taken by the European Commission since this was rather frustrating. Despite absolutely sharing Liam Ronayne views, he feared that, as a matter of practice, EBLIDA could only ever be reactive. He

pointed out that the information and media industry was lobbying with resources EBLIDA could never have which explained the Commission actions. For instance, he talked about a few directives on intellectual property rights and argued that they all came out following major industry and business concerns.

The President concluded that EBLIDA in practice could only be reactive.

Tommaso Giordano, Italian Library Association, highlighted the importance of all issues being discussed so far and stressed that all these issues should be taken into account. However, he pointed out that the EBLIDA Strategy being discussed was a working paper rather than a legal document. He thus suggested focusing on the content rather than the wording as well as being less bureaucratic in both discussions and phrasing. He insisted in paying more attention to the tools and mechanisms to be used. For instance, he referred to **Item 3. B Membership** and called for EBLIDA to further focus on issues such as how membership could be increased, how new members lacking financial resources could be recruited.

The President commented on **Item 3. B Membership** to bring attention to EBLIDA efforts in increasing its full and associate membership among the sector, in particular in the new EU member states.

He expressed his satisfaction with the presence of some delegates from Hungary and Croatia.

With regard to **Item 3 E. Cooperation with other organisations**, Berndt Fredriksson suggested including the Council of Europe as a cultural organisation in key point 2 "**cultural European and international organisations**". Maria José Moura, Instituto Português do Livro e das Bibliotecas (Portugal) expressed her satisfaction and said that while the Council of Europe does not have legislative powers at EU level, it has however satisfactory knowledge in cultural and educational policies aimed at ensuring access to culture for all.

The President stressed that culture had always been at debate and mentioned that it was planned to create a new working group on culture, however this had to be further discussed when drafting the EBLIDA work programme for 2005.

The draft EBLIDA Strategy 2004-2007 was approved as amended.

## 5. **EBLIDA [Annual Activity Report 2003 – 2004](#)**

EBLIDA Director presented the activity report for the period April 2003 to April 2004. The report covers EBLIDA lobbying issues, monitoring and other policy issues, EBLIDA cooperation with other organisations, EBLIDA promotion, funding and finances.

### **EBLIDA Lobbying Issues**

The following topics are covered as separate issues on the agenda:

- EBLIDA Work Programme 2003 – 2004 (see [Item 6](#), *Appendix 1 of annual activity report*)
- EBLIDA Strategy ([Item 4](#))
- EBLIDA Working Groups (see [Item 7](#))

### Agenda, Saturday 15 May 2004

- Information on current lobbying and monitoring issues (see *Item 10*)
  - Directive on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights
  - Copyright Directive: Implementation status

- Public Lending Right: [EBLIDA Statement 2004](#)
  - Professional Qualifications (*see also* [Item 7](#))
  - [WSIS](#) (World Summit on the Information Society)
  - Euro Info Points
  - Cultural (creative) Industries
  - Monitoring issues
- Projects: [CALIMERA](#) kick-off & briefing meetings (*see* [Item 11](#))

### **[Directive on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights](#)**

The European Commission adopted in January 2003 a proposal for a *Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures and procedures to ensure the enforcement of intellectual property rights* [COM (2003)46], which affected previous European legislation on Copyright and related rights directly. [EBLIDA issued a Position Paper in August 2003](#) (Appendix 3). The [directive](#), adopted in April this year, would require all member states to apply effective, dissuasive and proportionate remedies and penalties against those engaged in counterfeiting and piracy and so create a level playing field for right holders in the EU.

#### **EU Copyright Directive: Implementation status**

The Copyright [2001/29/EC] came into force on 22 June 2001. Many EU member states however have not implemented the directive into national legislation, due by December 2002.

#### **Public Lending Rights**

The European Commission issued a report on the public lending right in the EU [COM (2002) 502 of 12 September 2002] in which the level of harmonisation and the functioning of the public lending right (PLR) in the member states was reported to be incomplete. EBLIDA submitted a statement in March 2004, drafted in cooperation with the EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group (*see Appendix 5*), in which it called on the European Commission to recognise that it is necessary to respect exemptions in those countries where they are already applied for cultural and educational reasons.

#### **Professional Qualifications**

The proposed directive on the recognition of professional qualifications aims at harmonising previous European legislation covering only the regulated professions among which the Library and Information Sector is not included. The EBLIDA Executive Committee decided to work in close cooperation with EUCLID, the European Association for Library and Information Education and Research to follow up any developments in European Professional Education issues.

The EBLIDA Executive Committee also approved in October 2003 the creation of a new Working Group on Professional Education to tackle this Directive as a priority action in 2004 and 2005.

The Council reached political agreement on the proposal on 18 May 2004. Discussions focused on the issue of cross-border provisions of services on a temporary and occasional basis, and in particular on the declaration requirements to be made in advance if the service provider moves from one member state to another.

Further information can be found at [http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal\\_market/qualifications/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/internal_market/qualifications/index_en.htm).

See [Item 7](#) of agenda.

## **WTO international trade matters and WIPO**

EBLIDA monitors the development of two major agreements negotiated under the World Trade Organization (WTO): GATS, the General Agreement on Trade in Services & TRIPS, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. Moreover, EBLIDA holds observer status within the SCCR, WIPO Standing Committee on Copyright and related rights which meets every six months in Geneva to discuss intellectual property rights at international level.

## **WSIS, World Summit on the Information Society** (see also [Item 10](#), Saturday 15 May)

Libraries have been called upon to participate in an international United Nations conference on the Information Society for the first time. National Library associations of most EU Member States have approached their national governments and included their representatives on the delegations. The second WSIS phase will take place in Tunisia in November 2005.

The IFLA WSIS team organised a meeting in Geneva in December 2003 attended by EBLIDA. EBLIDA will continue to support its members' lobbying efforts and the IFLA actions regarding the WSIS.

## **EBLIDA Cooperation with other organisations**

EBLIDA will continue cooperation with [IFLA](#), EUCLID, [ICA](#), EDiTEUR and the Frankfurt Group. Berndt Fredriksson met ICA representatives to discuss closer cooperation between both organisations.

See [Item 10](#) of agenda, Saturday 15 May.

## **EBLIDA Working Groups**

- CEG (*Appendix 8*)
- WTO (*Appendix 9*)
- PEG

EBLIDA Director provided the names of the members of the new EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education and mentioned that Pedro Hípola, EBLIDA Vice President, FESABID (Spain) was also to be included. She also thanked the EBLIDA Working Group for their work and support to EBLIDA activities.

See [Item 7](#) of agenda.

## **EBLIDA Promotion**

EBLIDA publications - [Hot News](#)

**Hot News** is the only EBLIDA publication since 2002. EBLIDA Director pointed out that the possibility of running a second survey on the move of Hot News from hardcopy to electronic version had been discussed in 2003. She invited Council members to further discuss and exchange views on the issue.

Pernille Drost asked what the arguments to keep the hardcopy version were. EBLIDA Director

explained that the hardcopy version had been requested by most members following the results of the survey taken during 2002. She stated that it was planned to carry out a follow up survey to study the opportunity of having the electronic version only.

EBLIDA President was concerned about the purpose of the publication as a tool for lobbying activities. If essential as a networking/lobbying instrument, then it would be wise to keep the hardcopy version. He concluded these concerns would be the basics for further discussion at Executive Committee level.

Pernille Drost also asked whether the possibility of switching to an electronic version was to be examined at Council or at Executive Committee level. EBLIDA President responded that the final decision would be taken at Executive Committee level but any ideas, opinions and/or comments were most welcome.

#### EBLIDA website

The content of EBLIDA website was restructured during 2003 following the work programme and strategy.

#### **EBLIDA events**

A list of events at which EBLIDA was represented during 2003 and 2004 can be found in the *Annual Activity Report 2003-2004, p. 18-20*.

#### **EBLIDA Funding and Finances**

##### Membership and sponsors

- Full Membership

38 Full members remain on board in 2004. Only the French Federation of Library Cooperation (FFCB) has requested cancellation of their membership for 2004 alleging lack of financial resources.

- Associate Membership

EBLIDA counts 122 Associate members. As stated in the Strategy, EBLIDA will focus on recruiting members from the new EU member states during 2004. María Pía González Pereira welcomed the new members.

- Sponsors

The four basic sponsors of EBLIDA remain on the membership base. The Director will seek a sponsor for the publication of the EBLIDA Annual Activity Report 2003 - 2004 in 2004. Its publication and dissemination would be a useful promotion tool.

#### **EBLIDA annual Financial Statement 2003 & Budget Estimate 2004**

- Financial Statement 2003

A Financial Statement for 2003 was produced by Bouwer & Officier in cooperation with EBLIDA Director. Due to extraordinary events taken place during 2003 e.g. Director and Assistant

recruitment, there has been a net result of € 4.813,00 loss which was deducted from the capital.

María Pía González Pereira thanked members for prompt payment.

- Draft Budget 2004

A final version of the draft budget 2004 was issued by EBLIDA Director in March to be presented to the EBLIDA Council in Estoril in May.

See [Item 8 of agenda, Saturday 15 May](#).

The EBLIDA Annual Activity Report April 2003 - April 2004 was endorsed.

## **6. [EBLIDA Work Programme 2003 - 2004](#)**

María Pía González Pereira introduced the draft programme 2003-2004 and invited members to comment. The draft programme is based on issues and topics with which EBLIDA is working and is related to the strategy review and annexed to the annual activity report.

The overall objective of the work programme is to strengthen EBLIDA's voice as representative of the interests of libraries and archives throughout Europe, with emphasis on accession countries.

EBLIDA will encourage lobby at national level and receive feedback from the national lobby activities of its members with regard to copyright and related rights [Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights, EU Copyright Directive, Digital Rights Management Systems and Technical Protection Measures, Database Directive, PLR Directive and Commission communication on Copyright & related rights], Professional Education, WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services and WIPO.

With regard to monitoring issues, EBLIDA will remain active in promoting library and archive views to the EU Institutions on lifelong learning as well as in promoting the role of libraries and archives as centres of culture and learning in the knowledge society, including European policies on cultural heritage.

EBLIDA will continue cooperation with [IFLA](#), EUCLID, [ICA](#) and the Frankfurt Group.

María Pía González Pereira mentioned [CALIMERA](#), a new project aimed at identifying a research agenda for local libraries, archives and museums in the digital environment. The project will run for 18 months, starting in December 2003. EBLIDA is a core partner in the project with an overall quality assurance role on dissemination and international and political networking (see [Item 11 of agenda, Saturday 15 May](#)).

The aim of the EBLIDA Working Groups is to provide support and expert opinion to the Secretariat in fields of knowledge relevant to the European library community. EBLIDA counts on the support of the Copyright Expert Group, the WTO Group and a new working group on professional education which will monitor the development of the proposed Directive for the recognition of professional qualifications and other professional education related issues.

For promotional purposes, EBLIDA counts on the strategy review, the monthly newsletter [Hot News](#), [EBLIDA Annual Report](#) and the [website](#) and mailing lists.

With regard to events, EBLIDA aims at organising a workshop in an accession country in parallel with an EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting as well as a workshop on GATS.

EBLIDA will work towards increasing its membership and sponsors paying particular attention to new EU member states.

The Draft Work Programme 2003-2004 was approved.

## **7. EBLIDA Working Groups**

EBLIDA President gave the floor to Toby Bainton who commented on the Copyright and WTO Groups as WTO Group Coordinator Kjell Nilsson, Royal Library - BIBSAM (Sweden) and Frode Bakken, Norwegian Library Association, WTO and Executive Committee member were not present. Toby Bainton gave two concise reports.

### ■ Copyright Expert Group (CEG)

The EBLIDA copyright has seventeen members from twelve European countries. See *Appendix 8 of the [Annual Activity Report](#), p. 39-40* for a list of the EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group.

The CEG Group meets twice a year and follows up many of the legislative proposals under preparation at EU level.

Since the EBLIDA Council in Uppsala in 2003, the CEG Group has met twice, once in Vienna in October 2003 and then in Barcelona in March 2004. Toby Bainton briefly reported on several initiatives the Group has been working on:

#### ○ The EU copyright directive

The EU copyright directive was adopted in 2001 and is now being implemented in member states. The CEG Group is keeping track on how it is being adopted at national level. Despite harmonisation, the directive is being implemented in quite different ways. Toby Bainton pointed out that it would be necessary having to do some more lobbying about the way implementation is taken place.

#### ○ Public Lending Right directive

The Public Lending Right (PLR) directive is currently having a quite significant impact in some member states which did not have PLR up until now. This is being followed up by the CEG Group.

#### ○ Database directive

The Database directive has been supposedly reviewed by the European Commission. EBLIDA has never been happy with the database directive, since it excessively controls information. EBLIDA has been lobbying for a long time. The CEG Group understands that the review of the directive has been complete; however no public results have yet been seen.

Paul W J L Gerretsen asked whether it was true that major publishers like to perceive themselves as organisations providing databases. Toby Bainton explained that a major publisher of scientific journals could insist that what it is produced for libraries to use and/or access is actually a database. He understood this is true by law.

He explained that the database directive is very broad in its definition of what a 'database' might be. If looked at carefully, almost anything is a database. He pointed out that the interesting point about this question is that publishers of scientific journals do not seem to be making a big quarrel about this just yet, however it is important because if they regard their material as databases they can have it copyrighted infinitely provided they keep updating the database because of the provisions of the database directive (a fifteen-year protecting term); if a database is reasonably updated, the fifteen-year period starts once more and every time there is a significant update, there are another fifteen years of protected material.

Paul W J L Gerretsen asked if this would be successful. Toby Bainton believed this could indeed

succeed; the only safeguard would be for the author (real creator) **not to give all the rights to the publisher.**

- o Digital Rights Management Systems

The European Commission seems to be unhappy about the different ways that copyright right holders are being remunerated in different countries when their information is being used. The Commission is also quite keen to support automated systems for managing the rights in a digital manner. The Group is not quite sure on what the Commission is planning. Some countries have very simple levies e.g. little tax on CDs, tapes to cover the costs of infringement of use of copyright material; such money goes to right holders. Some countries do not like the levy system. The Group suspects that the European Commission is not happy with these two different regimes existing across the Union and would like to harmonise, however EBLIDA needs to keep an eye on how the Commission intends to achieve harmonisation.

Some believe that a magic system is to be devised; computer systems standardised material which will provide the proper amount of money to the right people whenever anyone uses a piece of copyright material. EBLIDA does not believe this is achievable and hopes for the European Commission not to consider it too strongly.

Toby Bainton said that there had been quite a lot on the menu regarding intellectual property rights to focus on e.g. collecting societies, Zwolle initiative; some being very powerful laws, others just watching what might happen. He highlighted that it had been very interesting.

On the whole, the Group was very pleased with what EBLIDA had achieved for real bad effects of the law on the enforcement of intellectual property rights had been set aside. The IPRE directive could have been very seriously harmful for libraries because it was conceivable that e.g. university libraries with a network distribution system had a student infringing copyright material; the library would be held responsible and criminally guilty, which the Group strongly believes it is the wrong way to approaching things.

Toby Bainton concluded saying that the CEG Group was very pleased with the achieved results.

- World Trade Organisation (WTO) Working Group

The WTO group is a small group who does not meet very often (*see Appendix 9 of the [Annual Activity Report](#), p. 41* for a list of the EBLIDA WTO Group members). Toby Bainton explained what the main concerns of the group are and what the policy issue is regarding the WTO.

The WTO operates two main international agreements: GATT (agriculture) and GATS, General Agreement on Trade in Services. The latter, which deals with services rather than physical goods should be the main concern for EBLIDA for the principle of such agreement is that a service is provided as means of business. Services should thus be allowed to compete internationally on equal terms. Unfortunately, this means that library and educational services e.g. universities, public libraries may find themselves affected by GATS provided that they could compete internationally; governments might agree to do so. For instance, one private university in the UK, run by a company and without government subsidies would want the same subsidies when operating outside the UK as those with public funds.

GATS allows for either equivalent state funding for everyone in such situation or the withdrawal of state funding for institutions which already have government subsidies. This brings serious consequences for libraries and other public institutions.

The WTO Group does not think there is any imminent danger but believes it is necessary to keep a very careful watch over in case things start to get hazardous.

Toby Bainton referred to the report on the IFLA/EBLIDA talks with the WTO and the European Commission about GATS and libraries in December 2002, by Kjell Nilsson (*see Appendix 6 of the [Annual Activity Report](#), p. 35*), in particular to "We had a very open-minded conversation [...],

but the answers we received were not very clarifying. The counsellors seemed fairly uncertain about their interpretations of the treaty and they also disagreed between themselves on some of them". He pointed out that in a situation when even the international negotiators are quite uncertain about what the treaty means, EBLIDA could not be quite sure on what may lie ahead. This being the policy issue, the WTO Group hoped to organise a seminar on GATS in Cambridge in autumn, however due to lack of speakers, the seminar had been postponed.

Toby Bainton concluded that it is very important that EBLIDA does not overlook this issue.

EBLIDA President thanked Toby Bainton for his clear presentation and then referred to the new working group on professional education whose first meeting has not yet been confirmed but will take place during this year.

- EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education

The creation of the EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education was decided by the EBLIDA Executive Committee in The Hague in October 2003. The working group has currently 7 members, although it remains open to other EBLIDA members who wish to join.

See [Item 10](#) of agenda, Saturday 15 May.

EBLIDA President thanked Pedro Hípola, Antonio Pina and EBLIDA Director for organising the seminar on professional qualifications held in the morning and attended by over 230 library and archive professionals.

## **8. EBLIDA Finances: Draft Budget 2004 (Income/Expenditure) & Financial Statement 2003**

### **Financial Statement 2003**

In October 2003, the Executive Committee had been requested by its President that an Executive member gave support to deal with financial matters. In doing so, Jan Ewout van der Putten, President and Chair of the meeting, thanked EBLIDA Director for preparing the necessary documents and gave the floor to Klaus-Peter Böttger, BDB (Germany), Executive Committee member, who reported on the financial statement 2003 and the draft budget 2004.

A Financial Statement 2003 was produced by Bouwer & Officier in cooperation with the Director. K P Böttger referred to the annual activity report, p. 20-22 and the EBLIDA Strategy (Item B Membership).

He briefly explained some of the important figures. Overall, the current financial situation of EBLIDA is satisfactory despite a small loss of € 4.813,00 which has been deducted from the capital, the main reasons being the recruitment of an administrative assistant by the "Uitzendbureau" and of new Director during 2003, expenses which will not occur during 2004. Although there is no major concern, there has been a decrease in the Secretariat internal costs in opposition to a small increase in external costs.

K P Böttger explained also that there had been a mistake when estimating costs with regard to meetings in 2003. Despite income might have increased from EU projects and higher reductions than those estimated, the final amount only varies € 66, 00 on what it had originally been assessed.

He moved on to talk about membership differences; the subtle differs from the estimate in € 170, 00 which means a difference of 0, 5%, although there is some shifting between the different accounts. On the other hand, debts had also been overestimated; this means a loss of

€ 3.115, 00 due to financial problems of one French member which could not pay its fees according to Band D.

With regard to savings, EBLIDA had € 48. 235, 00 in 31 December 2003. Following the rule that a company must have enough financial means so as to be able to perform its duties during at least half a year, EBLIDA would be out of risk with such amount.

There were no comments.

The Financial Statement 2003 was approved.

### **Draft Budget 2004 (Income/Expenditure)**

Klaus-Peter Böttger pointed out that the draft budget 2004 had been discussed at Executive meeting in October 2003 to conclude that it was rather difficult to approve a budget four or five months after the year starts, however this was unavoidable if the EBLIDA working schedule was to be pursued.

He explained that the draft budget for 2004 had been calculated on the basis of final results from 2003. The Executive Committee really believed that the budget would allow for EBLIDA to successfully continue with its work.

With regard to income, he mentioned that an increase of 4% had been agreed for annual membership fees, together with an estimate of eight new associate members as well as the possibility of holding an EBLIDA workshop on GATS. Written off debts had also been taken into account. On the other hand, there was a French Full member who has requested cancellation as of January 2005, thus there will be less income from Full Membership.

With regard to expenditure, there will be no temporary employees during 2004; however there is an estimated increase of 4% for salary costs and of 2% for internal costs.

The Executive Committee had discussed the budget on 13 May and proposed to amend Item 11 Promotion as follows: other promotion is estimated on € 3.000, 00 and divided into two parts - € 1.000, 00 for membership campaign and € 2.000, 00 for other promotion. This however does not affect the total expenditure (estimated costs). He also referred to the estimated balance of € 1.478, 00 (Item 23), including projects and clarified that there were positive results of income expected from projects in 2004, therefore there was no need to touch EBLIDA savings.

Klaus-Peter Böttger expressed his reliance towards EBLIDA Director and EBLIDA Staff to pursue their duties and maintain housekeeping and financial accounts appropriately.

EBLIDA President stated that both income and expenditure were available on the website and referred to a small change on figures relating to membership campaign, already explained by K P Böttger.

As regards income, Paul W J L Gerretsen stated that there was a difference between the estimate figures given in 2003 and 2004 and asked why the approximate figures for 2004 were so precisely estimated e.g. all estimate figures for 2003 end by 0 contrary to those for 2004. EBLIDA Director explained that the figures for 2004 were based on adding up numbers and probably more accurate due to a 4% membership increase. K P Böttger added that Bouwer & Officier had advised to calculate the internal costs for 2003 with an increase of 2% for 2004; in consequence there were more accurate figures.

With regard to expenditure, Paul W J L Gerretsen referred to **Item 14 Travel and expenses** and asked whether EBLIDA President Travel expenses were taken into account. J E van der Putten explained that, in most cases, when either the President or any Executive Committee member travelled, their own organisation was able to cover the costs; this being the reason for President Travel costs to be reduced and/or removed. It would also alleviate EBLIDA costs in general. He also pointed out that this was a weakness within the organisation and further action

should be taken into consideration in view of possible members of EBLIDA Board with not as many financial resources in the future.

There were no further questions.

Jan Ewout van der Putten thanked Klaus-Peter Böttger for his report.

The Draft Budget 2004 was approved.

## 9. EBLIDA Membership

EBLIDA Director explained that the Executive Committee met on 13 May and decided that EBLIDA President and Executive Committee will contact the national associations in the new member states after enlargement on 1 May 2004 so as to begin the membership campaign to bring them on board. This is one of the main targets of EBLIDA within the next coming years.

As regards **key point (bullet) 1 "new members 2004"**, EBLIDA President stated that a letter would be drafted and sent out to all national associations in the new member states to invite them to become EBLIDA members.

He notified that the next Executive Committee meeting is to take place in Prague (Czech Republic), as part of an initiative to hold future meetings in new member states for a three-four year period. This would be a great opportunity to further develop cooperation and networking with the different associations in new member states e.g. Executive Committee meetings, workshops, etc.

EBLIDA Director welcomed the new EBLIDA members, in particular those coming from acceding countries. Complete details of new members are cited in the annual activity report, p. 20-21. EBLIDA President invited the Council to present their opinions/ideas on how to recruit new members.

Tommaso Giordano, Italian Library Association, suggested taking into consideration the possibility of applying special reduced fees when recruiting new members from acceding countries, at least during their first membership year.

It was agreed to give further consideration to his proposal.

With regard to **key point (bullet) 3 "annual raise membership fees for 2005"**, K P Böttger referred to **Item C Resources** of the *EBLIDA draft strategy 2004 – 2007*, p. 6 "The Membership fees will be increased on an annual basis [...]" to point out that EBLIDA main expenditure was personnel costs and an option to balance such costs would be to increase membership fees in accordance with the yearly Dutch inflation rate. It had been thus decided to increase the membership fee 2005 up to 2.3% which is the current inflation rate in The Netherlands.

EBLIDA President mentioned that personnel salaries would also be increased according to the CAO – a Dutch 'agreement' used to estimate staff costs working in public libraries in The Netherlands.

Regarding **key point (bullet) 4 "EBLIDA members' voting rights"**, Pernille Drost, Danish Union of Librarians, requested a clear and concise clarification on what suggestions had been made by associate members. She claimed it would be fairly interesting to hear what associate members would have liked the Council to discuss before concluding. EBLIDA President explained that EBLIDA was an association of associations, however there was a need to further debate how EBLIDA members understand membership. Pernille Drost believed that associate members should not have voting rights as this was a right given to full members, in turn representing in most cases associate members at national level. However she said that the debate should take place in order to answer their request; it was not appropriate to incorporate the issue in the agenda and then avoid the debate as this would not be satisfactory to those who requested a

response.

Jan Ewout van der Putten concluded that the issue had been explained and debated at several occasions, however no call for a change to the Constitution had arisen, hence it was rather clear that EBLIDA members did not wish for further action. Pernille Drost claimed she was happy with such conclusion as long as it had been agreed and concluded by the Council.

Liam Ronayne, Library Association of Ireland suggested that a representative of each of the full members went back to their own organisation, explained that the issue had been raised at Council and asked for their opinion on full membership. This would mean a delay but he agreed that full members should have the voting rights and associate members some benefits in terms of being well ahead on European developments. He did not believe that associate members could expect having voting rights in an organisation of the nature of EBLIDA but suggested it might be an idea to get back to full members and have it discussed at national level first, then bring it back to Council for further debate.

Jan Ewout van der Putten concluded that the issue will not be brought back into debate until associate members had presented some suggestions on what their needs are. It was not planned to change members' voting rights in the Constitution, therefore further action could only take place once associate members had presented their views.

María Pía González Pereira explained that those associate members concerned had requested the Council not to change the Constitution regarding voting rights, but to consider the possibility for individual institutions and/or organisations with significant financial means to become EBLIDA full members. According to the EBLIDA Constitution, only national associations are entitled to become full members; this would give them voting rights as full members.

There were no further comments.

## **10. Information on current lobbying & monitoring issues**

### **Lobbying issues**

#### Directive on the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights

On 30 January 2003, the European Commission presented a proposal for a directive on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights [[COM \(2003\)0046](#)] aimed at effectively combating counterfeiting and piracy. EBLIDA issued a [position paper](#) in August 2003. The [Directive](#) on the enforcement of intellectual and industrial property rights e.g. copyright and related rights, designs, patents and trademarks was adopted in April 2004.

The EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group (CEG) worked in close cooperation with the Director and contributed to the lobby actions at national level. EBLIDA achieved the targets aimed for in a broad way.

#### Professional Qualifications

The creation of the EBLIDA Working Group on Professional Education was decided by the EBLIDA Executive Committee in The Hague in October 2003. The current members of the working group are Sue Brown, Chair, CILIP (UK), Britt-Marie Häggström, DIK (Sweden), Pedro Hípola, FESABID (Spain), Tove Pemmer Saetre, Bergen University College (Norway), Eloy Rodrigues, BAD (Portugal), Kristina Virtanen, Helsinki City Library (Finland) and María Pía González Pereira, Director EBLIDA.

EBLIDA held a [seminar on Libraries, Archives and Information sectors facing the European Higher Education Area](#) on 14 May. On 18 May, the Council reached political agreement by qualified majority (with Germany and Greece voting against) on the proposal for a Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications. Once formally adopted, the text will be submitted

to the European Parliament for second reading. Click [here](#) for further information on professional qualifications.

#### Copyright Directive: Implementation status

The Directive on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the Information Society was adopted in May 2001. Member States agreed to implement before 22 December 2002. Greece and Denmark met the December 2002 implementation deadline. Italy and Austria implemented the Directive in April and June 2003 respectively. In July 2003, the Commission sent reasoned opinions to Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Finland, Sweden and the UK which are still in the course of implementation. Click [here](#) for further information on copyright.

#### Public Lending Right: [EBLIDA Statement 2004](#)

After the European Commission opened in January infringement procedures against six member states over public lending rights and commercial rental rights, EBLIDA issued a statement in March 2004, drafted in cooperation with the EBLIDA Copyright Expert Group, in which it called for exemptions to be respected in those countries where they are already applied to cultural and educational reasons.

María Pía González Pereira invited those who were interested in having further information on these issues to contact the EBLIDA Secretariat.

#### [WSIS \(World Summit on the Information Society\)](#)

Winnie Vitzansky, Danish Library Association, briefed the Council on WSIS, the World Summit on the Information Society and highlighted that 2003 had been a very important year for global lobbying for libraries and their role in the Information Society (IS). She explained that IFLA together with national library associations had for the first time joined forces and managed to make an impact on WSIS, a UN initiative, in cooperation with ITU (International Telecommunications Union). The main goal of WSIS is to transform the information age into an information society by bridging the growing gap between rich and poor.

The Geneva Summit 2003 is to be followed in Tunis in November 2005. A Geneva declaration and action plan will be further developed before final adoption in Tunis. IFLA and national associations made a formal statement to reflect the importance of libraries, archives and museums in the global knowledge society. A number of national/international initiatives are taking place (see [IFLA](#)).

Winnie Vitzansky briefly commented on the main lessons learnt during the lobbying process:

- IFLA and national library associations need to bring together any ongoing actions to allow for lobbying actions be carried out globally;
- It is necessary to persuade national representatives and policy-makers to pay more attention to the role of libraries and libraries' needs;
- There is a need, both at national and international level, to share common values and interests, exchange views and best practice and work closely in partnerships. Winnie Vitzansky mentioned alliances created in Denmark amongst e.g. United Nations, Danish Institute for Human Rights and several players working with third countries;
- A combined global lobbying campaign should be set up as soon as possible.

For WSIS, libraries started to campaign rather late. The IFLA final statement came to life once the EU had already finalised its position paper on WSIS, which made the national lobbying actions a rather difficult process. The 2005 Summit is under preparation. As part of its lobbying

actions, IFLA is expected to draw up more statements during the summer. Winnie Vitzansky urged all national library associations to find out who will be the negotiators, make contact with them, and try to cooperate in view of approaching their governments once an IFLA statement was finalised and available. She also urged EBLIDA to follow up similar actions on behalf of its members at EU level.

Referring to the words of Ms Kay Raseroka, IFLA President Winnie Vitzansky believed that it is an issue worth fighting for to guarantee that people across the globe have the information they need for life, prosperity and freedom.

Grethe Rostbøll, Danish Library Association asked if the Civil Society Declaration had also been signed by IFLA and whether there had been any reactions to it. Winnie Vitzansky explained that although it had been signed, it has not yet been debated. Marian Koren, Vereniging van Openbare Bibliotheken, The Netherlands and member of the IFLA Governing Board said that a follow-up document had been drawn up including the Civil Society Declaration, what has been done so far and the next steps e.g. some key action points to be followed up. This document will be further discussed by the IFLA Governing Board in August this year.

Winnie Vitzansky said that once debate has taken place, IFLA was expected to approach national library associations and ask them to react. Marian Koren noted that the working papers should be prepared in good time; however some delay in drafting papers may occur due to some recent changes at the IFLA MLA Section and Secretariat.

Jan Ewout van der Putten asked Council members to raise the issue at their associations and to take this information into account for institutions to keep as updated as possible.

#### Cultural Industries

Britt M Häggström, DIK, Sweden briefed the Council on cultural industries. She explained that what it started as cultural industries and then creative industries had already been discussed at Council meeting in Uppsala in 2003 (*see Item 2 cultural heritage and culture 2006, 10 May 2003*).

On 9 April 2003, Commissioner Viviane Reding wrote to the President of the European Social Committee (ESC) to request that an exploratory opinion be drawn up on Europe's creative industries. The ESC set up a working group in autumn 2003 and Britt M Häggström, EBLIDA former President and Executive member was invited to become a member. She explained the working group consisted of diverse players who talked about culture. Despite many differences and opinions, the group agreed on some conclusions:

Creative industries do not aim at creating a common European cultural policy but at trying to use European culture and make the most of European cultural diversity. Culture and cultural industries contribute to economic and social growth, while cultural diversity is a forceful power for the EU. Europe's cultural industries are important for wealth and employment creation. Also stressed was the issue of access for all to culture and cultural heritage.

The Culture Parliamentary Committee adopted the own-initiative report by Myrsini Zorba on cultural industries in July 2003; the report names the various cultural industries including museums and libraries. In turn, The ESC adopted on 28 January 2004 a key exploratory opinion on Europe's cultural industries, deploring the weakness of the budgetary provision for actions that support culture and, by extension, the creative industries. In its opinion, the ESC focuses on specific issues which together are considered to be of particular relevance for future Community action. Britt M Häggström was very satisfied with the report drafted by the ESC Rapporteur, M Rodriguez Garcia-Caro (Spain) which presents a very good view on creative industries as well as on access to culture providers. The ESC opinion brings in libraries and museums as cultural institutions.

Britt-Marie Häggström pointed out that if any follow-up document after this report is drawn up, it will bring an opportunity for EBLIDA to create a new working group on culture so as to follow up any developments once the new Commission and Parliament begin their duties after European

elections.

Although the report is 'on hold' at the moment, it is an opportunity for libraries, archives and museums to get financial means as cultural institutions who play an important role as culture providers.

She passed on a non-paper to Council delegates and asked them to keep an eye on any further developments at national level as well as trying to influence their European representatives to make sure culture and cultural institutions were taken into account when developing cultural policies and funding.

There were no comments.

### **Monitoring issues**

#### Euro Info Points

Marian Koren briefed the Council on Euro Info Points; one of the different EU means to inform the general public about EU activities. She explained that Info Point Europe signed in 2003 a contract with the European Commission and received € 20.000 as well as access to training, databases, resources and exchange of best practice. The Commission however found out that the legal framework to provide for such funding was no longer sufficient. A contract cannot last more than three years. It was thus decided that such funding would no longer be available as of 2004. Some EBLIDA members were alerted and EBLIDA took action and sent out a letter to the European Commission (*see Annex 7 of [annual activity report](#)*).

A new communication was issued by the Commission on 20 April 2004 which addresses the new situation after enlargement; it also presents an evaluation of current networks e.g. Carrefour. The new proposal presents two ways of organising Info Points: a new network for EU member states and central governments to be responsible in new acceding countries.

Info Points have representatives in every member state, resources in their own languages; however they offer rather spontaneous information.

Marian Koren urged EBLIDA to express concern and repeat what it was already explained in the letter to the European Commission that "existing library networks should be used and included as information centres" as potential partners. She invited EBLIDA members to think about any options and make efforts to bring Info Points into the library. She mentioned that EU information centres already exist in certain new member states and proposed that national library associations in new member states as well as EBLIDA send out a letter to highlight these issues.

It was agreed to take further action and send out a letter supporting libraries as providers 'carriers'.

There were no comments.

#### Espaco Memória dos Exílios

EBLIDA President gave the floor to A Pina Falcão, BAD, Portugal who thanked the municipality of Cascais for holding the EBLIDA meeting at Espaco Memória dos Exílios, a library dedicated to the memory of exiles who came to this region during the civil war in Spain and the World War II; many people from different countries and social conditions.

He talked about a famous Portuguese diplomat, Aristides Sousa Mendes (1885-1954), a hero for many who fought against his own government for the Jews situation in the years previous to World War II. Salazar (the Portuguese fascist dictator) gave Sousa Mendes the consulate of Bordeaux in France. Salazar managed to maintain Portugal's neutrality in the war, but his own personal opinions favoured Hitler. The library, which holds a collection of around 1,000 books, is dedicated to those who exiled.

Library staff distributed catalogues of the library (English version) for Council delegates.

#### International Council on Archives

Berndt Fredriksson, Swedish Association of Archivists took the floor to inform the Council on ICA, the International Council on Archives.

Berndt Fredriksson highlighted that for the purpose of EBLIDA to broaden and deepen its cooperation with archives, it is essential to have closer relationship with [ICA](#). He noted however that ICA has not been so reluctant concerning EBLIDA in the last years. He talked about his predecessor in EBLIDA Executive Committee, former Director of the Swedish National Archives and reminded EBLIDA on how important it was for ICA to develop close cooperation with EBLIDA.

ICA is strongly dominated by archive institutions, especially national archives. Berndt Fredriksson believed that interaction would be better developed if directed in particular to SPA, the ICA Section of Records Management and Archival Professional Associations which aims at promoting cooperation between professional archival associations and cooperative activities within professional communities. He arranged a meeting with this section which was held in Paris in March 2004. During the meeting, cooperation with EBLIDA was discussed for over three hours; three major points were at debate:

- Lobbying for the public and/or third parties requires strong cooperation between libraries and archive, but with consciousness as it is feared that librarians take over the role of archivists.
- There is a strong desire to formulate standards for qualifications and professional education. On this regard, Berndt Fredriksson mentioned that a lot was happening since there are many different standards in different countries and regretted that the seminar held on Friday morning on professional qualifications did not fully take archivists into consideration.
- Rules of disposal (destroying information, personal data) were the demanding task. He referred to the European Data Protection directive, which calls for personal data to be destroyed as soon as possible resulting fatal to significant research on individual cases. It happens also in third countries. Despite being currently reviewed, disposal of sensitive data, should seriously be taken into account and followed up.

Berndt Fredriksson believed that work based on concrete issues of common interest will make cooperation a success. Further debate on what issues EBLIDA should concentrate on will take place at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Berndt Fredriksson stated that the SPA Section is to be re-elected during an [international congress on archives](#) to be held in Vienna (Austria) in August. Berndt Fredriksson has been invited to become a member of the section and nominated by his association; results however will not be announced until August.

Britt-Marie Häggström asked whether it was sufficient to be nominated by his organisation or it would be necessary for other organisations to support his nomination. Berndt Fredriksson explained that the rules are that members of SPA must be members of ICA in accordance with Article 3 of the ICA Constitution. Member associations may nominate candidates for election to the Steering Committee and take part in their election. He would confirm whether support from other organisations would be required and notify EBLIDA for further support if necessary.

There were no further comments.

#### **11. Projects: [CALIMERA](#) kick-off & briefing meetings**

EBLIDA Director had been requested by some members to provide further details on CALIMERA, Cultural Applications: Local Institutions Mediating Electronic resources Access (see [annual activity report](#), p. 16-17). CALIMERA is a European Commission funded Coordinating Action, submitted under the '*Technology-enhanced learning and access to cultural heritage*' call, which started in December 2003.

CALIMERA aims at identifying a research agenda for local cultural institutions (libraries, archives and museums). The European Commission is very concerned about cooperation among cultural institutions. These institutions are facing research and technological needs when providing services to their citizens.

EBLIDA is part of the CALIMERA Management Board and leads work package 4 which concentrates on dissemination, networking and training. So far one kick-off meeting has taken place in Lisbon in December 2003; a second meeting for all partners and country coordinators (briefing) was held in Brussels in January this year. EBLIDA is also responsible for issuing the CALIMERA newsletter which will be published every three months to disseminate project information.

Disa Svenskberg, Finnish-Swedish Library Association asked if the newsletter would be available on the website. EBLIDA Director said that the newsletter will be available on the website but also disseminated via email to the CALIMERA mailing list.

With regard to finances, EBLIDA has a budget of € 26,408. An advanced payment of € 10,000 was received in May. EBLIDA negotiated with the European Commission to receive advanced payments and present cost claims every six months as to avoid cash flows.

María Pía González Pereira invited members to contact the EBLIDA Secretariat for further information or check out the CALIMERA website.

There were no further comments.

## **12. Approval of Minutes Council meeting Uppsala, May 2003**

The minutes were approved.

## **13. Items arising from Minutes Executive Committee meetings**

- Executive Committee meeting in [The Hague](#), Netherlands, 24 – 25 October 2003

There were no comments.

- Executive Committee meeting in [Ljubljana](#), Slovenia, 27 – 28 February 2004

There were no comments.

The minutes were approved.

## **14. Any other business**

Marc Storms, VVBAD (Belgium) suggested to take European elections as an opportunity to present challenges faced by libraries to representatives at national level and asked EBLIDA to develop a common procedure to be followed up by all national associations when making contact with new elected Parliament; a concerted action e.g. working paper aimed at highlighting the main topics and issues at European level which might affect the information

sector would be advantageous.

EBLIDA President suggested that a working paper should be adopted on time before European elections. He also congratulated the Flemish Community of Belgium for its successful lobbying at national level and wished for the same working procedures at EBLIDA level.

Paul W J L Gerretsen, Leiden University Library (Netherlands) mentioned the Leiden Declaration, the outcome of a workshop attended by the Royal Library and the universities of Amsterdam, Leiden and Oxford amongst others. The Leiden Declaration aims at highlighting the important role of libraries in giving access to the academic cultural heritage for educational purposes. He said the Declaration will be forwarded to EBLIDA once it has been finalised and called for EBLIDA members to support it. EBLIDA President responded that the Leiden Declaration would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting, if finalised.

Marian Koren referred back to the Council meeting in Uppsala in 2003 to insist that national associations as well as EBLIDA as a whole should be more proactive when it comes to Presidencies and Commission work programmes. She believed EBLIDA should try to include library-related issues of interest into the EU work programmes as well as informing EBLIDA members about learning outcomes and follow-up actions so such issues can be put forward onto the next Presidency. She considered that EBLIDA had missed this opportunity in the past and had not taken into account when drafting the strategy and work programme. She called for the Executive Committee to include it in its next agenda for further debate.

Jan Ewout van der Putten asked Marian Koren to bring the issue before the Executive Committee in view of preparing the work programme 2005; he insisted however that this would be better approached at national level and pointed out that EBLIDA lobby cannot succeed if lobbying actions at national level are not further developed.

Tommaso Giordano, AIB (Italy) mentioned that further cooperation with IFLA would be beneficial at a time when IFLA Secretary General had shown interest in meeting with EBLIDA Director for dialogue. He also said that more effort should be put into working with other related organisations as to try developing initiatives of common interest to the information sector as well as further involving such organisations into EBLIDA work. He suggested organising a seminar on a specific subject to involve such players; this could be held in parallel with the EBLIDA Council meeting as an opportunity to create synergies and alliances. EBLIDA President welcomed his proposal.

Saara Ihamäki, Finnish Library Association spoke, on behalf of her association and President, about the new Constitutional Treaty for Europe. She mentioned that some NGOs, including the Finnish Library Association, had drafted a position paper to call on the Council to amend some articles; the main concern being that cultural services should be voted under unanimity rather than QMV (Qualified Majority Voting). She invited interested members to contact the Finnish Library Association for further details.

EBLIDA President explained that the Finnish Library Association had warned EBLIDA about certain articles of the draft EU Treaty which could harm the future of library-related services. The issue had been discussed by the Executive Committee who forwarded to the WTO Group to follow up. He also said that some national associations in Scandinavian countries were taken actions and invited the Council to contact the EBLIDA Secretariat for further information. He stated that if more members were interested, the issue could be taken up and followed via the EBLIDA website; he regretted however that discussion could not take place at Council due to lack of information (the position paper was not available) but was happy to report back on the issue.

EU leaders reached agreement on the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe at the European Council in Brussels on 17 and 18 June 2004.

Britt-Marie Häggström asked Toby Bainton, SCONUL (UK) whether it was possible for the WTO Group to look into the connection between constitutional matters and professional qualifications and GATS as to have a clear distinction among these issues. Toby Bainton welcomed the question and said that it would be further investigated. EBLIDA President said that EBLIDA members would be further informed once the WTO Group had concluded its analysis.

## 15. Next Council meeting

Jan Ewout van der Putten invited Council members to bring in any ideas and/or suggestions to be considered in view of preparing the next Council meeting.

Pernille Drost expressed her satisfaction as a Council delegate for the first time but suggested to allow for more involvement in the way that delegates were given not only the agenda but also a clear picture of what is to be discussed and the reason for such discussion to be held e.g. membership voting rights. She proposed to hold the meeting in two different parts: one day to introduce the items of agenda and discussion and a second day to allow for conclusions and final decisions to be agreed upon. This would ease the process of having to conclude on an item without the possibility as a whole of understanding the issue at debate. She believed there was no time to either understand the issues on the agenda or further discuss/exchange views on them.

Françoise Danset, ADBDP (France) agreed with Pernille Drost and claimed that, although all papers distributed prior to the meetings were nicely prepared and presented, there was not enough time to understand, to debate and conclude on the items of agenda, especially for new participants. She suggested having more concise information on those topics of particular interest but rather complex to be argued in order to have a clear vision on what is to be achieved at debate. Saara Ihamäki also agreed and suggested to use concrete examples to make the item easier to identify and understand.

Winnie Vitzansky also agreed and asked the Executive Committee to consider how these meetings can be used to interact, exchange information and best practice so as to have a better view of what has to be followed up and what has to be achieved. What has been done is already described in the annual activity report; thus the meetings should rather focus on follow-up actions; she believed that increasing awareness and cooperation were perfect tools to develop follow-up plans that would guarantee fine results.

Thordis Thórarinsdóttir, Icelandic Library and Information Science Association suggested creating small round tables/working parties for specific areas under discussion during Council meetings to bring participants to interact, better understand the subject and work closely together; final outcomes could then be presented as a whole.

Jan Ewout van der Putten and María Pía González Pereira very much welcomed these comments and thanked the Council for its participation. Comments will be very useful in view of preparing future meetings.

EBLIDA President gave the floor to Liam Ronayne, Library Association of Ireland, who invited EBLIDA, on behalf of his organisation, to hold the thirteenth Council meeting in Cork, European Capital of Culture in 2005, with the University of Cork as a possible location. This would be the second time that the Library Association of Ireland hosts the EBLIDA Council.

The next Council meeting will be held on 13 and 14 May 2005. On behalf of his association and staff, Liam Ronayne said they would be delighted to cooperate and make possible whatever the Executive and/or Council aims to achieve at the meeting. He concluded looking forward to welcoming members to Ireland.

## 16. Closure

EBLIDA President thanked the Municipality of Cascais, BAD and Antonio Pina Falcão for hosting the meeting and organising the social events. He also thanked delegates for their participation and warmly welcomed their comments on how to bring more active cooperation into place. Speakers at the seminar held on Friday morning were also thanked.

Klaus-Peter Böttger thanked the EBLIDA Secretariat and EBLIDA Director in particular for arranging the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 13h00.



## ANNEX II

### List of Participants

NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
Gerald Leitner	BVÖ, Austrian Library Association	Austria
Christa Mueller	Austrian Association of Librarians	Austria
Marc Storms	VVBAD, Flemish Association for Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres	Belgium
Claude Janssens	La Médiathèque de la Communauté Française	Belgium
Aleksandra Horvat	Croatian Library Association	Croatia
Hanne Pedersen	HK/STAT Denmark	Denmark
C Rasmussen	HK Kommunal	Denmark
Jens Lethan	HK/STAT Denmark	Denmark
Grethe Rostbøll	Danish Library Association	Denmark
M Skovgaard	HK Kommunal	Denmark
Finn Vester	Danish Library Association	Denmark
W Vitzansky	Danish Library Association	Denmark
J Vestergaard	HK/STAT Denmark	Denmark
Pernille Drost	Bibliotekarforbundet (Danish Union of Librarians)	Denmark
Saara Ihamäki	Finnish Library Association	Finland
R Metsakoivu	Finnish Association for Information Professionals	Finland
Tuula Ruhanen	Finnish Research Library Association	Finland
Disa Svenskberg	Finnish-Swedish Library Association	Finland
Hervé Colinmaire	ADBU	France
Gérard Briand	ABF, French Association of Librarians	France
Françoise Danset	ADBBDP, Association of Directors of Regional Libraries	France
K Peter Böttger	BDB, Organisation of German Library Associations	Germany
Ilona Fonyo	Budapest University of Technology & Economics	Hungary
Livia Vasas	Association of Hungarian Librarians	Hungary
T Thórarinsdóttir	Information, Icelandic Library and Information Science Association	Iceland
Liam Ronayne	Library Association of Ireland	Ireland
T Giordano	AIB, Italian Library Association	Italy
Paul W Gerretsen	University Library Leiden	Netherlands
MP González Pereira	EBLIDA	Netherlands
Marian Koren	VOB, Netherlands Public Library Association	Netherlands
Carmen Morlon	EBLIDA	Netherlands
J E van der Putten	VOB, Netherlands Public Library Association	Netherlands
Madeleine Vrielink	EBLIDA	Netherlands
Ragnar Audunson	EUCLID	Norway
Maria José Moura	IPLB, Instituto Português do Livro e das Bibliotecas	Portugal

António J Pina Falcão	BAD, Association of Portuguese Librarians, Archivists and Documentalists	Portugal
Jorge M Resende	Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian- Biblioteca de Arte	Portugal
Asumpció Estivill	Barcelona University	Spain
Pedro Hípola	FESABID	Spain
ML Martínez Conde	Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport	Spain
Olga Saiz	FESABID	Spain
Berndt Fredriksson	Swedish Association of Archivists	Sweden
Britt M Häggström	DIK	Sweden
Toby Bainton	SCONUL	UK



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