

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics,
Held in Beijing, on the 19th of October 2014.**

1. Attendance

Margareta (President), Michel (Secretary General), Stephane (General Treasurer) and the ExCom members : Jean-Pierre (France), Jeffrey (USA), Tomasz (Poland), Ivan (Serbia), Peng Tao (China), Mark (GB), Mariko (Japan), Deepa (India) and Maria (Finland)

Also present: Zhu Ning (China)

Apologies for absence: Emmanuel (Nigeria)

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. Nominations

The first topic was Michel's nomination of Octavian Saiu (Romania) for the position of the Adjunct Secretary General. It raised a long debate. The main argument against this nomination was a procedural one. Michel has announced the nomination of Octavian at the General Assembly and that could be seen as a "fait accompli" (regarding the fact that the nominations of all the adjuncts are the responsibility only of the ExCom). The contra argument was that the election of the person for the position of the Adjunct Secretary General should mainly rely on Secretary General's demands and estimations. It was decided to postpone this decision for the next meeting of the ExCom and Bureau got the task to prepare an official proposal. That decision was voted: 4 votes for, one vote against and 4 abstentions.

Stephane's function of the General Treasurer was confirmed unanimously.

Jean-Pierre, Tomasz and Jeffrey are unanimously elected for the Vice-presidents.

Jean-Pierre was reelected for the Director of seminars for young critics and Mark for his Adjunct. The decision was also made unanimously.

Ivan was unanimously appointed for the Director of the Conferences.

A long discussion was raised whether the position of the editor in chief of CS should be added to the ExCom (the newly appointed editor in chief, Savas, is not an ExCom member or officer): would he be coming to all ExCom meetings? should he be present only when topics related to CS are discussed? should we have somebody from the ExCom as an official contact person with the editor in chief and editorial board of CS? Mark proposes Savas to be invited to this meeting as an ex officio member and that in Malmo we decide what will be the official position of the editor in chief of CS in regard to the ExCom. It was also proposed that the editor in chief should be invited to all ExCom meetings as its ex officio member. Mark protests that we mistreated our colleagues that we first invited to join us and than left to wait while we were discussing their positions. We all agree this was completely an inappropriate gesture. A final decision should be taken by the next excom meeting.

4. Critical Stages

Stephane informs us that, following the decision that financing of the CS should be completely transparent, he will open a new bank account uniquely for CS. The postal

address for the new account will be again Jean-Pierre's address. The bank account is registered in France, the main donations are coming from the USA – the question was raised whether this would be a problem. If there is a nonprofit entity registered in France and recognised by the USA federal government, than there is no problem. Stephane will write different reports for the IATC and CS. There is no possibility that a national section adds its contribution to CS to its annual fee because these payments are going to two different accounts (in the first, transitory period there has to be some financial transfers from IATC account to the CS account).

Savas is sceptical regarding the sustainability of the financing based on benevolent contribution of national sections. He stresses that the budget of 8000\$ per year for two issues is a minimum: he already made a new team consisted of a web master and one or two of his assistants and their work won't cost more than a work of the previous, Korean team (there will be even some savings). The question of donations by national sections was raised again. We agree that the augmentation of the annual fee for the sake of financial support to CS is risky: some sections could leave the organisation because of the expenses (we have recently raised the fee). On the other hand, it has to be approved by the General Assembly. Jean-Pierre thinks we should have a founding document of CS if we want national sections to support the project (some sections even don't know what CS are).

Stephene thinks we have to have a budget for CS approved by ExCom: he proposes we make a budget for 2015 for the Malmo meeting. It is confirmed that we have enough money for the two issues that will appear in 2015. Savas stresses that financial self-sufficiency is important, although we should do our best to get extra funding. The contra argument is that it could be problematic if we spend on CS 8000\$ out of 20000\$ which is approximately our annual budget. There was a proposal to make a CS foundation (tax benefits, etc).

Jeffrey presents a proposal for the new managerial model of CS made by Savas, Don and himself. The proposal was thoroughly discussed. If there would be a registered entity we could apply for donations of different foundations. The estimated sum is 25000\$ (including the contributions of national sections and the donation of the University of Illinois).

Savas presents his editorial concept: the structure will stay the same, all the existing sections will remain (the section „interviews“ might be reshaped). There is an idea to publish a play on regular basis. The bilingual concept has to be preserved. When it happens that the editor in chief doesn't speak both languages, he/she should be able to rely on the sections editors who are bilingual. There was a proposal to inaugurate a co-editor for French. Savas proposes the main topic for the next issue: African theater and criticism. Jean-Pierre stresses that it should include the Maghreb countries as well.

Savas informs us about a serious technical problem with the archives for the issues 1-8. A new web master can't do anything without a communication with the previous web master and this communication doesn't work (difficult to get any answer from Korean web master). The archives are not lost but in this very moment they can't be reached (because of the construction of the web site). Without these archives, Savas can't proceed with his further plans: to try to get academic references/credits for the journal. We all agree that Yun-Cheol should resolve the problem in communication with the Korean web master.

5. Thalia prize

Many questions were raised: does the laureate have to be present? is this a prize for a life achievement? how to make it more culturally diverse? how to improve a gender balance? Ivan suggests we should make a very serious research about the Thalia prize impact because he thinks it didn't get an international visibility and relevance. We all agree that the criteria for Thalia prize are clear and that the main problem is its visibility. Peng Tao suggests we should think of giving the prize in the framework of international theater festivals: this would improve a lot its visibility and there are more chances the laureate will appear on the ceremony. It was decided to make a committee which will discuss the option for an improvement of the Thalia prize project: Margareta, Peng Tao and Deepa.

6. Web site, social media

Micheal explains to the new members of the ExCom how the maintenance of the web page functions. There was a proposal to make a facebook page of the IATC – Maria and Cecilia (Sweden) could think of making and maintaining the FB page.

Date and place of the new meeting:

End of May 2015, Malmo, Sweden

Beijing, the 19th of October 2014.

Ivan Medenica

With corrections by

Michel Vaïs, Secretary General