

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom)
of the International Association of Theatre Critics
held in Turin, 11 March 2006, at 1300hrs**

1. Attendance and apologies

Present: Ian Herbert (president), Michel Vaïs (general secretary), Irène Sadowska-Guillon (outgoing treasurer), Alvina Ruprecht (Canada), Jean-Pierre Han (France), Yun-Cheol Kim (Korea), Tomasz Milkowski (Poland), Paulo Eduardo Carvalho (Portugal), Ludmila Patlanjoglu (Romania), Nikolai Pesochinsky (Russia), Juan Antonio Hormigón (Spain), Margareta Soerenson (Sweden), Larry Devine (USA).

Several observers were also in attendance: Andrzej Zurowski (Hon. Vice-President), Manuel Vieites, Hervé Guay, Boubakeur Sekini, Kerri Allen.

Kalina Stefanova joined the meeting after the vote at item 4.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted unanimously, as appears here.

3. Minutes of the meeting of 8 March in Turin

Summarised by the general secretary, and to be adopted at the next meeting.

4. New officers, nomination of vice-presidents

4.1 Treasurer: Irène Sadowska-Guillon agreed to continue in this post; proposed by Y-C. Kim, seconded by Alvina Ruprecht and carried unanimously.

4.2 Other positions: The president noted that the outgoing vice-president, Kalina Stefanova, was no longer a member of ExCom. However, since the next congress was probably to take place in Bulgaria, with Kalina energetically involved in its preparation, it seemed a good idea to give her a continuing role with ExCom. There had previously been differences between critics in certain countries, for example in Romania, but such situations had always been resolved. It was agreed, however, that it would not yet be prudent to nominate Kalina as the contact for the Sofia congress. Ian suggested that she be made responsible for the meetings of established critics. After some discussion Larry Devine proposed and Y-C. Kim seconded the nomination of Kalina Stefanova as responsible for IATC colloquia. For: 5; against: 2; abstentions: 3. The motion carried.

Vice-presidents: P-E. Carvalho, seconded by J-P. Han, proposed Y-C. Kim. Unanimously approved. N. Pesochinsky, seconded by P.-E. Carvalho, proposed Margareta Soerenson. Unanimously approved. Margareta will for the moment remain responsible for the young critics' seminars, with Paulo Eduardo taking on the post of assistant director.

5. Coming activities

5.1 Extraordinary Congress, Seoul

The president felt that the Association could afford to offer financial support to participants who might have difficulty in getting to Seoul. The congress organisers also have a small amount of money, to assist delegates from Asia in particular.

5.2 XXIIIrd Congress (2008)

The president will reply to the Bulgarian Minister of Culture, thanking him on behalf of the Assembly General of IATC for his invitation. He will keep ExCom informed of developments.

5.3 Seminars for Young Critics

Margareta said that she will be working with J-P. Han for Charleville-Mézières, with Hervé Guay for Vilnius and with Kalina Stefanova for Seoul. We noted the following proposals for 2007, which seem to be the most secure:

Vigo (Spain), March (dance and theatre festival)
 Moscow (Russia), April (Chekhov Festival)
 Novi Sad (Serbia), May (Sterijino Pozorje festival)
 Szeged (Hungary), July
 Wroclaw (Poland), October (Dialog Festival)

5.4 ExCom

The Autumn meeting will be in Seoul, in October 2006; the Spring 2007 meeting could be in Almada, Portugal, in July (Almada Festival); that for the autumn perhaps in St Petersburg (Baltic House festival).

5.5 Meetings of Established Critics

We noted the meeting proposed for six critics in November 2006, at the monodrama festival in Wroclaw, Poland. Also the possibility of a meeting at the 2007 festival in Sibiu, which is to be European Capital of Culture then; Kalina will be at this year's festival, and will work on this together with the Romanian section.

6. Thalia Prize

It was agreed that it would be important that the first Thalia Prize should be given to someone well known throughout the world rather than someone from IATC, to avoid the charge of self-congratulation. The Assembly general had decided that the prize should go to someone writing on theatre, whether as critic or in some other capacity. Further, the prize was to be awarded in Seoul, in Asia, where we shall be talking about 'New Realities and Criticism'. It would be good to link the winner either to Asia or to the congress theme. Ian mentioned the names of Eric Bentley and Hans-Thies Lehman, which had already been given as examples of the kind of winner we were seeking. Manuel added that of Tadashi Suzuki.

ExCom members were asked to send Michel their proposals in accordance with these new definitions within a month. He will circulate the nominations and a vote will be taken among ExCom a month later, to give time for discussion.

Meeting concluded at 1530 hrs.

Michel Vaïs

General Secretary