

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics,
Held in Yerevan, Armenia, on the 18th 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), Brigitte Purkhardt (Canada), Tomasz Milkowski (Poland), Jeffrey Eric Jenkins (USA), Akiko Tachiki (Japan), Katayoun Hosseinzadeh Salmasi (Iran), Mark Brown (Great Britain) and Zhang Xian (China).

Also attending: Zhu Ning, from China, as an interpreter for Zhang Xian and Lis Hellström Sveningsson, from Sweden.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

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

The minutes have not been finished yet since the previous meeting took place three days earlier. Ivan gave a short summary.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Nominations

Yun-Cheol Kim, who was unanimously re-elected as president of the IATC at the General Assembly, proposed Jean-Pierre Han and Margareta Sörenson as Vice-presidents. Unanimously accepted by the ExCom. At the same time, the two of them were appointed Director of colloquia (Margareta) and Director of seminars for young critics (Jean-Pierre). Lis Hellström Sveningsson and Mark Brown were appointed as Jean-Pierre's assistants. One of the reasons Margareta has been appointed Director of Colloquia was that Kalina, who held this position previously, has health problems and cannot travel regularly. Yun-Cheol stressed that Kalina had been doing this job very well. It was decided that Margareta should be at least informed about all the conferences organised or co-organised by IATC, which was not the case in the previous period. Ivan was re-appointed Adjunct Secretary General, and Irene, treasurer. A discussion was raised about the status of Zhu Ning as a Chinese interpreter (our new member, Zhang Xian, feels he doesn't speak English fluently). Xian said that the hotel expenses for his translator would be covered by the Chinese section, although there is always a possibility that the hosts of the ExCom meetings would pay this extra cost. He even proposed not to be a candidate after the Congress in Warsaw. The main aim of their membership in the ExCom is to learn how to organize a Congress: if in Warsaw they get the organisation of the Congress in 2014 (Beijing), he could leave his place in the ExCom to another member of the Chinese section who is fluent in one of the official languages of the association.

6. Programme

6.1. Congresses in 2012 and 2014

There are no latest news about the preparations for the Congresses in Warsaw and Beijing (Tomasz has already given a detailed info at the previous meeting in Yerevan).

6.2. Executive Committee Meetings

There are two new propositions: Nagpur (central India) in autumn 2011 and Reims (France) in December 2011 in the frame of the festival *Scènes d'Europe*. There is an organisation connected to the festival which deals with audience development: if we intend to organise a conference simultaneously with the ExCom meeting, it should be dedicated to young audiences. Yun-Cheol stressed that, having in mind the fact that we have already had a meeting in India organised by the same person (Ravi Chaturvedi), who is not a member of the Indian Section of IATC, the invitation from Reims should have a priority. If it doesn't work we'll rethink about the invitation from India.

6.3. Young Critics Seminars

Already existing invitations: St. Petersburg (April 2011), Warsaw (beginning of April 2011), Sfântu Gheorghe, Romania (April 2011), Gävle, Sweden (beginning of June 2011), Prague for the Quadrennial (June 2011), Toronto, Canada (June 2011), Charleville-Mézières, France (September 2011), Tbilisi (October 2011). It's obvious that the list is too long and that we can't realize all the seminars which are proposed. We stressed that for young critics it would be important to go to St. Petersburg (Premio Europa), Prague (Quadrennial), and Charleville-Mézières (for the puppet festival). Yun-Cheol informed us that the projects for Prague (conference for young or established critics) are not certain: Mirka Potuckova, from Prague, said that she has been having problems in preparing an IATC event for the next Quadrennial. It was decided that Jean-Pierre and his assistants should prepare a concrete proposal for the next ExCom meeting: till then there won't be any preliminary decisions (except for the seminar in St. Petersburg which will be certainly organised). The idea to inaugurate a prize for new critics has been also discussed but didn't get a general support. The name "new critics seminars" has also been discussed. Mark's proposal to rename it "young critics seminar" was accepted although it was stressed that the initiative to call them *new* instead of *young* had been launched and realised (in Seoul) by the young critics themselves. It was said that we should do more on encouraging young critics to take part in the seminars, especially in countries in which IATC is not very active, like Germany (to announce them in theatre magazines, to write to theatre schools, etc).

6.4. Cultural Bridges/Established Critics Meetings

We decided to change the name of this programme and to call it simply *Established critics meetings* instead of *Cultural Bridges* which aimed, when it was inaugurated, something pretty different. It was said that the invitations for the conferences and seminars should be more emphasized on our web site. Yun-Cheol informed us that Alessandro Martinez would like to organize a conference for established critics at Premio Europa in collaboration with IATC and some Russian theatre associations. The conference in Yerevan has been evaluated as well. The main problems of this conference were the following: the topic was chosen too late so there was not enough time to react on the abstracts (to ask for some changes) and our hosts, being theatre artists and not critics or scholars, haven't been acquainted with our procedures and way of work. We agreed that we should be more efficient in preparing our conferences, that a keynote speaker should be invited if he or she is really an important expert (this name could attract other participants: otherwise it wouldn't be necessary to have a keynote speaker – it could even sound too academic), that critics with a journalistic background should be encouraged to take part in the conferences, that we should give more time for preparation and translation of the papers into French or English. It was decided that Margareta, Brigitte and Ivan should discuss these topics a bit more and propose some models.

7. Any other business

Katy wanted to get the names of critics who will be members of the international jury of the Fajr Theatre festival in Tehran. After Yun-Cheol's explanation on how the previous jury in Tehran was made, we appointed Michel, Margareta and Jean-Pierre. We agreed that, in general, these juries shouldn't be made upon some formal models: we should encourage colleagues who are not in the ExCom to take part in IATC's international juries. In Tehran they would like to have some

workshops during the festival animated by our members. Ivan informed us that Sarajevo was also interested in having an international jury at the MESS festival (15th – 31st of October).

14. Date and place of next meeting

Maribor, Slovenia, 20th – 24th of October 2010.

Michel Vaïs, Secretary General

Ivan Medenica, Adjunct Secretary General