

**Minutes of the 28th General Assembly (29th Congress) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics
Including an Extraordinary General Assembly
15 November 2018, 2:30 PM – 6:15 PM
Dom Aktera, St Petersburg, Russia**

1. Opening of the Assembly

The president and the Secretary General of IATC open the 29th Congress and the 28th General Assembly with a word of welcome addressed to all delegates and guests.

2. Verification of delegates present and confirmation of eligibility.

The voting cards are distributed to the representatives of the 34 sections present:

Azerbaijan
Argentina
Bulgaria (2 groups)
Canada (2 groups)
China
Chinese Hong Kong
Chinese Taipei
Croatia
Czech Republic
Egypt
Finland
France
Georgia
Great Britain
Greece (2 groups)
India
Italy
Iran
Japan
Kazakhstan
Korea
Latvia
Moldova
Netherlands
Nigeria
Poland
Romania (2 groups)
Russia
Serbia
Slovakia
Spain
Sweden
Turkey
USA

3. Adoption of the agenda

The Secretary General explains the rules of the voting process and presents the agenda, as it appears hereafter. It is adopted unanimously.

4. Michel Vaïs invites everyone to observe a minute of silence in memory of Irène Sadowska Guillon, Honorary Treasurer of IATC, who recently passed away.
5. Alessandro Martinez is invited to address the audience and say a word of welcome on behalf of the Europe Theatre Prize, the host of the congress.
6. Presenting her address, Margareta Sörenson mentions the increasing presence of IATC on all continents, and the interest in the IATC Seminars.

7. Extraordinary General Assembly

**Proposition by the outgoing Executive Committee to add what follows
(underlined) to the Articles of Association:**

Article 4: Executive Committee and Officers

1. The IATC is administered by an Executive Committee composed of 10 Member Associations elected by each General Assembly. Each Member Association may choose its individual representative to the Executive Committee according to its own internal rules. Although consistency of representatives is valuable, a deputy should be sent when necessary, so that each seat is filled. **A deputy can only be from the Section that he or she represents.** IATC honorary officers are entitled to attend Executive Committee meetings in a non-voting capacity.

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This proposition by the Excom was in the minutes of its last meeting in Craiova, on 27 April 2018 and the membership was advised that it was available on our website on September 2, 2018. It may not be amended, but either approved (by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the extraordinary general assembly) or rejected.

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Discussion and vote on the proposition of the Excom.

Nobody asks for explanations. The Article 4.1 is adopted unanimously.

END of the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Back to the Regular General Assembly.

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8. Adoption of the minutes of the General Assembly of 29 September 2016, held in Belgrade, Serbia. The minutes are approved unanimously.
9. Secretary General's report
Michel Vaïs presents his report (See Annex)
The report is adopted unanimously.
10. As Stephane Gilbart, Treasurer, is absent due to his medical condition, Michel presents the report on his behalf. The report, as well as the report of the Auditor, Irina Antonova, are adopted by the General Assembly.
11. The Director of Conferences, Ivan Medenica, presents his report. The report is adopted.
12. The Director of Workshops for young critics, Jean-Pierre Han, presents his report. The report is adopted.
13. Savas Patsalidis, Editor-in-chief of *Critical Stages/Scènes critiques*, presents his report. Margareta commends Savas for his work with the journal. The report is also adopted.

14. Octavian Saiu, Adjunct Secretary General, shares some aspects of the new IATC website, explaining that the information on the website must be disseminated through social media.
15. Margareta mentions the Thalia Working Group and the previous laureates. The next ExCom will call for a list of candidates for the laureate of the 20th IATC Congress in 2020.

16. Proposals for future activities.

- 16.1 On behalf of the Slovak Section of IATC, Zuzana Ulicianska gives a presentation on the city of Bratislava, the place of the next IATC Congress.
- 16.2 Irina Gogoberidze proposes a conference in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- 16.3 Jean-Pierre Han presents the proposals for three new workshops for young critics in 2019, in Harare, Cairo and WuZhen.
- 16.4 Emmanuel Dandaura supports the proposal for Harare, Zimbabwe.
- 16.5 Peng Tao also supports the workshop for young critics in WuZhen, which will have three working groups.
- 16.6 Nathalie de Han mentions the possibility of having a conference for established critics in Ottawa, Canada.
- 16.7 The representatives of the Czech Section propose an IATC event in Brno.
- 16.8 Deepa Punjani proposes the possibility of a symposium/conference for established critics in conjunction with a theatre arts festival in India in 2019.

17. ExCom Meetings

- 17.1 Irina Gogoberidze proposes the Tbilisi Festival.
- 17.2 Zeynep Oral proposes the Istanbul Theatre Festival
- 17.3 Ivan mentions BITEF as a plan B.

18. Elections

The General Assembly continues with elections, which represent the most exciting moment for all participants.

- 18.1 For the election of the President, Yun Cheol Kim, Honorary President, is invited to temporarily preside. Margareta Sörenson is running unopposed, and she is re-elected President for a final mandate, with one abstention from the Spanish Section.

18.2 Election of the Secretary General.

Michel Vaïs is also running unopposed, and he is re-elected unanimously for a new mandate.

18.3 Election of the new Executive Committee

The candidate sections are:

Canada
China
France
Georgia
India
Japan
Latvia
Nigeria
Poland
Serbia

Slovakia

Turkey

USA

A representative of each of these sections makes a brief statement to introduce themselves and to announce their plans for the future. Michel Vaïs suggests that Sigríður (Sigga) Jónsdóttir and Nina Mazur, two individual members, preside over the elections, as they do not represent sections that can vote and be elected. The two are accepted unanimously.

Two observers are also appointed: Irina Antonova and Lucia van Heteren.

After a public counting of the votes, the results are announced. The 10 elected sections are:

China

France

Georgia

India

Japan

Nigeria

Serbia

Slovakia

Turkey

USA

19. Membership dues

No proposal for changing the membership dues is presented to the Assembly.

20. Closure of the 28th General Assembly.

The Assembly ends at 7:00 PM.

Octavian Saiu, Adjunct Secretary General

Michel Vaïs, Secretary General

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Opening Words From Margareta Sörenson

The International Association of Theatre Critics grows thanks to common efforts. Of special interest is our improved presence in Asia, Africa, the Arab region and South America which has turned IATC more international in a true sense.

The International Association and its executive committee are working to the limit of their capacity: two to three workshops for young theatre critics a year, as many conferences for experienced critics and a very active work with *Critical Stages/Scènes critiques*, the web journal of IATC. I cannot well enough underline the importance of the editor of CS and his qualified direction of the journal, which has turned into one of our best showcases of what the profession of a theatre critic is and might be.

For the third and last term of my presidency, my intention is to consolidate the reach-out in regions and countries outside Europe, as well as to define and defend the

importance of criticism in a rapidly changing Europe and other parts of the world where populism, arrogance and ignorance hand in hand threaten the free arts of the stage.

We, critics, need to define and analyze how Internet and digital techniques transform the landscape of criticism. More than ever, we need to be close to our international partners, sister associations like UNESCO, UNIMA, ASSITEJ, IFTR and others. The profession of criticism is historically closely related to publicity and a public discussion in the spirit of a critical reason and mind. The free-spoken or written word is the most precious tool of the critics, and IATC is one of its defenders.

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Discours d'ouverture de Margareta Sörenson

La présence de l'AICT en Asie, en Afrique, dans les pays arabes et en Amérique du Sud a transformé l'AICT en la rendant véritablement plus internationale que jamais au cours de son histoire.

L'organisation internationale et son comité exécutif travaillent presque aux limites de leur capacité, organisant chaque année deux ou trois stages internationaux pour jeunes critiques, normalement le même nombre de colloques pour critiques établis, sans compter l'important travail qu'exige notre revue Web, *Critical Stages/Scènes critiques*. Je veux souligner à cet égard l'excellence de la direction de la revue, qui est devenue une de nos plus belles vitrines pour la profession de critique.

Pour le troisième et dernier mandat de ma présidence, je voudrais encore consolider nos réseaux dans des régions et des nations hors de l'Europe, ainsi que définir et défendre l'importance de la discipline de la critique, en Europe comme dans le monde, partout où le populisme, l'arrogance et l'ignorance menacent les arts de la scène.

Il nous faut définir et analyser comment Internet et les techniques numériques ont transformé le paysage de la critique. Plus que jamais, nous devons travailler avec nos partenaires internationaux comme l'UNESCO, l'UNIMA, l'Assitej et la FIRT, entre autres.

Dans le monde que nous appelons Occidental, une grande partie des critiques sont également des journalistes et des écrivains autonomes. Historiquement, la critique se trouvait toujours sur l'arène de la presse et de la publicité menant une discussion ouverte et publique sur les arts, marquée par une raison critique.

Cependant, la parole libre, proférée ou écrite, demeure l'outil le plus précieux des critiques, et l'AICT reste toujours prête à la défendre.

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REPORTS

Rapport du secrétaire général de l'AICT – Michel Vaïs – 29^e Congrès – 15 novembre 2018

As usual, I will speak partly in English and partly in French.

Je commence en français.

Depuis notre dernière assemblée générale, du 29 septembre 2016, à Belgrade, l’AICT a connu un plus grand nombre d’activités que jamais, et plusieurs décisions ont dû être prises par le Bureau (*the Cabinet* en anglais), qui, selon nos règlements, gère l’AICT entre les réunions du Comex. Notre Bureau se compose de la présidente, du secrétaire général, du trésorier et de leurs adjoints le cas échéant. En l’occurrence, depuis deux ans, il s’agissait de quatre personnes. Je vous avoue qu’à plusieurs reprises, nous aurions aimé ne pas prendre à quatre certaines décisions très importantes. Mais ce n’était pas toujours possible.

Ainsi, vous ne serez pas surpris d’apprendre que nos décisions les plus importantes concernaient ce Congrès. Après le désistement, pour raisons financières, de l’Association des critiques de théâtre du Canada anglais, qui nous avait d’abord invités à Banff lors de notre 27^e Assemblée générale, il a fallu trouver un lieu d’accueil pour cette 28^e Assemblée générale. Nous avons longtemps cherché sur tous les continents et effectué des démarches auprès de membres dans plusieurs pays, dont certains nous avaient même envoyé une invitation : Chine, Inde, Roumanie, Chine de Hong Kong, Égypte, Slovaquie, Macédoine du Nord, Oman, Qatar, Pologne, Grèce.

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(Now, in English)

Each of these possible hosts has received all the information about the requirements for an IATC congress (number of days/participants, equipment, translation, flights and accommodation for the Thalia laureate, etc.). We are very demanding... We also have always wanted to allow free admission to the Congress for our members. We were even prepared to postpone our 29th Congress until next year – this happened already in the past, in 2001 and 2006, but finally, we learned in April that the Europe Theatre Prize would be given in St Petersburg in November 2018, and that they invited us to organize several activities in the framework of this important event. Already in Rome, last year, we had during the Europe Theatre Prize an extraordinary meeting of our Excom, a public discussion with former young critics about our workshops, and a meeting of the editorial board of our webjournal *Critical Stages/Scènes critiques*. So, the Premio asked us if we could organize again several activities to ensure to attract a large number of international critics for the event. This is when we asked them if they could go so far as to host our 29th Congress, as the Premio did 12 years ago, in Turin, in 2006. And the answer was YES! This was a big relief for us. We had already received a positive reply for our 29th Congress from our Slovak Section, but for next year, and also from one of our two groups in Romania. We explained to our very patient colleagues that it was difficult to turn down the Premio’s offer for this year, and asked if the Slovak offer could stand for the 30th Congress, in 2020. The answer was YES! I want to thank our Slovak

national Section and especially Zuzana Ulicianska for their patience and the hard work they did already to be able to host us in 2020. In April, at its Craiova meeting, the Excom accepted the proposal for the present Congress by the Premio.

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Je reviens au français pour parler de l’interprétation simultanée. Comme vous le savez, notre association a été fondée à Paris en 1956 et elle est enregistrée officiellement dans cette ville. Les deux langues officielles sont le français et l’anglais, et, selon nos règlements (qui sont rédigés dans ces deux langues), la version française prime sur l’anglaise. En cas de différence entre les deux, c’est donc le français qui a la priorité.

Voilà pourquoi nos activités se déroulent dans les deux langues. Nos stages pour jeunes critiques ont de préférence un groupe francophone et un groupe anglophone. C’est la même chose pour notre assemblée générale et nos colloques, dans la mesure du possible. Aussi, quand j’ai appris, fin juin, qu’ici, l’interprétation serait seulement en russe et en anglais, j’ai alerté mes collègues du Bureau, mais il était trop tard pour reculer. Sur les conseils de Jean-Pierre Han, notre délégué français, j’ai ensuite demandé de l’aide pour la traduction à l’Institut français de Saint-Pétersbourg, mais finalement, le Prix Europe nous a promis (le 16 octobre) qu’il y aurait aussi de la traduction en français.

Par ailleurs, de nombreux participants ont eu des problèmes à obtenir un visa pour la Russie. Certains ont dû débourser des sommes importantes pour l’obtenir – moi le premier –, ce qui n’était pas prévu au départ. Cela a nécessité de très nombreux échanges de courrier.

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(Back to English)

As you may know, the IATC had benefitted from Status B of UNESCO for many years (this is even in our Statutes), and a grant covering about 20% of our congresses was received until the 19th Congress in Gdansk, Poland, in 1998. For the following Congress, in Montreal, in 2001, we received no grant from UNESCO for the first time. Then, the UNESCO made some changes and no more NGOs are now under Status B. So, I met Tobias Biancone, director of the International Theatre Institute, which has Status A, and he encouraged me to try and renew links between the IATC and UNESCO. With Jean-Pierre Han, we had a meeting at UNESCO in Paris, on April 24, and we will have to fill in some documents to present our candidacy asking for a new partnership with UNESCO. This appears to be quite useful to some of our national sections. But asking is not everything. I have no idea if we will ever get this new statute.

Talking about national sections, since our last general assembly in Belgrade, we have admitted four new countries: Montenegro, Egypt, Kazakhstan and South Africa. If I am not mistaking, Montenegro has a population of 642 000, so it became our smallest national section, with 6 members. (It takes a minimum of 5 members for a country with a population of less than 1 million.) Egypt was already included in our Arab regional section, but now has joined as an independent national section, with 13 members. As for Kazakhstan and South Africa, we already had individual or associate members in those countries, but now, there are national sections there. Welcome to all those new members.

Our Cabinet has also been kept busy responding to threats against the freedom of press or freedom of artistic expression. Responding to worries from the Turkish section, we circulated their press release about the situation in this country. Later, we reacted to the fact that one of the laureates of the Europe Theatre Prize “Theatre Realities” in Rome, Kirill Serebrennikov, was kept under house arrest and unable to come to get his prize. We published the press release from the Russian association of theatre critics on our website, and our own press release is also still on our website. Same for an incident in Brno (Czech Republic), involving a theatre company from Slovenia. And of course, the very title of yesterday’s conference, on freedom and (in)tolerance, is another reply to these situations.

We also had to deal with some quite touchy issues concerning the countries with two groups forming the national sections. This is the case in four countries now: Canada, Bulgaria, and more recently Greece and Romania. The relations between the two groups are not always very smooth, so it involved a number of e-mails and decisions from the Cabinet.

Finally, I was asked at the last minute to replace Deepa Punjani as a monitor for the workshop for young critics in Limoges, France, last June. So, with Jean-Pierre Han and Mariko Anazawa, we worked together for one week, with 10 young critics, as you can see on our website. And I am happy to note that as a result, we now have a new individual member from Iceland, Ms. Sigga Jónsdóttir. She should be here. So, with her, a new country has joined the IATC, at least individually: Welcome to Iceland!

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(Je conclus en français.)

Le mois dernier, j’ai aussi reçu des nouvelles de la Lituanie, où une nouvelle section nationale est en voie de formation. J’espère que ce projet se concrétisera. À ce jour, nous avons 44 sections nationales ou régionales, plus 7 membres individuels et 4 membres associés, en règle de cotisation pour 2018. Donc, on le voit bien : l’AICT continue de croître. Tous les efforts de

nos bénévoles, du haut en bas de la pyramide, donnent des résultats. Je veux souligner le travail acharné du rédacteur en chef de notre revue Web *Scènes critiques/Critical Stages*, Savas Patsalidis (à ce sujet, je suis aussi membre du comité éditorial de notre revue Web et responsable de la révision des articles en français, mais cela ne fait pas partie de ma tâche de secrétaire général). Je souligne aussi le travail assidu de notre trésorier Stéphane Gilbart, qui s'occupe des adhésions et des cartes de membres ; et je n'oublie pas mon adjoint, Octavian Saiu, qui, entre autres, gère notre site Web. Merci à tous. Grâce à vous, c'est avec plaisir que je poursuis mon travail et que je me présenterai à nouveau aux élections tout à l'heure. **Merci à tous. Thank you all.**

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AICT-IATC – Congrès de Saint-Pétersbourg – novembre 2018 Stéphane Gilbart

TRÉSORERIE

Avant tout, je voudrais exprimer une pensée toute particulière pour Irène Sadowska-Guillon à qui j'ai succédé comme trésorier : c'était une personnalité, une critique et une trésorière remarquables.

Émouvant : j'ai toujours à la maison les grands cahiers dans lesquels, avant internet, elle écrivait tous nos comptes.

Membres :

Sections :	49	(en 2016 : 44)
Membres individuels :	7	(en 2016 : 10)
Membres associés :	4	(en 2016 : 4)

Comptes arrêtés au 01/10/2018 :

Compte général : 19919,78 € (à Belgrade : 21455 €)

Pour des raisons de facilité bancaire, des cotisations auront encore été payées pendant ce Congrès = +/- 1000 €

Compte d'épargne : 5491,76 €

Compte *Critical Stages* : 5847,42 €

L'AICT-IATC doit absolument remercier l'Université d'Illinois (notre ami Jeffrey Eric Jenkins) qui nous fait des dons réguliers annuels de 5000 \$US, la Section chinoise, grâce à un premier don de 5000\$US de la part d'une artiste chinoise, et des dons réguliers de sections comme la France, la Suède, l'Inde, la Slovaquie.

Nos recettes pour le compte général viennent des cotisations des sections et des membres individuels et associés. Pour le compte *Critical Stages* des donations.

Nos dépenses ordinaires sont essentiellement des frais bancaires, très élevés pour des transactions internationales, et de gestion internet.

Pour *Critical Stages*, les auteurs des articles et les responsables éditoriaux sont tous bénévoles. Nous payons chaque année le webmestre et l'assistante grecs, qui font un travail extraordinaire, ainsi que les trois relecteurs des articles (Lissa Renaud, Mark Brown, Michel Vaïs), qui ont, eux aussi, beaucoup de travail.

Ces comptes ont été approuvés par Irina Antonova, notre Commissaire aux Comptes, que je tiens à remercier très chaleureusement pour son travail attentif et constructif.

Très important :

Quand vous faites un paiement, il faut absolument indiquer clairement en anglais ou en français le nom de la section.

Chaque année, je reçois de l'argent dont je ne peux pas comprendre l'origine !

Remarques

stgilbar@pt.lu

Façons de payer :

- Compte bancaire (€€€€)
- www.transferwise.com

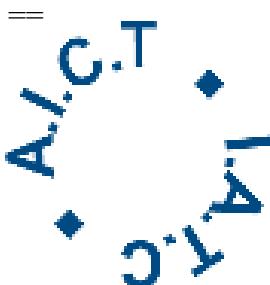
Chaque année / every year

- M'envoyer, dès que vous le pouvez – le plus tôt possible – le nombre de vos membres pour que je puisse vous envoyer une facture.
- Send me as soon as you can - as soon as possible - the number of your members so I can send you an invoice.

Tous les deux ans, pour les cartes de membres / every two years, for membership cards

- Indiquer le nombre de cartes / Indicate the number of cards
- Indiquer le nom complet et l'adresse exacte du responsable à qui je dois envoyer les cartes / Give me the full name and full address of the person in charge to whom I should send the cards.

THANK YOU



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Octobre 2018

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Iban FR76 3006 6106 8100 0200 4170
153
BIC : CMCIFRPP
(27.05.2017)

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Je soussignée, Irina Antonova,

Commissaire aux comptes de l'AICT-IATC,

après avoir contrôlé les comptes
des dépenses et recettes de l'année 2018,

constate que ces comptes sont conformes.

Fait à Almaty

le 29/10/2018



(signature)