

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics,
Held in Yerevan, Armenia, on the 15th of June 2010.**

1. Attendance

Those present: Yun-Cheol Kim (President), Michel Vaïs (Secretary General), Margareta Sörenson (Vice-president, Sweden), Jean-Pierre Han (Vice-President, France), Irène Sadowska-Guillon (Treasurer), Ivan Medenica (Adjunct Secretary General, Serbia), Don Rubin (Canada), Tomasz Milkowski (Poland), Jeffrey Eric Jenkins (USA), Akiko Tachiki (Japan), Katayoun Hosseinzadeh Salmasi (Iran), Mark Brown (Great Britain) and Maria-Helena Serôdio (Portugal, instead of Paulo Eduardo Carvalho).

Absences and excuses: Kalina Stefanova (Director of colloquia)

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the ExCom meeting in Vallabh Vidyanagar, June 2010

A debate was raised concerning the form and content of reports from our ExCom meetings, provoked by the very detailed Minutes from Vallabh Vidyanagar. The delicate issue considering the last Minutes was, at the first place, its part dedicated to the discussion about the Thalia award laureate, which could be perceived as embarrassing for those candidates who were not chosen. A general dilemma was between “democratic” and “diplomatic” versions: whether to have a detailed report about the whole discussion held on the meetings of ExCom, which was our practice until now, or the short one with the decisions only. After a long and profound discussion, two proposals were made: a) to have two versions, one longer for the internal purpose (just for the ExCom members) and the second and shorter one for publishing on our web site, b) to have only one medium sized version with the conclusions and a short overview of the discussion without quotations (who was saying what). Good arguments were developed for both proposals: a) it is good to have a longer public version of the Minutes because that is how our members could see what the ExCom is discussing about, b) a detailed public report could be a source of a self-censorship in ExCom discussions. At the end we have chosen the second one – one report with the decisions and a short overview of the discussion. Before we publish it on our web site, the Minutes should be sent to each member of the ExCom for approval (they have only one week for answering). Michel’s and Ivan’s work on the Minutes was highly praised and it was stressed that the Minutes from Vallabh Vidyanagar were trustworthy. Don Rubin accepted to send to Michel a corrected English version of these minutes for the web site.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Reports:

5.1. President

As he had sent his report in advance (see below), Yun-Cheol just added a few details. There will be Premio Europa next year and it will be held in St. Petersburg (13th – 17th of April 2011). Alessandro Martinez would like IATC to organize a major event for this occasion. As we are not organising a Congress next year, Yun-Cheol has suggested four events: a conference for established critics, a seminar for young ones, an editorial board meeting of *Critical Stages* and an ExCom

meeting. The Russian partners would like a seminar for young critics with 30 participants, so it was proposed to have three groups in this frame: in English, French and Russian. It was said that we should ask Martinez to include those young people in other activities of Premio Europa as well. Yun-Cheol informed us that colleagues from Israel (Theatre Cameri) would like to organize a conference for established critics or a seminar for young ones in Tel Aviv in November 2011. A debate was raised whether IATC should organize anything in Israel while a lot of intellectuals, including some of our members, are boycotting Israel because of its policy towards Palestinians. The opposite argument was that a lot of Israeli theatre people are also against the official policy of their state and that we should think about supporting them by organising an international event in Tel Aviv. It was also suggested that we should ask them to invite Palestinian and Arab colleagues as well. The final decision was not made.

5.2. Secretary General

Michel mentioned that all his activities have been already sent to us in his report. He gave us additional information about two new national sections: in Nigeria (49 members; their dues were not paid in cash in Yerevan because they were denied visas and could not attend, so the fee will be paid another way) and Morocco (18 members). We have one new individual member from Singapore, Richard Chua. These new members were accepted unanimously.

5.3. Treasurer

Irène stressed that some sections as well as some individual members had problems with the payment and that she would search for new payment procedures. A proposal was made to make payment via Western Union: it means that a fee could be paid to a private person – Irène in our case – and that she will collect the money in cash and transfer it to our bank account (the only problem with this procedure is that Irène should be in Paris when the money arrives via Western Union). Irène informed us that 23 countries with delegates in Yerevan would have right to vote at the Congress (FYR Macedonia, China and Czech Republic paid their fee, in the very last moment, in Yerevan). Number of 23 voting countries fits in our regulation which says that a majority of the regular members makes a quorum at the General Assembly (we have 33 national sections in good standing). Irène stressed that already in June we have spent our whole annual income (the amount we have already got and the one we'll get till the end of 2010). The biggest expense was the flight of the Thalia prize laureate to Yerevan (an airplane ticket in business class): for the previous two editions of the prize, those expenses were covered by the organisers of the Congresses. In the future, we should always try to do it the same way.

5.4. Other ExCom members

There were two issues stressed in the discussion: a) delegates from Nigeria didn't come to the Congress because they have had problems in getting Armenian visas (they couldn't get them at the airport in Yerevan as all of us did), b) there were still problems in the internal communication and functioning in the Indian national section. We decided that Michel will write a letter to our Armenian hosts about the "Nigerian case" and that the "Indian case" will be discussed with the Indian participants.

5.5. Critical Stages

Maria-Helena is grateful to Korean technical team of *Critical stages*, the most active members of the editorial board and colleagues who worked on a linguistic editing. She asked us to be more active in the preparation of future issues, stressing that there were many countries from which we didn't have contributions (Spain, Germany, Iran, Russia, Holland, Japan...). She expressed her doubts about the volunteer based work of the contributors (whether we could manage to continue working in that way or not). It was underlined that *Critical Stages* has had 25000 visitors, which is a very good result.

6. Programme:

6.1. Congress 2012

Preparations for the Congress in Warsaw are running well and an agreement with the agency specialized in organizing congresses was made. The Poland theatre institute will be our host and will provide all technical equipment and other things we need. Tomasz proposed a visit of an interesting small town near Warsaw, which has a theatre house. The date of the Congress should be postponed from June to October or April because of the European football championship.

6.2. Executive Committee Meetings/ Established Critics' Meetings

Jean-Pierre stressed that we could still organise a conference for established critics in Caen (France) in the period from 13 to 17th of December 2010: the previous proposal was to organise an ExCom meeting there in autumn 2010, but another solution was confirmed in the meanwhile (Other programmes were discussed during the following meeting of the ExCom, after the General Assembly in Yerevan.)

6.3. New Critics' Seminars

Don announced a seminar for 10 new critics in June 2011, which will be organised by three theatre festivals from English speaking part of Canada – from Ottawa, Toronto and Stratford. (Other programmes were discussed during the following meeting of the ExCom in Yerevan.)

6.4. Asian Forum

Akiko has confirmed the invitation for 9-10 members of the ExCom for the Asian Forum which will be held in Tokyo in November 2010 (20th -25th); other 10 participants are from Asian national sections of the IATC. Topic of the conference is “International collaboration and the role of criticism”.

6.5. Book Project

Not discussed.

7. Relations with other organisations

Not discussed.

8. Membership and Recruitment

Michel and Irene have already given us this information in their reports.

9. Code of practice

Yun-Cheol informed us that the draft which would be proposed to the General Assembly had already been sent to presidents of all the national sections for a general approval. All answers that Yun-Cheol had received were affirmative, except the one from the Great Britain.

10. Elections

There were only 9 candidates for the ExCom, but Yun-Cheol and Michel informed us that they had conversations with a few national delegations trying to motivate them to run for a seat in the ExCom.

11. Any other business

It was decided that Paulo-Eduardo's death be commemorated in Yerevan at the beginning of the Symposium on the 16th of June.

12. Date and place of next meeting

Yerevan, 18th of June 2010.

Yerevan, 15th of June 2010.

Michel Vaïs, Secretary General
Ivan Medenica, Adjunct Secretary General

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President's Report—Yerevan, 15 June, 2010-06-07

After the excom meeting in India, I participated in the Fajr International Theatre Festival in Tehran and chaired the IATC International jury from the 22nd to the 31st of January. This jury was organized by our colleague Katy Salmasy following the IATC initiative to create the IATC awards in the frame of international theatre festivals. Maria Helena Serodio, Ian Herbert were also jurors along with our Iranian colleagues Mehrdad Rayani Makhsus and Mehdi Nasirikhah. In late May, I was invited to the International Exposure of the Israeli Theatre and participated in the colloquium on "Political Theatre." I met general manager of the Cameri Theatre, the municipal theatre of Tel Aviv, which is considered the most important and popular theatre company in Israel and got his invitation of our new critics' seminar or Cultural Bridge in 2011. Details will be discussed soon between him and me. I met also Ekaterina Mazmishvili, director of the Tbilisi International Festival and confirmed that she will organize new critics' seminar in October this year in her festival..

I have taken care of some presidential matters, writing back cover remarks about *In Search of Lost Space*, written by Octavian Saiu, vice-president of the Romanian Section, which will be published very soon; a letter of recommendation for Randy Gener to complete his nomination as a candidate for Legacy of the Philippines Award; and a letter of protest to Ms Vesna Roganovic, the editor in chief of the Cultural supplement of *Politika*, about the elimination of Ivan Medenica's name from the official protocol of the state theatre Atelje 212 by its general manager who was not happy with Ivan's sharp comments on his show. These I have done to protect the rights of our colleague critics, which is one important responsibility of the president according to the articles of the IATC.

Other than these I have concentrated on preparing and publishing the second issue of *Critical Stages*, editing myself the section of "Critics on Criticism," and helping Maria Helena in general editorial works. As you know the second issue was released in April and I am very proud and happy that it was released in time and in a better shape as an internet journal.

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Rapport du secrétaire général – Erevan, 15 juin 2010
Report of secretary general – Yerevan, 15 June, 2010

Since the excom meeting in India, I have spent a lot of time and energy organizing the congress. Our Armenian hosts were unable to manage the registrations, so I had to do this myself. And the first person in charge of us in Yerevan had a very limited knowledge of English, so we lost a lot of time just trying to understand each other. Many persons could not download the registration form from our web site, so I had to send personal e-mails. The registration forms sometimes arrived to me in strange formats... Some people sent their form directly to Armenia, and sent me their passport copy, instead of the opposite, etc. So, it involved a lot of secretarial work. Since the Montreal congress (2001), I never had to work so hard for one of our events. I hope the Warsaw congress will provide more human resources.

Members who intended to come to Yerevan were late paying their dues, so I had to constantly check with Irene if the payments arrived. We also have to find a way to solve the problem of transferring funds to France. For some members, it is almost impossible. For others (associate or individual members), it doubles

the cost of the membership. I recently asked Irène to check with the Western Union company, which seems to work everywhere in the world (except Iran—for now), even Cuba, China, Nigeria, Morocco, etc. An Italian journalist wished to join the IATC as an individual member: Gherardo Vitali Rosati, critic in Florence for *Corriere della Sera*. He cannot do this if there is a national section in his country, but the Italian section had not paid its dues for the last two years. After many e-mails, they are now paid up. In April, I went to the Craiova (Romania) Shakespeare Festival and symposium, which were this year entirely devoted to *Hamlet*. I made a presentation about Robert Lepage's *Elsinore*, and represented IATC since Yun-Cheol had to cancel his flight because of the volcano ashes. A journalist from Helsinki, Eva-Maria Koskinen, is preparing a seminar on Finnish theatre criticism at the Swedish-speaking theatre festival Hangö teaterträff, in Finland. She asked me about our Code of practice because they are considering handing it out during the seminar. Their wish is that the proposed Code would activate the debate about theatre reviews in the Swedish-speaking society in Finland. I have received news about a conference in Baku (Azerbaijan), 9-10 November 2010, under the theme: "Challenges, perspectives and alternatives in the modern theatre world." I replied that IATC is very interested in developing its activities in this region, but I don't know if a formal invitation will follow.

Finally, I recommend the excom to approve the following new members:
Moroccan section (18 members)
Nigerian section (49 members) – they have registered for the Yerevan congress
Individual member: Richard Chua (Singapore)

I also corrected the French articles in *Critical Stages/Scènes critiques*, and translated Maria Helena's editorial.

Michel Vaïs

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Reports excom members

Dear Michel, I send you my short report before the last meeting of the Ex-Com.
See you soon
Tomasz

Tomasz Milkowski, the member of Ex-Com' report

1.

I participated as a member of Ex-Com in the opening of the new location of Grotowski Institute in Wrocław and congratulated it on behalf our Association last April.

2.

I participated -- as the president of the jury - in the Mobaltija Festival in Kaunas last May.

3.

Polish section IATC, Polish Center of ITI and the Raszewski Theater Institute have been founded new International Prize -- *Modjeska Prize* -- the first winner was Isabelle Huppert, France last May.

4.

Polish Association of Journalists on behalf of the Polish section of the IATC has concluded an agreement with the company of the Global Wing on the organization IATC Congress in Warsaw in 2012 (May 2012).

5.

The Raszewski Theater Institute and City of Warsaw confirmed

readiness to organize in cooperation with Polish Section
*workshops for young critics *- 12 people in April 2010 - with a
specialization in web during Warsaw Theater Meetings Festival.

6.

The Raszewski Theater Institute (who has a theater hall for 120 people, cabins for interpreters, cafeteria, library and good facilities) - can be established *IATC Congress in 2012, April or October.* It depends on the prices of hotels during the football championships Euro 2012 in Warsaw (June 2012). If Congress will accept that proposal Polish section begin budget negotiations with sponsors, including the Minister of Culture and the City of Warsaw.

Tomasz Miłkowski, Warsaw.

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Dear friends,
Here is my very brief report.
Sorry it comes late.
See you soon
Best
Ivan

Besides my regular work at the Faculty of Drama Arts in Belgrade and in my magazines *NIN* and *Teatron*, I have been engaged, since our last meeting in India, in several activities which were connected with the IATC. First of all, I wrote the English version of the Minutes from the ExCom meeting in India. In April I was, as a member of the Serbian section of IATC, member of the jury at the regional theater festival "Without translation" in Užice (south west of Serbia). I've been active in preparing and realising a few media actions considering the position of critics in Serbian medias and theater system. I have been working on the proceedings from the Symposium "Dramatic and Postdramatic theater: ten years later" which was held, with a big success, at Bitef (Belgrade) in September 2009 and to which all of you had been invited.