

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics,
held in Thessaloniki, 12th April 2008.**

12th April 2008

1. Attendance

Those present : Ian Herbert (President), Michel Vaïs (General Secretary), Yun-Cheol Kim (Vice-president – South Korea), Margareta Sörenson (Vice-president, director of seminars – Sweden), Kalina Stefanova (Director of colloquia) Don Rubin (Canada), Juan-Antonio Hormigón (Spain), Larry DeVine (USA), Jean-Pierre Han (France), Andrzej Zurowski (Poland), Maria Helena Serôdio (Portugal), Ludmila Patlanjoglu (Romania), Irène Sadowska-Guillon (treasurer), Ivan Medenica (adjunct general secretary).

Apologies for absence: Nikolai Pesochinsky (Russia).

Three **observers** were also present: Kerri Allen (USA), Zeynep Oral (Hon. Vice-president, Turkey), Jonathan Abarbanel (USA).

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously, and is as appears below.

3. Approval of Minutes of the Excom meeting in St Petersburg, 27-28 October 2007

These were adopted unanimously, with no corrections.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Reports:

5.1. President

Ian appointed to be very short since the main responses are to be found on the new ExCom Meeting in Sofia. He also mentioned has been presenting IACT in Peking and Teheran, as well as being a coordinator of the programme Premio Europa in Thessaloniki.

5.2. General Secretary

Michel Vaïs reported having prepared his report on the Association's activities for the Assembly: Colloquia, Extraordinary Congress in Seoul, ExCom meetings... All the details will be discussed in Sofia. The chairman of the congress will be Ian Herbert, and the elections will be coordinated by John Elsom, honorary president, according to the tradition, since our last president before Ian, Georges Banu will not be able to come to Sofia.

5.3. Treasurer

Written report. See Annexe of minutes of General Assembly.

5.4. Other Committee members

Margareta: has attended the Unima Congress in Perth, Australia.

Juan-Antonio: reminded about the successful Seminar in Santiago di Compostela pointing that they would like to be the organizer again.

Yun-Cheol: reported the Senior's seminar within the regional Asian association in Peking on December (four ExCom members took participation). The next one will be in Japan.

Ian: Colloquium for Senior critics in Teheran.

6. Sofia Congress

Kalina: hopes everything will go smoothly in Sofia. The papers being quite interesting and diverse and some of them opposite. The symposium will last only two days, therefore she asked that each presentation does not exceed 20 minutes. The Bulgarian programme will be versatile: only one proceeding, six performances and a film. The members of the Independent Bulgarian Association (Society) will take part, and from the other Association (Guild), there will be only six participants.

Ian: asked everybody to be conscious of Kalina's huge volunteer work in organizing the Congress, in contrast to the Official Congress Agency and Ministry's employees who were paid for their work.

Irene: being glad two Bulgarian associations collaborating, asked if it means that from now on they will be paying only one membership. Kalina answered that the two Bulgarian groups will pay separately.

Ian: A special attention to be paid to Jean-Pierre Sarrazac. Jean-Pierre Han will present him to others.

Kalina: Congress is very well advertised. There are even billboards.

Don: It is a pity that there will be no Sarrazac's books on the Congress in Sofia. He, himself, was not able to find any in Canada. It is a matter to be reflected up for the future laureates.

Maria-Helena: In the future the publishers could be asked to send the books of the laureates.

Kalina: there will be two buses in front of the Macedonia Palace for 63 people, the journey is supposed to take from three to six hours.

Juan-Antonio: asked that ExCom members be on the same bus.

7. Programme (including reports where needed)

7.1. Congress

Larry presents Kerry Allen and Jonathan Abarbanel.

Abarbanel: formal announcement of the Congress in Chicago by the American National Section, middle September – end of October 2010. Problem – finances. They do not have Ministry of the culture. A fund raising should be provided. By now raising is going quite well. Questions: 1) Is there a possibility for the Congress to animate cultural life in Chicago, for example by interventions in the medias? Yes. 2) Visa problems (approximate number of people that might have problems in getting Americans visas, in order to be in time in resolving those problems). He will ask this question at the general assembly.

Ian: Congress 2012: we should start to think about it.

Andrzej Zurowski : Poland is hoping to be able to organize Congress in Warsaw in 2012. Tomasz will give us some more information in Sofia. Project has been already started.

7.2. Executive Committee Meetings

Andrzej : suggestion to be in Warsaw during the national festival, some sort of Show Case (April 2009); in Gdansk, August 2009, Conference: Multimedial Shakespeare.

Yun-Cheol: Chinese are not able to suggest a Congress for the year 2012. However, they will have more contribution in the IATC if they are one day elected in the Excom.

Ian: Martinez offered a Congress to be organized anytime within Premio Europa by default, in case of difficulties elsewhere.

Don: Seminar in October 2008, small one (25-30 people), from 6th to 13th October 2008, in Toronto, Stratford and Niagara (city of the waterfall), together with the ExCom. Theme: „Theatrical commentary – the line of evolution“.

Maria-Helena: ExCom in Almada, between 4th and 18th July, 2008; the choice of dates is up to us (3 nights, 4 days).

Juan-Antonio: There are enough ExCom invitations for this year; spring or autumn 2009: Symposium on Latin America, in Vigo.

Ian: reminds that Juan Antonio already has proposed the event in question which could become something more important.

Yun-Cheol: in spite of the fact that Nikolai will not present his candidacy, Russia still wants to be a host of some ExCom meetings in 2009, either in April (Moscow), or in October (St. Petersburg).

Ludmila: next year is Ionesco's 100 years jubilee. On that occasion, there will be a lot of happenings in Romania, namely in Bucharest; another seminar will be about theatre and film: it could be a context for an ExCom meeting or some other IATC event.

7.3. New Critics' Seminars

Margareta: Wiesbaden, 8 places, June (already on the website), Saguenay (Quebec), September 2008, Craiova (which is not our genuine seminar); suggestion for a seminar in Transylvania, where a brand new festival has just started to be organized.

7.4. Cultural Bridges/Established Critics' Meetings

Kalina: Craiova and Pilsen, not yet confirmed.

Ian: the invitation for Pilsen should be accepted (2008 September or October); it could happen that another symposium will be organized in South Africa (see below).

Jean-Pierre: there should be a selection made, since there are plenty of events in a short time period.

Ian: it may be a good idea to have plenty of events in order for more people to be involved, not only ExCom members.

Kalina: South Africa during the Festival in Grahamstown, the biggest one in this country, as a kind of continuation to the Symposium in Sofia (similar subject)

„Psychology of the violence and forgiveness“; six critics from outside of Africa; they should try to initiate the national section of South Africa.

Zeynep: show case of Turkish theatre (30th May– 4th June 2008).

Ivan: Symposium of Sterijino pozorje, May-June 2009, on subject: International Theatre Festivals, chairman Dragan Klaić from Amsterdam.

Lucia van Heteren suggested a big Conference to be held within the Holland Festival (about 70 participants), in June 2009.

Abarbanel: in Guanajuato, Mexico, Congress of the PEN center, he will contact Michel in order to organize something together.

8. Projects

8.1 Journals Exchange

To be discussed in Sofia.

8.2 Code of Ethics

Ivan made a proposal of Code of Ethics from the synthesis of the national ethical codes that have been sent to him (USA, Quebec, Serbia), and suggestions that came from Matti Linnavuori from Finland, who was a member of the initial working group for this project. Ian reviewed this version, and Michel translated it into French.

8.3 Book Project

Don: the old project of a Book on theatre criticism; since there are several points of view, it might be good to make several separated books on this subject.

9. Relations with other organizations

To keep on good ones and enlarging.

10. Communications: Website

Ivan: the new concept both in a technical and design way, has been finished; he thanked all members for their suggestions. Now we are waiting only for the technical transfer once the required data from the Quebec provider will come.

11. Membership and Recruitment

Margareta: Denmark renounces, there are not enough people; nevertheless, she would insist on turning them back.

Irene: the Danish critics have never been paying their dues.

Ian: to keep on with Recruitment.

Michel: There is a possibility for a Swiss national section to be organized; by now we have had one individual member from Switzerland, and Michel met two more persons interested in Thessalonikhi. He noted that in Asia we have a regional **association** (which brings together national sections and individual members). This should not be confused with a regional **section**, our only one of this kind being the Caribbean section, which has the same status as a national section.

12. Perspectives for the positions of Officers and the Executive Committee

Michel: Ian Shuttleworth (GB) will not be able to go to Sofia, so he renounces to be a candidate for Excom.

Ian: that does not mean that GB will not present a candidacy.

From the existing ExCom members, the following will not present a candidacy: Russia and South Korea. New candidates announced (beyond existing ExCom): Italy, Serbia, Japan.

16. Date and place of next meeting

Sofia, Grand Hotel Sofia, 18th April at 3:00 pm, after General Assembly

Michel Vaïs, General Secretary

Ivan Medenica, Adjunct General Secretary