



# **Fifteenth EBLIDA annual Council meeting Reykjavík, Iceland, 11-12 May 2007**

## **MINUTES**

These minutes were approved by the 16<sup>th</sup> EBLIDA Council, May 2008

**Friday 11 May 2007 (09h30- 17h00)**

**National and University Library of Iceland**

### **1. Opening and announcements**

The President of EBLIDA, Jan Ewout van der Putten, opened the meeting.

Our host, Þórdís T Þórarinsdóttir, President of Upplýsing welcomed the Council to Iceland and to the National Library and presented the keynote speaker, Mr Pétur Gunnarsson, writer and president of the Writers' Union of Iceland, who gave a presentation, entitled "How to reach a saturated reader".

### **2. Apologies for absence**

The President presented apologies of absence received at the Secretariat from the following members: Dr Alex Byrne, IFLA (Australia), Mr Thierry Grognet, Bibliothèque publique d'information (France), Mr Pedro Hípola, FESABID (Spain), Mr Michiel Laan, Centrale Discotheek Rotterdam (Netherlands), Mr Henk Middelveld, Overijssel Bibliotheek Dienst (Netherlands), Dr Elisabeth Niggemann, CENL (Germany), Mr Claus Vesterager Petersen, Danish Research Library Association (Denmark), Silja Rekomaa, Finnish Information Specialists (Finland) and Mr Jens Thorhauge, Danish National Library Authority and NAPLE Forum (Denmark).

Apologies were also received from Jorge Manuel Resende, Biblioteca de Arte da Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Portugal) who was not able to attend the meeting.

### **3. Approval of agenda**

The Agenda was approved.

### **4. EBLIDA Annual Report 2006**

Andrew Cranfield, EBLIDA Director, gave an overview of the annual report for 2006.

He talked about the reports commissioned by the European Commission and carried out by the Institute for Information Law (IViR) in Amsterdam on copyright and related rights and outlined that the recommendations set out in these reports are in line with the views of EBLIDA. Another report he referred to was the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property in the UK, which EBLIDA supports in many of its recommendations.

Next he highlighted the European Digital Library (EDL) initiative, which is at the heart of the European Commission's recommendation on digitisation and online accessibility published last year. The EDL initiative will be addressed in depth tomorrow.

No questions or comments.

The annual report for 2006 was approved.

## **5. EBLIDA Working Groups (annual reports on lobby/monitoring issues)**

The Chairs of each of EBLIDA Expert Groups reported on the groups' activities during 2006 and gave a short summary of EBLIDA recent activities in these fields.

### ▪ **Copyright Expert Group (Toby Bainton, Chair)**

Toby Bainton briefed the Council on the activities of the Copyright Expert Group (CEG) during 2006, with special focus on the EDL, the enforcement directive (IPRED2), orphan works and out-of-print works.

#### **The EDL Initiative**

On the EDL initiative, he outlined that such an initiative promised good things for the future. He underlined a report by the EDL High Level Expert Group on Digital Libraries. On the question of preservation, the recommendation is that libraries should be allowed to make as many digital copies as are necessary to preserve their work.

To tackle the question of out-of-print works, the group has produced a model licence, which gives the community a legal tool for negotiations between libraries and publishers on how to reproduce out-of-print works.

There is also the problem of the concept of the "diligent search" which would prove very cumbersome in terms of human resources, if libraries had to investigate every possible orphan work on a title level. For mass digitisation projects (including especially journals and newspapers), licensing agreements seem to be the only realistic way forward.

Toby Bainton believed that all the recommendations may need some kind of legislation at member state level, though probably not at the European level.

#### **The enforcement of IPR (IPRED2)**

Toby Bainton explained that only last month the second directive on the enforcement of IPR, something that the CEG has been watching for months if not years, was passed in the European Parliament.

He said the IPRED2 is highly controversial. Some member states don't think that the European Commission has any right to promote such a directive at all because it interferes with the autonomy of each member state. EBLIDA has made some useful contacts with other lobby organisations e.g. BEUC and the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF). The Director and some of the CEG members have been in touch with them and lobbying with them in a team effort in Brussels and some of the reaction to our efforts has been positive.

Finally, he commented on the suggestion from one of the newer members of the CEG at its most recent CEG meeting that the CEG should develop a more pro-active strategy. He added that the CEG has good contacts with DG INFSO, and this could be useful in the long run.



No questions were raised.

▪ **Professional Education Group (Helena Patrício, Chair)**

Helena Patrício gave the Council a brief summary on the activities carried out by the Professional Education Group (PEG) during 2006.

She referred to the Recommendation on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning proposed by the European Commission in September 2006, which primary objective is to facilitate translation between, and comparison of, qualifications awarded by national authorities. It encompasses qualifications from those achieved at the end of compulsory education and training to those awarded at the highest level of academic, professional and vocational education and training (related to the Bologna process).

This framework aims at achieving transparency and comparability in terms of mobility of workers and students in the EU.

She went on to the PEG meeting with representatives of EUCLID and the CertiDoc consortium, held in Paris in September 2006, which aimed at discussing whether it would be possible to map the EQF to the Library and Information Services (LIS) sector; the mobility of workers in the LIS sector and the quality/assurance of services provided by the LIS sector.

Although this was the main task of PEG during 2006, the group did unfortunately not manage to issue a project on time for the call for proposals in the beginning of 2007. Contacts made with EUCLID and CertiDoc were however excellent and thus, there is willingness for further cooperation in these and other related matters.

Another aspect dealt with by the PEG was higher education on Library and Information Services. PEG has been in contact with EUCLID for several years now, especially on the issue of the EQF. There was the idea of making a joint conference together with the Portuguese Association (BAD) on the interaction between academia and practice on LIS and the archives fields. The conference has been organised and will take place in Lisbon in September this year. The main topics will be: cooperation between academia and practice, mobility and flexibility and the role of academia and other associations in the continuous training of library professionals.

No questions were raised.

▪ **Trade and Libraries Group (Kjell Nilsson, Chair)**

Kjell Nilsson briefed the Council on the activities of the Trade and Libraries group, Although the group did its best, little could be done in regard to GATS and the TRIPS Agreements, as the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) has been standing still over the last couple of years. By contrast, the bilateral trade agreements have expanded in recent years, as a result of initiatives taken by the EU and the US; these agreements nearly always include a chapter on copyright and are used as instruments to enforce extremely strict copyright regimes.

On the Directive on Services in the internal market of 12 December 2006, the threat to libraries the group found out to be minimal. The purpose was to give Foreign Service providers the opportunity to provide their services on the same terms as those provided in their own countries. The directive aimed at removing unnecessary obstacles which prevent

Foreign Service providers establishing themselves in foreign countries, though the intention has not been to include publicly-funded libraries in the scope of the directive.

Then Kjell Nilsson talked about an important item on the agenda from the meeting held in Copenhagen in December 2006, the role of position papers and statements and the handling of these documents on the EBLIDA website. He believed that a broader discussion was needed on how to update these important EBLIDA positions and how to disseminate them

Another item discussed at the meeting was the relationship between this expert group and the CEG. It was considered unnecessary to keep them separate and thus it was agreed to merge them. In March this year, the Executive Committee approved this decision, however the work is not complete as it is essential to define the scope of the new group and its name.

No questions were raised.

## **6. EBLIDA Strategy 2007 – 2010**

Gerald Leitner introduced the strategy paper, prepared by a working group and then gave an introduction to the draft strategy, which contains a mission statement, objectives, policy areas, the meaning of lobbying, membership, financial and human resources, communication and cooperation with other organisations [*amended version, p. 8 not included in original version*].

He asked the Council for comments and opinions.

Council participants were divided into four groups for discussion and commented on a few points. A participant in each group was appointed by the President to report back to the Council before approval. Here are the main conclusions:

- A precision between the strategic frameworks and the objectives to be clarified
- Discussion of membership status, the financial base and voting rights
- That EBLIDA should also work to facilitate lobbying in member state organisations
- To make more precise the work that EBLIDA wishes to undertake in the area of culture
- To underline the Commissions own commitment to OA (open access)
- EBLIDA's role and position in relation to LLL
- To ensure membership of EBLIDA from the new EU states
- A European Knowledge Centre could be established in cooperation with other organisations, such as LIBER and NAPLE
- To clarify the relationship between the EBLIDA strategy and the annual work plan
- Further cooperation with the archives and museums

### **Conclusions by President, Jan Ewout van der Putten**

The Council is in general pleased with the strategy and the EC will discuss the comments and feedback from the working groups at its next EC meeting in October. The strategy in its present format was approved by Council

J E van der Putten thanked the Director and the working groups for this paper.

## **7. EBLIDA Annual Work Programme 2007**

The Director presented this document briefly.

The main topics covered by the annual work programme include following up on the IViR reports (commissioned by the European Commission) on the harmonisation of copyright, the database directive, the PLR directive, data retention, Open Access, the European Digital Library, the GOOGLE library projects, professional education, trade agreements, including issues being discussed at WIPO, cooperation with other organisations and the role of expert and working groups in EBLIDA. The director underlined that much of the emphasis of the new strategy and therefore also in the work plan was on the issue of digitisation across the library sector in Europe. A number of issues were raised after the report from the director, including the importance of continuing to monitor trade issues within the framework of the Copyright Expert group, the possibility that the proposed digitisation expert group could be a joint initiative between EBLIDA and LIBER, the possibility of an expert group working within the area of culture (as proposed in a letter from the Library Association of Ireland).

Following the presentation by the director and discussion the work programme for 2007 was approved by Council.

## **8. EBLIDA Finances (Income/Expenditure/Balance)**

The President gave the floor to Finn Vester, EBLIDA Treasurer. Finn Vester .

### ▪ Financial Statement 2006

Finn Vester presented the accounts for 2006, asking Council to note that the figures showed a surplus of € 5,857 and explained that this money was to be added to EBLIDA's capital. This was in line with the revised budget agreed upon by Council at its meeting in Budapest in May 2006.

The Treasurer also noted the secretariat and the treasurer had continued to write off uncollectible debts and thereby ensuring that the figures give a more accurate reflection of the financial situation.

The figures relating to income and expenditure were also in line with the budget and the Treasurer concluded that this justified the mid-term budget revision which, the EC introduced last year.

Finn Vester noted that the financial situation (EBLIDA capital) meant that EBLIDA has operational costs for approx. six months and ended by saying that based on the figures and their assessment the accountants concluded that the accounts give a "true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation"

The financial statement for 2006 was approved.

### ▪ Revised Draft Budget 2007

The draft budget for 2007 showed a deficit of approx. € 8,000. To counter this deficit the secretariat had reduced staff at the end of 2006 and outsourced the bookkeeping of EBLIDA to the accountants and therefore the revised budget for 2007 shows a small surplus. Printing

costs had also been reduced due to the change from a paper to an electronic newsletter. The Treasurer said that he thought this was prudent and good management.

Finally he also drew Council's attention to the increased costs for website development, which were not known a year ago, but that he thought this had been a great improvement for the communication of the organisation

The revised Draft Budget for 2007 was approved.

#### Draft Budget 2008

Regarding the draft budget for 2008, he noted a current expected surplus of € 7,800 for 2008. Any revisions will be presented to Council next year.

He recommended Council to approve the draft budget for 2008.

The draft budget 2008 was approved.

The President thanked Finn. Vester for his report and went on to the next item of the agenda.

### **9. Approval of DRAFT Minutes Council meeting Budapest, Hungary, 5-6 May 2006**

The President asked for Council's approval of the minutes from Budapest (available online) and mentioned the letter received at the Secretariat by Hungarian colleagues, which particularly requested the inclusion of those involved in hosting last year's Council in the minutes.

The minutes were approved, with the following amendment, *on page 5, paragraph 11:*

*“Taking note of the visits taken to the Library of the Hungarian Parliament on Friday evening, where two presentations were given on the current status of Hungarian librarianship; the Parliamentary Library as well as to the National Széchenyi Library”.*

### **10. Items arising from Minutes of Executive Committee meetings**

- Budapest, Hungary, 4 May 2006
- Krakow, Poland, 6-7 October 2006
- Coimbra, Portugal, 9-10 March 2007

All Minutes were approved, without changes.

### **Saturday 12 May 2007 (09h30- 12h30)**

#### **Nordic House**

On Saturday morning, J E van der Putten opened the session thanking all our hosts for their hard work and kind invitation to Iceland and went on to the next item on the agenda.

### **11. EBLIDA Executive Elections 2007-2009**

There was no need for a ballot as there was the same number of candidates as vacancies. The Council agreed to approve ten members at EC level.



The candidates for election presented themselves with a short introduction to their background and what they hoped to contribute to EBLIDA.

After this Council elected the following to serve on the EBLIDA Executive Committee for the term 2007 – 2009

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
Barbara Lison	Germany	Member	Klaus-Peter Böttger
Bas Savenije	Netherlands	Member	Marian Koren
Karin Åström Iko	Sweden	Member	Berndt Fredriksson
Toby Bainton	UK	Member	Gail Downe
Ms Pernille Drost	Denmark	Member	Lone Knakkegaard
Mr Pedro Hípola	Spain	Member	
Ms Saara Ihamäki	Finland	Member	---
Jill Martin	UK	Member	---
Helena Patrício	Portugal	Member	A. J. Pina Falcão
Maria Carla Sotgiu	Italy	Member	---

As there was only one candidate for President, there was no need for a ballot and the Council elected the following as President for the term 2007-2009:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Position</b>
Gerald Leitner	Austria	President

Jan Ewout van der Putten gave the floor to the newly elected president, Gerald Leitner, who congratulated the new EC and stated how much he looked forward to working with them over the next two years.

Gerald Leitner hoped to continue to ensure that EBLIDA was the united voice of the library sector in Europe and hoped to strengthen the working relationship between the EC, the expert groups and the secretariat. He hoped to increase the membership of EBLIDA, ensuring that all EU states are represented in EBLIDA. This would give the organisation greater legitimacy and ensure solidarity in efforts on behalf of the library and information sector in Europe.

Jan Ewout van der Putten thanked both old and new Directors and Marian Koren for her work as Interim Director in 2006. He thanked Finn Vester for his work in the EC, in particular as Treasurer. He also thanked our Icelandic hosts for hosting and organising such a successful meeting.

Then he gave the floor to Þórdís T Þórarinsdóttir, who thanked the Council and hoped that EBLIDA members would come back to Iceland.

Gerald Leitner thanked Jan Ewout van der Putten for all his work for EBLIDA, first as a member of the EC for four years and as President for the last four years. His commitment to EBLIDA and to the European library sector has been impressive, as has his organisation in its continuing support for EBLIDA.

On behalf of EBLIDA, Gerald Leitner handed some gifts to those EC members who were leaving: F Vester (DK), D Svensberg (FI) and J E van der Putten (NL).



The Director, on his part, thanked D Svensberg and F Vester for their excellent contribution to the work of EBLIDA. He also spoke about the support and advice of J E van der Putten over the time they had worked together, which he greatly valued and the excellent working relationship that they had enjoyed.

## **12. Any Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

## **13. Next meeting**

It was agreed that the sixteenth annual Council meeting will be celebrated in The Hague (Netherlands) on 8 and 9 May 2008.

## **14. Closure**

Gerald Leitner closed the meeting and thanked the Icelandic colleagues for the excellent organisation and welcome to the EBLIDA Council meeting as well as the EBLIDA Secretariat and Council delegates.

*The Hague, October 2007*