



# Minutes of tenth EBLIDA annual Council meeting, 3 May 2002, The Hague

## 1. Opening and announcements

The President and Chairperson of the meeting, Britt Marie Häggström, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the tenth anniversary Council, especially members from Romania and the Slovak Republic. Britt Marie Häggström extended good wishes to EBLIDA on its tenth anniversary and particularly to everyone who had participated in the work of the organisation over these ten years. Delegates were invited to actively participate in the discussions.

The work carried out by Mr Florin Rotaru in introducing a new library law in Romania was highlighted and the Council offered their congratulations. The Council were invited to consult the new Portuguese Code of Ethics, received by the Executive Committee the previous day, as an example of good practice.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten, Executive Committee (The Netherlands) welcomed the delegates to The Hague, the home of EBLIDA, for this special tenth anniversary Council meeting and wished everyone success.

Teresa Hackett, Director, also welcomed everyone to The Hague and provided some practical information on the location and other organisational aspects of the meeting. She thanked Marian Koren and Iwan Schultz from FOBID, the Federation of Dutch Library, Information and Documentation Associations, for their assistance.

There were no further announcements.

## 2. Apologies for absence

The secretariat received apologies of absence from the following members:

Christina Fleming, Finnish-Swedish Library Association, Finland  
Kari Gjestebj, National Library, Norway  
Barbara Lison, remen City Library, Germany  
Birgitta Modigh, Statens Kulturråd, Stockholm, Sweden  
Kolding Nielsen, Royal Library, Denmark  
Rachel Roberts, British Council, UK  
Elsebeth Tank, Danish National Library for the Blind, Denmark  
Jacob Winding, Union of Danish Librarians  
Alicia Wise, Joint Information Systems Committee, UK

## 3. Approval of agenda

Jesper Laursen (Denmark) referred to item 9 Financial report 2001 & budget 2002 and asked whether it would be more sensible in future to approve the budget for the coming year i.e. 2003. The Director said that this issue had been discussed at the Executive Committee meeting the previous day, see Item 9 of the agenda for a report.

The agenda was approved.

## 4. Approval of minutes Council meeting Bremen, 11 May 2001

Item 5 Items arising from the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on

Executive Committee meeting 29-30 September 2000, Dublin  
Thórdís T Thórarinsdóttir, Information - the Icelandic Library and Information Science Association said that Iceland has a population 280,000.

#### Item 9 UNESCO initiatives in lifelong learning

Maria José Moura, Instituto Português do Livro e das Bibliotecas (Portugal) asked, with reference to the EU Memorandum on Lifelong Learning for "association" to be replaced by "institute".

The minutes were approved as amended.

#### **5. Council approval sought for publishing Council meeting minutes on EBLIDA website**

Teresa Hackett invited the Council to approve publication of the minutes of Council meetings on the EBLIDA website. Britt Marie Häggström asked the Council if individual approval was also required to put participants on the website. No individual approval was required.

Council approval was given for publishing Council minutes on the EBLIDA website.

#### **6. Items arising from the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on**

Executive Committee meeting on 28 September 2001, The Hague

#### Item 5 EBLIDA magazine *Information Europe*

Toby Bainton (UK) asked for a summary on the decisions made with regard to the magazine *Information Europe*.

Teresa Hackett briefed the Council on the decision taken by the Executive Committee at their meetings in September 2001 and February 2002. The issue had also been discussed at Council meetings Madrid 2000 and Bremen 2001.

The contract with the publisher was ending in January 2002. The magazine earned no revenue either for EBLIDA nor the publisher so a decision on the future had to be taken. A financial package was offered by the advertising company and this was subject to detailed scrutiny in September 2001. The proposed plan included ownership of the magazine title being transferred to the advertising company and an undertaking from the national library associations to distribute the magazine within their own countries. There was a strong feeling that loss of ownership could mean loss of control over the content. The second concern was that national distribution would impose a burden on associations in terms of finance and personnel.

Therefore, it was decided not to pursue the offer. The last issue was winter 2001, Vol. 6(4), published in January 2002. Members and subscribers were informed accordingly. There has been no formal reaction from members or subscribers. As a result, a review of all EBLIDA information products has been undertaken (see Item [10](#) of the agenda). Some sections of *Information Europe* e.g. MEP profiles, could be transferred to the website.

Mogens Damm, Vice President, pointed out that it was a sensible decision and said that discussion should now focus on how the magazine would be replaced.

Britt Marie Häggström remarked that the idea of giving away ownership of the magazine was the crux of the final decision.

Toby Bainton thanked Teresa Hackett for her summary and pointed out that he did not question the decision.

Executive Committee meeting on 22-23 February 2002, Rome

#### Item 23 Update on Greek Library Association membership

The Director explained the decision that had been taken to suspend (full) membership of the Greek Library Association following their inability to pay membership fees since 1999.

Britt Marie Häggström asked the Council to support the GLA in whatever ways they can and hoped to re-instate their membership when their economic situation improves.

Liam Ronayne (Ireland) asked which European countries had no membership in EBLIDA. Teresa Hackett responded that EBLIDA has members (full or associate) from each EU member state. The only countries without full members are Greece and Luxembourg.

#### Item 28 EBLIDA constitution – 1997 amendment (*Jan-Ewout van der Putten*)

See Item [7](#) of agenda.

### **7. Proposal for a technical amendment to the EBLIDA constitution**

The Executive discussed the 1997 annex to the constitution at their meeting in Rome 22-23 February 2002. In order to bring this into force, the amendment must be translated into Dutch (the original and official language of the constitution) and authorised by a Dutch notary.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten explained that for the annex to come into force as intended by the Council, a technical amendment is required. The wording of the annex (in English) has created a confusion between full members of EBLIDA, the associations, and the persons representing the associations.

The amendment refers to two issues. The first is the permanent eligibility of full members (associations) to remain on the Executive, thereby enabling associations to stand for re-election more than once consecutively. The length of time they may remain on the Executive Committee is entirely decided upon by the Council. The second issue is to clarify that members of the Executive Committee are not persons but associations.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten and the Director consulted a notary in April 2002 to agree on the changes in the Dutch text. The English translation has been re-worded in line with the previous amendment (Council, Lisbon 1997).

There were no comments from the Council.

Council approval was given to the technical amendment to the EBLIDA Constitution.

The Director and Jan-Ewout van der Putten will have the agreed amendment authorised by the notary and will issue the revised text in due course.

### **8. EBLIDA activity report May 2001 – April 2002**

The Director presented the activity report for the period May 2001 to April 2002. The report covers issues and topics from the past year, EU policy initiatives and programmes which affect libraries and cultural institutions, EBLIDA projects and promotion, EBLIDA working groups, funding and finances. The activity report will be available on the EBLIDA website and will be published in printed format, with the support of sponsorship received for the Council meeting.

#### **Issues and topics**

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

- the role of culture in EU enlargement (Item [13](#))
- libraries and lifelong learning (Item [14](#))
- cultural services in world trade (Item [15](#))

- copyright & related rights (Item [16](#))

## **EU Information Society Directives - EU copyright Directive**

Teresa Hackett briefed members on the EU copyright Directive, which came into force on 22 June 2001 and should be implemented into national law by 22 December 2002. The lobby has therefore passed to member states and representatives of the national library associations. EBLIDA has coordinated information from the Copyright Expert Group on progress in each country and is monitoring progress across Europe.

See also Item [16](#) of agenda.

The Director noted that 2002 is a landmark year for international copyright. The international copyright treaties require ratification by thirty countries in order to enter into force. In December 2001, Gabon became the thirtieth country to ratify the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and in February 2002, Honduras ratified the WIPO Phonograms and Performance Treaty (WPPT). Thus the first of the so-called Internet treaties, the WCT, entered into force in March 2002 and the WPPT in May 2002. With the EU copyright Directive, the fifteen EU member states will automatically sign up to these treaties as well.

## **VAT on electronic information**

In June 2000 the European Commission presented a proposal to amend the sixth VAT directive on the applicable VAT rates for certain services delivered by electronic means, as well as subscription-based and pay-per-view radio and television broadcasting. The Commission aims to modernise existing VAT rules to accommodate the new electronic business environment and to create a level playing field for the taxation of e-commerce transactions between EU and non-EU suppliers.

In general, VAT on printed material is currently charged at the lower goods rate and on electronic information at the higher service rate. EBLIDA opposes plans that include different VAT rates for the same information in print and electronic formats. EBLIDA, together with the Frankfurt Group, would like to see the lowest equal rate for information regardless of format, a level and fair playing field between EU and non-EU suppliers and clear and consistent EU guidelines.

The problem is that it is difficult to define the "electronic equivalent" e.g. an online newspaper or encyclopaedia can be very different to the print versions. The issues are should we lobby for reduced VAT on certain types of material e.g. academic and scientific information or for a reduced rate for all online content?

In response to a question from Britt Marie Häggström, the Director named the members of the Frankfurt Group as follows:

- Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers ([ALPSP](#))
- Association of Subscription Agents and Intermediaries ([ASA](#))
- European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations ([EBLIDA](#))
- Institut de l'Information Scientifique et Technique ([INIST](#))
- International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers ([STM](#))
- League of European research libraries ([LIBER](#))

See Appendix 1 and 2 of the annual activity report for Frankfurt Group press releases.

## **Freedom of Expression - defending public libraries in France against the extreme right**

At the Council meeting in Bremen 2001, approval was given to write to the European Parliament and the Commission, Council of Europe and other interested organisations on the situation of public libraries in some towns in the south of France governed by the extreme right. A letter was duly sent in October 2001 and also submitted to the European Parliament Committee on Petitions. The Committee notified EBLIDA in February 2002 that it had begun an examination of the matter. In addition, the French Permanent Representation to the European Union has been requested to follow

up the issue with local authorities and report back to the Committee. If the Committee does not receive a satisfactory response, the item will be discussed at their next meeting. EBLIDA could be called to the meeting along with the Commission and other parties. If the matter is still not resolved, a public hearing may be arranged.

The Director said that it is very important to be well prepared to defend the case if and when the situation arises. This includes close liaison with French colleagues and other allies. A [press release](#) was issued in March 2002 and a list of MEPs on the Committee on Petitions is attached as Appendix 5 to the annual activity report.

The Council agreed with a suggestion from the President to issue a statement supporting the European Parliament investigation.

### **Public Sector Information in Europe**

Erkki Liikanen, Information Society Commissioner, has said that the public sector is the biggest holder and producer of content in Europe, with huge potential in the re-use of PSI for added value services. In October 2001, the European Commission issued a Communication on the exploitation of public sector information (PSI), a follow-up to the 1998 Green Paper. The definition of public sector information appears to be very wide and could include information produced by any publicly funded institution e.g. archives, libraries and museums. The main issues are continued access to information and keeping public sector information in the public domain.

The Communication was briefly discussed at the EBLIDA copyright group in January 2002 and it was agreed that the copyright group would follow up the issue.

### **EBLIDA working groups**

#### Copyright Expert Group (CEG)

The EBLIDA copyright expert group currently has nineteen members from thirteen European countries. Two new members from Central and Eastern Europe joined as observers. These are Martin Bohecek, Associate Professor at the law department at Prague University of Economics, Czech Republic and Emilija Banionyte, Director of Vilnius Pedagogical University Library, Lithuania both members of the CELIP Steering Group. In January 2003, Sandy Norman (UK) and Helmut Rösner (Germany) will retire, replacement members are being recruited.

The Director would like to acknowledge the invaluable support given by the Copyright Expert Group and their associations throughout the year.

The next meeting of the copyright group will take place at the National Library in Prague 8 November 2002, kindly hosted by the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic ([SKIP](#)).

Topics in which the CEG have been active during 2001-2002 are in the annual activity report and Appendix 6 lists the members of the group.

#### World Trade Organization working group

In 2000, EBLIDA established a working group to monitor issues affecting cultural services in the WTO negotiations involving the services sector, the General Agreement on Trade in Services ([GATS](#)). At the EBLIDA Executive Committee meeting in Rome in February 2002, Frode Bakken (Norway) proposed to re-develop the WTO working group and will present the proposal to the Council.

See Item [15](#) of agenda.

### **EU policy initiatives and programmes**

[eEurope](#) policy initiative

The strategic goal set for the EU is to become "the world's most dynamic and competitive knowledge-based economy". But in the past, the emphasis was on technology and regulation and the user wasn't always at the centre. Now there is a new emphasis on users e.g. eContent programme. Content and services are decisive and must provide what people want to simplify, enjoy and improve their lives. And the applications must be localised to reflect European diversity in language and culture.

The priorities for 2005 are to promote attractive content, provide public services on-line, pursue digital inclusiveness for all Europeans, promote faster broadband Internet and ensure trust and confidence in cyberspace.

[eContent](#) programme.

EU research and development – from FP5 to [FP6](#)

The last call for proposals under the IST programme of the Fifth Framework Programme closed in February 2002. The Sixth Framework Programme (FP6) will run from 2002-2006. FP6 aims to consolidate and integrate research efforts and to create bigger and better partnerships between players. FP6 will fund big networks which will sub-fund smaller projects and actions. In March 2002, there was a call to help set the research agenda.

In the Third and Fourth Framework Programmes (1990-1998), libraries had their own dedicated programme called Telematics for Libraries. The programme was very successful and attracted 520 proposals from over 3000 participants and 104 proposals were selected for funding. In FP5, libraries became part of the IST programme, which built on the convergence of information processing, communications and media technologies (ICT). The programme was technology led and participation from libraries dropped. There is a danger that participation from libraries could fall even further under FP6. EBLIDA was part of a proposal with the aim to encourage future participation by libraries and archives, however the proposal was not successful.

### **EBLIDA Projects**

[CELIP](#) - Central and Eastern European Licensing Information Platform

The European Commission funded CELIP project ran from November 2000 to January 2002. Workshops on licensing issues were held in the ten Central and Eastern European candidate countries organised by Tuula Haavisto, Project Manager. A good network of contacts with CEE library associations was established and the priority now is to maintain the network and to encourage the associations to join EBLIDA. Currently Bulgaria, Slovakia and Romania are members and Latvia have expressed an interest in joining EBLIDA. Frode Bakken (Norway) attended the last meeting of the Steering Group in Helsinki in November 2001 to offer support.

[PULMAN](#) – developing innovative public library services

The European Commission funded PULMAN project runs for 2 years from May 2001. EBLIDA is responsible for co-ordinating the policy work and for developing a cross-sectoral agenda, culminating in a major policy conference in Oeiras, Portugal 13-14 March 2003. In addition, EBLIDA will co-ordinate the output of twenty-six national workshops and is responsible for producing two PULMAN guidelines: the public interest in copyright and legal issues in the technical environment.

Margo de Groot, PULMAN Project Assistant, will present PULMAN to the Council.

See also Item [18](#) of agenda.

### **EBLIDA Promotion**

[EBLIDA Strategy Review](#)

The Council approved, with some changes, the EBLIDA Strategy Review at their meeting in Bremen in 2001. The strategy paper, an agenda item at Executive Committee meetings, is available on the

EBLIDA website. Progress on strategy issues are detailed in the annual activity report. These include policy issues, increasing membership in CEE countries, archive associations, information products & services.

Printing costs have been included in the draft 2002 budget.

### **EBLIDA workshops**

#### Creating Access to Information. EBLIDA workshop on getting a better deal from your information licenses

Two EBLIDA workshops on information licences were organised in The Hague in September 2001 and April 2002. Emanuella Giavarra, EBLIDA Legal Advisor, was the tutor. There were forty participants from ten European countries representing many types of libraries - higher education, research institutes, national and European government organisations, national libraries as well as the commercial sector. EBLIDA is grateful to the Royal Library in The Hague for providing a meeting room. The first workshop was fully booked with a waiting list. Feedback from participants was very positive and everyone said that they would recommend the workshop to a colleague.

A proposal to hold the workshop as a pre-conference to the Euro-ICOLC conference in Thessalonikki in October 2002 has been made to the organisers.

#### The European Copyright Directive - the last chapter. EBLIDA workshop on the national implementation of the EU copyright directive, UK Library Association, London, 1 February 2002

EBLIDA also organised a workshop on national implementation of the EU copyright Directive in February 2002 at the UK Library Association (now CILIP). The workshop provided an update on the current situation and an opportunity to discuss implementation with rightholder representatives. The workshop was fully booked with over 60 participants from 18 European countries from public, national, university and special libraries as well as representatives from other user and consumer groups. It enabled EBLIDA to make contacts with experts in developing areas such as digital rights management systems. There is potential to organise future events on the subject.

Both workshops earned revenue for EBLIDA.

### **EBLIDA Funding and Finances**

#### **Members and sponsors**

##### Members

There are 37 full members in 2002, two members less than in 2001. This is due to the merger of the UK Library Association and the Institute of Information Scientists into one organisation, CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) and the suspension of the Greek Library Association (see Item 6). There were 117 associate members in 2002. Membership remains stable with six new associate members in 2001 and five cancellations which took effect from January 2002. There are four sponsors.

By mid-April, 71% of membership invoices for 2002 had been paid, better than last year, and the Director thanked members for their prompt payment. It is planned to issue invoices for 2003 in December 2002 to further speed up payments.

At the request of the Executive Committee, a directory of members has been issued and circulated at the Council meeting. This will be printed during 2002 for wider circulation and updated annually.

##### EU project funding

One final payment of € 1.760,14 from the TECUP project is outstanding. The second cost claim of € 25.081 for CELIP was submitted to the Commission in March 2002 and payment is outstanding. An advance payment of € 44.825 for PULMAN was received in September 2001. The first cost claim for

€ 9.773 was submitted to the Project Manager in December 2001 and payment is outstanding.

The Director thanked the NBLC for their continued support in hosting the EBLIDA Secretariat.

With this, the Director concluded the activity report. There were no further questions.

Britt Marie Haggström thanked the Director for her excellent overview and Council approved the EBLIDA activity report May 2001 - April 2002.

## **9. Financial report 2001 and Budget 2002**

Jan-Ewout van der Putten reported on the financial situation for 2001 and the budget for 2002. Jan-Ewout van der Putten thanked the Director for being a very good 'housekeeper' and the members for paying their membership fees and being loyal to EBLIDA. The way in which the budget is presented gives a very accurate estimate for 2002 because it is produced in early 2002 and is based on actual figures for 2001. There is little scope for changes within the budget.

At the Executive Committee meeting the previous day, it was decided to bring forward discussion of the annual budget by about six months. Therefore the budget for the following year would in future be agreed by the Executive Committee at their autumn meeting and could then be circulated to the Council for approval. It was felt that the Council meeting in May was too early to approve the final budget for the following year and that estimated figures given half a year in advance made final decisions more difficult and inaccurate. But a budget estimate for the following year could be presented to the Council for discussion. The budget estimate for the current year will be updated for the Council meeting in May. So, the budget for 2003 will be agreed by the Executive in October 2002. This can be circulated to the Council for approval. It will be updated for the Council in May 2003 and a draft budget for 2004 will be presented to the Council for discussion, not approval.

Teresa Hackett said that most costs are fixed so there is little flexibility. Telephone and website charges have fallen, other fixed costs have increased by 4% inflation rate. A different approach could be adopted with regard to sponsors by offering something concrete in return e.g. sponsoring publication of the annual report. Good experience was gained in attracting sponsors for the Council meeting itself.

Jan-Ewout van der Putten agreed that EBLIDA may generate further income from workshops and sponsorship and although this type of income is interesting, it is not regular and so cannot be relied upon on a regular basis. The only reliable income is that of membership fees, which amounts to not a great deal of money. Therefore, the possibility of building up this regular source of income should be further considered by the Executive Committee and the Council next year.

Jesper Laursen (Denmark) asked where the savings from the discontinued Information Europe magazine were reflected in the budget.

Teresa Hackett explained that discontinuation of the magazine saved EBLIDA about € 9000 per year. This was moved to other promotion costs (line 31 expenditure) to enable the strategy report and constitution to be printed, as well as directly back into the other information products for further development (See Item [10](#) of agenda).

There were no further comments.

The President thanked Jan-Ewout van der Putten for his report and Jesper Laursen for input.

## **10. EBLIDA information products review**

### **EBLIDA Publications**

Four issues of Information Europe were produced during 2001. The final issue was Volume 6 Issue 4 Winter 2001/2002 (see Item 6 for more information). The secretariat produced eleven issues of Hot News and Update in 2001. Both are sent to EBLIDA members as well as to key players each month (about 220 copies). Hot News is available on the EBLIDA website one month after

publication. In addition to the monthly publications, information is provided by the EBLIDA website and mailing list.

One of the aims of EBLIDA is to report on European developments for libraries and archives. The decision to discontinue Information Europe prompted a review of all EBLIDA information products. But the Secretariat had no concrete information on whether members were receiving the right information, at the right time and in the right format. In addition, the content of the monthly publications had considerably grown over the years as the number of topics, European initiatives and funding opportunities have increased. It became clear that there was also a need to develop a new publication aimed specifically at the key lobby groups of EBLIDA e.g. MEPs, European Commission, Council of Europe.

A survey of the information needs of members was conducted March-April 2002. This was sent by post to members and key contacts and an online survey form was provided. The full results of the survey are available in Appendix 7 of the annual activity report. Twenty-two responses were received, 7 from full members, 7 from associate members, 4 key contacts and 4 other. The results showed that most members read the publications, keep them for reference and some re-use the information. Most wish to retain the monthly frequency and would prefer one single publication instead of two. Most prefer delivery by email but an equal number want hardcopy and web options.

Of the seventeen topics covered, the most popular was copyright & IPR, followed by EU information policy and information society. The least popular topic is youth, followed by trade and social policy.

The Director invited the Council to provide concrete ideas in order to have a clear mandate to develop the information products over the coming year. Suggestions included selecting priorities from the list of topics, a name for one single publication and an optimum length. An overview of a prototype might be a single publication covering news on EBLIDA news, meetings, campaigns on the front page; EU general information on page 2; topics from page 3 onwards; then information on new funding opportunities. Update could be shortened by including full information on new funding opportunities only, with references to previous items, reducing legislation, written questions and events to one page each.

This would require more selection, analysis and evaluation of information, would be less in quantity but higher in quality. This is highly commendable, could be difficult within the existing resources.

An important part of the review is the briefing update for key contacts, suggested frequency is three times a year. The briefing would contain short information on current issues which are important to libraries and archives and would be sent either as hard copy or electronically.

### **EBLIDA website**

During 2001-2002 the EBLIDA website has been re-structured with a new typeface and improved content. There are more links, a new topics section, press releases and European acronyms. Further development is underway.

The main issue is whether all sections should be available on the website or whether there should be a member only password protected area. The survey results showed that most full members wanted to have a password protected area, whereas associate members tended towards open access. The Director noted that the European Forum for Arts and Heritage (EFAH) recently reverted from a password to an open access website. Examples of information that could be on a password protected area could be: membership directory, working groups, EBLIDA list archive, sensitive lobbying information, etc.

The President asked if members would like a password protected area on the website but stressed that a closed area would only contain lobbying and other sensitive information.

Sue Brown (UK) said that an open website offered an amount of quality information with the advantage of quick and easy dissemination, but that a closed access area would be useful to direct colleagues to key specialist information to which they would have direct access without extra intervention.

Mogens Damm (Denmark) recognised the importance of having a password protected area, but noted that it would be a paradox as EBLIDA members lobby for access to information and freedom of expression. The EBLIDA website should be as open and accessible as possible, although a limited amount of information could be posted in a restricted area. For the publications, frequency was the priority over length. To make them more manageable, it would be ideal to have a fairly short product, but it is not possible to fix information to a number of pages and topics. It is more important to prioritise information and to put such information on page one. The hardcopy had to be maintained as members had requested so on the survey.

For the publications, Toby Bainton (UK) said that EBLIDA should concentrate on the briefing to key contacts and provide members with less information, if it was a choice between the two. He favoured keeping the hardcopy, but if it made the Secretariat's work easier, he would accept an electronic version. For the website, he supported having a restricted area. Members should not underestimate the resourcefulness of competitors who would be most interested in the information. This would not be to the advantage of EBLIDA at all.

The Director concurred with this view and gave the example of emails received when the ECUP website was recently out of service, with requests from completely unknown parties who obviously regularly use the EBLIDA resources.

Liam Ronayne (Ireland) asked if the same information would be produced in three formats or if there would be differences. Hardcopy is useful but then there is no need to have the same information via email. Rather than duplicating information, the hardcopy should refer to the electronic version.

Veerle Kerstens (Belgium) said that it is not necessary to have different versions and suggested that references to the web version be included in the email notification.

The Director explained that having edited versions for different formats was unlikely and rather complicated due to limited existing resources but took the point and suggested to use keywords, URLs etc. as references to reduce the text.

Maria José Moura (Portugal) also wanted to retain the hardcopy and the monthly frequency, essential for efficient lobbying purposes.

Jens Thorhauge (Denmark) said that although he had not personally followed EBLIDA's work throughout the years, recognised the results which had been achieved. With regard to the publications, he preferred less data more often, rather than more data less often and was in favour of retaining the hardcopy. The Danish National Library Authority needed quick and brief information out of which important issues could be selected. The main EBLIDA asset was the close following of EU information and policies and he would like this to remain preferably on the first page. He advised the Council against being prescriptive on details such as how many pages the publication should have, as the number of pages depends on how much there is to report, what information is most relevant, etc. in any given month but to focus rather on content. For example, he would like more information on EBLIDA internal activities. Ambitions on layout and style should be kept low. The EBLIDA logo already guaranteed quality information for members, and so it would not be wise to spend time and human resources on fancy layouts.

Jesper Laursen (Denmark) was pleased with EBLIDA's work, especially on the website and was sorry that his organisation could not provide support on the re-development as suggested in Bremen. He agreed with Jens Thorhauge and said that the main goal of our publications was for members to know what was happening in Europe, information that EBLIDA can track down, but members cannot easily find for themselves. The hard copy version should be replaced by an electronic version. The new briefing for key contacts is very important and advised the Secretariat and members to put more effort into its development.

The Director said that the survey results showed that members wanted to keep the hardcopy version, so therefore it had to be maintained for the present.

The President concluded that the two monthly publications would be merged into one single publication, would be more concise and would be delivered in hard copy as well as

electronic/website version.

There were no further comments.

### **11. From first to third generation: EBLIDA website development**

Mika Book, Kaapeli, Finland

Kaapeli have hosted the EBLIDA website since 1996. They have been in discussions with the Director about re-development of the EBLIDA website and are willing to undertake the re-development at a reasonable cost.. Kaapeli suggest that the website moves to a new technical platform called [Zope](#) (Z Object Publishing Environment ), a website management tool.

Mika Book demonstrated a prototype website with a closed area/Intranet and explained how this would allow members to have access i.e. 'read rights' and editing rights i.e. 'write rights'. Examples of the type of information which could be included in a members' area were given e.g. EBLIDA membership database which would be in SQL (Structured Query Language) format. Templates would be provided for easy updating and maintenance.

The Director thanked Mika Book and concluded that EBLIDA will continue its negotiation with Kaapeli on how to re-develop the website. She asked members with experience of Zope to get in touch.

### **12. Work Programme 2002-2003**

Teresa Hackett introduced the draft programme 2002-2003 and invited members to comment. The draft programme is based on issues and topics with which EBLIDA is working and is related the strategy report.

Liam Ronayne (Ireland) asked whether information on national implementation of the EU copyright directive would be circulated to members as soon as it became available, especially the exceptions, in order to help members lobby their own governments.

The Director confirmed that this information was already available and had been distributed to the Copyright Expert Group, as well as being subject to discussion at the EBLIDA workshop in February 2002 (See Item 8 – EBLIDA [workshops](#)). It should be noted that this is not public information, and is an example of what might be included in a member only section on the website.

There were no further comments.

The draft work programme 2002-2003 was approved.

### **13. Towards EU enlargement 2004: the role of cultural policies**

The Director gave an overview of the role of cultural policies in the context of enlargement of the European Union to include the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe (see annual activity report, p. 9-11).

Article 151 of the Treaty of Amsterdam (1999) authorises the EU to support cultural initiatives and fosters the development of culture in the member states. Article 151 is based on the co-decision procedure which requires agreement between the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers. All CEE candidate countries must bring their legislation into line with the Community cultural policy. Article 151 is now being revised under European debate - the Laeken Declaration (December 2001) which is part of a new review of the Treaties initiated in Nice (2000) to prepare the European institutions for enlargement at the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) in 2004. Issues being debated include the decision-making procedures and the definition of culture and cultural policies.

The Culture 2000 programme is the only framework programme whose legal basis is Article 151 of the Amsterdam Treaty. The programme has a budget of €167m (2000-2004) for 28 countries. The areas covered are very general which reduces library and archives interest in participation in the programme, even though these fall under national cultural policies.

EBLIDA presented its [views](#) at previous IGCs and during preparation of the Culture 2000 programme. The main issues are qualified majority voting (QMV) vs. unanimity voting, the definition of culture (cultural aspects of libraries and archives), and national cultural policies vs. European cultural policies.

The European Forum for the Arts and Heritage ([EFAH](#)) launched an initiative of cultural NGOs as a platform to develop a common position, which gives EBLIDA a chance to put forward its views. It is also an opportunity for EBLIDA to broaden its platform from legal and technical issues and to liaise with different cultural organisations which are relevant to EBLIDA's work. Members interested in forming a working group on culture should contact the Secretariat.

The issue of unanimity voting vs. QMV is an important issue as just one country can veto the development of new cultural policies, funding, etc.

Carmen Morlon (EBLIDA) said that culture ministers are expected to adopt a new resolution on cultural co-operation on 23 May 2002. The Director asked for any feedback on policies or positions in the area taken up by national associations.

Mogens Damm (Denmark) said that the question of culture at European level is very significant to EBLIDA. The issue had previously been discussed, however, no firm conclusions had been drawn. Culture has not so far been a matter for discussion at European level and said that it would be interesting for local organisations to discuss the subject and give their views.

Mogens Damm pointed out that there is a fear that cultural diversity would be threatened if harmonisation of cultural policies took place. EBLIDA should be careful and avoid such view. The potential of having a European cultural policy which focuses on preserving national cultural diversities should be recognised. If there is no cultural policy at European level, there is no European funding available for cultural action. A European cultural policy thus, should be supported but EBLIDA should first clarify what the priorities of such a policy should be, start discussions on library-related programmes and take a positive approach.

With regard to the definition of culture, Mogens Damm believed that giving a definition of culture was rather ambitious for EBLIDA to take action upon. As for QMV, he stated that this is a national political issue in which EBLIDA should not get involved, unless it was to accelerate the development of a European cultural policy. In this case, EBLIDA could present its views. A view on cultural policy should be developed which looks at issues such as funding priorities, who should apply for such funds, etc. This would benefit libraries and archives which are currently more active within information society, rather than cultural policies.

Britt Marie Häggström agreed with Mogens Damm on QMV. EBLIDA should keep a watching brief on the general issues to ensure that libraries and archives are taken into account in cultural policies, but should not become involved in questions of definition of culture, QMV, etc. She said that the European Community's attempt to harmonise laws e.g. mobility of artists and works of art is rather difficult.

The Council agreed with Britt Marie Häggström not to become involved in the definition of culture, but to follow up further developments.

There were no questions.

#### **14. Social inclusion: progress on the role of libraries and archives in lifelong learning**

Britt Marie Häggström gave a short presentation on the role of libraries in enhancing social inclusion.

Libraries contribute towards the development of democracy, employment and the economy and therefore, should be included as important players in the learning society. She highlighted the difference among the various learning processes e.g. formal and informal learning, learning institutions and pointed out that libraries, archives and museums can make a difference as learning places for all. They should therefore be taken into account in the development of different learning

processes not only at national but also regional and local level.

In the European Commission Memorandum on lifelong learning, published in October 2001, libraries and archives were mentioned only once along with bus stations, without playing any role in the educational process. After consultation, the Commission published a Communication which is very important for libraries, as its focus has moved from education to learning. A learning society is not only part of the educational system. But, the Communication does not mention the learning process at local or regional level.

Britt Marie Häggström called on the Council to approve a follow-up to the EBLIDA statement on lifelong learning to be sent to relevant EU institutions for the Seville summit<sup>[1]</sup> in June 2002. This should encourage ministers to take libraries and archives on board as partners in the educational process and more significantly, to highlight that libraries are not just places like service stations.

Klaus Peter Böttger (Germany) asked if there had been any responses to the EBLIDA letter sent to culture ministers in March 2002. The Director said that no responses had been received at the Secretariat, however, this did not mean that the letter had not been noted<sup>[2]</sup>. The EBLIDA statement had an impact on the Commission Communication.

The Council agreed on a second statement to be sent to culture/education ministers.

There were no further comments.

## **15. GATS for libraries and archives: the latest developments**

Frode Bakken (Norway) gave a presentation on the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services, GATS. Since 1995, public services have been excluded from GATS, but under the Millennium Round, everything is open to negotiation. Services cover twelve sectors in GATS. Sector number 10 covers recreation, culture and sport – sector 10c is libraries, archives and museums and other cultural services. Sector two is communication services e.g. online information, database retrieval.

Third countries such as Singapore, Hong Kong, USA, Venezuela, Japan and Iceland have decided to place libraries into the GATS arena i.e. open them up to competition in the global economy. USA, New Zealand, Australia and Japan are very keen to expand WTO rules to sector 5 - Educational services (enormous potential to export IT and online services, distance learning courses, etc.). School and university libraries are part of this sector.

So far, the EU has said that sector 10 - cultural activities, including libraries, will not become part of GATS. Online data and retrieval services are however included. The areas most open to commercial development are health and education, but there may be some interesting challenges ahead for libraries.

Because the EU is planning to expand the list of liberalisation services (it is relevant for libraries to look at sectors 2, 5 and 10c), there is a need to be aware of the mechanisms in the GATS, international competition rules as well as competition rules at national level, which has not yet been done.

IFLA sent a letter urging library associations to approach their governments concerning questions on trade policies and WTO, action that has been taken in some countries. The EBLIDA WTO Group will meet with IFLA in Glasgow in August 2002 to raise concerns and organise top-level consultation with EU key contacts via EBLIDA. After the consultation process, EBLIDA should mobilise support, in cooperation with IFLA, and lobby national governments. If after consultation the outlook is negative for libraries and archives, a conference should be organised to raise awareness.

WTO members have until 2003 to formally adopt their positions. At European level, a meeting is taking place on 13 June to present national government requests on which sectors should be included in the liberalisation process.

Frode Bakken asked the EBLIDA Secretariat to initiate contact with the European Commission to raise our concerns and to call on the Commission to exclude sectors 2, 5 and section 10c of the

GATS from the list of liberalised services.

Jesper Laursen (Denmark) asked who belong to the [WTO Group](#).

The members are: Frode Bakken, Co-ordinator (Norway), Liam Ronayne (Ireland), Toby Bainton (UK), Kjell Nilsson (Sweden), Ruth Rikowski (UK observer) and Teresa Hackett (EBLIDA).

Teresa Hackett explained that the EBLIDA WTO group had recently been re-organised (see Executive Committee minutes, Rome 2002) to focus on analysing the issues and getting into dialogue with the European Commission and the WTO. Members of the new group will shortly be announced on the EBLIDA website.

There were no further questions.

## **16. European copyright, digital rights management systems & discussions with rightowners**

The Director presented three issues; European Copyright, digital rights management systems (DRMS) and discussions with rightowners.

The European copyright Directive should be implemented by the end of 2002. Most of the library provisions are optional and so EBLIDA wants to ensure that as many exceptions as possible are implemented and are interpreted in the same way. Some countries want to extend their exceptions e.g. illustration for teaching, digital copying, some want compliance with previous legislation e.g. contractual provisions and some wish to enhance extended collective licensing. Most library associations have position papers and these have different styles. Some set out general principles, some have specific aims and some contain detailed wording proposals. There is an active rightowner lobby in most countries. In Germany and the UK, this is the publishing community and in Scandinavia, collecting societies. In some countries there have been joint meetings between libraries and rightowners. EBLIDA will continue to monitor implementation and will share information with the network of copyright experts.

Digital rights management systems are technical systems that describe and identify digital content protected by copyright law. They are a way of controlling access and enforce usage rules set by rightowners e.g. view only, download, permission to copy, etc. They can be controlled by the hardware, software or a combination of both. But, they should also enable users to benefit from their lawful exceptions e.g. copying by libraries or by people with a disability. DRMS are important because Article 6 of the copyright Directive supports the use of DRMS are supported and makes it illegal for anyone to import, sell or distribute DRMS hacking devices. It also requires member states to take into account whether a DRMS is used when applying the rules on compensation.

EBLIDA together with representatives from the European Blind Union ([EBU](#)) and the European Consumer Association (BEUC) attended a workshop on DRMS, organised by the European Commission in February 2002. The workshop aimed at gathering views on how to make DRMS acceptable to users and to industry. The discussion focused on the economics and business models of content provision and not on the wider issues of access to information and culture. It is therefore essential that libraries and archives are present during such discussions and continue to push the access and availability issues. A number of working groups will be established including one looking at user issues. This would draw up a set of basic user requirements which should be taken into account when developing systems and standards. A Commission Staff working paper on "Digital Rights: Background, Systems, Assessment" was prepared for distribution at the workshop. EBLIDA is mentioned in the paper.

There are also discussions within [CEN](#), European Committee for Standardization to define DRMS that may exclude user exceptions. The Director asked members with contacts at CEN to contact EBLIDA.

The key issues for EBLIDA are access and availability, including when material becomes available after the term of protection, but libraries must become more informed about the issues and the implications. EBLIDA will follow-up with the Copyright Expert Group.

Some of these issues can be clarified through discussions with rightowners. EBLIDA is in dialogue with rightowners through a number of platforms e.g. the Frankfurt Group (see also Item 8 – [VAT](#) on electronic publications), meetings with rightowners in CEE countries through CELIP; and at international level EBLIDA liases with the IFLA/IPA platform.

She also informed the Council that EBLIDA had been invited to speak at a landmark European Commission copyright conference at Santiago de Compostela in June 2002 on the consolidation of the acquis.

There were no questions.

### **17. A logo for Europe's public libraries, a Finnish/Swedish proposal**

Sinikka Sipila, Finnish Library Association, presented the proposal from Maija Berndtson (Finland) and Mats Öström (Sweden) for a joint Europe logo for public libraries. The logo idea was discussed by the EBLIDA Executive Committee in February 2002, who concluded that further information was needed before action could be taken. The American Library Association ([ALA](#)) offered their slogan “[@ your library](#)” to IFLA but it was felt that this does not suit all languages.

Sinikka Sipila explained that a European logo for public libraries could be a common symbol or trademark for public libraries throughout the EU and would increase the visibility of public libraries. There are around 40,000 libraries in Europe, an excellent but invisible network. The library logo could be used for marketing purposes as well as being an authorised European quality mark. Library users would be informed about the quality and services offered by the library. Certain criteria would have to be met, along the lines of hotel star ratings, to receive the right to use the library symbol. The number of stars would depend on the level of services e.g. number of staff, staff qualifications, opening times, media collections, access to the Internet, etc.

The logo should be part of European co-operation e.g. PULMAN network, EBLIDA and should be in line with the IFLA Public Library guidelines and the UNESCO Library Manifesto. It was suggested that each national library association be responsible for authorisation.

Questions arose on how to finance the logo e.g. local, regional, national or European funding. Who would authorise quality mark e.g. national library associations. How stars would be granted was another question.

Jesper Laursen (Denmark) expressed interest in the idea of a European logo but was concerned with the quality mark approach. There should be a discussion covering quality, quantity, etc. before EBLIDA could make a decision and/or participate.

Liam Ronayne (Ireland) explained both that the issue had been discussed in Ireland and that an European logo was very welcome. But it should not be language dependent. The logo was good in itself and for EBLIDA members of national associations. The idea of a quality mark was not so attractive however and in any case, a number of libraries have achieved the ISO 9000 status on quality services.

The main problem encountered related to how the quality mark would be achieved. Eva Hallund (Denmark) asked who would decide on the quality of the library.

Claudine Belayche (France) said that the idea was very interesting, but said that criteria would have to be adopted to classify libraries, difficult in itself due to national differences. Who would define the criteria and ensure that the stars reflect real quality services. There are risks that library users would lose interest in quality. She opposed on the proposed quality mark approach.

Jens Thorhauge (Denmark) said that the idea of a European logo was very good, in particular if it was funded by the European Union. For such a logo to be achieved, he suggested that the idea of the quality mark be withdrawn as this would complicate the idea to a degree that the logo will never be achieved.

Mogens Damm (Denmark) pointed out that the idea had been previously discussed at the EBLIDA

Executive Committee. He agreed with Jens Thorhauge on the quality issue, which was highly controversial. From a personal point of view, he was not in favour. The logo is a good idea, but a complex task which should be undertaken by the European Union. He asked the Council to drop the idea of quality mark, but to support a European logo and contribute to it, without leading the process, which he considered to be too ambitious. He said the main issue was to clarify what EBLIDA could do for a European logo.

Carmen Morlon (EBLIDA) asked how an European logo for libraries could be funded by a European budget if there were no library policies at European level. Teresa Hackett, Director said that EBLIDA had to lobby for the role of libraries to be included in cultural policies.

Britt Marie Häggström supported the idea of a European logo and said that EBLIDA should take an active part in its development, but rejected the idea of quality mark.

Thórdís T Thórarinsdóttir (Iceland) said that a public library logo was used in Iceland and agreed on contributing to the idea of a European logo.

Maria José Moura (Portugal) said that there were many more important issues for EBLIDA and it should not be a priority.

The conclusions were that EBLIDA is happy to further consider the idea of a European identity symbol. It would be important to first have EU and later local authority support (necessary for public signs). Maija Berndtson and Mats Öström are invited to make a further concrete proposal on funding, administration and design.

#### **18. Creating a network of excellence for libraries, archives and museums: the [PULMAN project](#)**

Margo de Groot, PULMAN Project Assistant, gave a presentation on the European Commission funded PULMAN project. The PULMAN Network of Excellence aims at strengthening the performance of public libraries by encouraging innovative public library services. EBLIDA is responsible for policy support and cross-sectoral development with the overall aim to develop dialogue and encourage co-operation (work package 3). 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 Oeiras, Portugal 13-14 March 2003.

EBLIDA has produced two guidelines: 'The public interest in copyright protected materials' by Sandy Norman (UK) and 'Legal issues in the technical environment' by Professor Charles Oppenheim (UK). The draft guidelines were evaluated by the country co-ordinators in February 2002 and are being translated into the major European languages. EBLIDA is also part of PULMAN management board.

#### **PULMAN XT**

A proposal for an extension to the PULMAN project was successfully evaluated by the European Commission. PULMAN will be extended to include Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

EBLIDA will focus on developing the professional capacity in the digital era in these countries through twinning arrangements between professional public library associations and their European counterparts, as well as in defining knowledge exchange programmes. The interest of EBLIDA is to help develop strong library associations.

EBLIDA will be a sub-contractor to the Helsinki City Library with a budget of €18,000 to travel expenses and personnel costs for about a four month period. The project will run from June 2002 for fourteen months.

#### **19. Any other business**

There was no other business.

## 20. Next meeting

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Teresa Hackett invited members to the eleventh EBLIDA Council meeting in [Uppsala](#), Sweden on 9-10 May 2003.

## 21. Close

The meeting was closed at 16h30.

The President thanked the EBLIDA secretariat for organising the Council meeting and delegates for their participation.

A report of the Council meeting and the speakers' presentations from 4 May 2002 are available from: <http://www.eblida.org/conferences/Council02/index.htm>.

## List of [Participants](#)

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[1] The focus of the Seville summit became the issue of security and enlargement. It was therefore subsequently decided that it was more appropriate to address the statement to the EU Danish Presidency conference on "Lifelong learning - Learning for adults in the 21st Century", Elsimore, Denmark, 7-9 October 2002 and prior to the meetings of culture ministers (4 November 2002) and education ministers (12 November 2002)

[2] Responses from Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the UK have since then been received at the Secretariat