

Minutes of the first work-conference of the General Douzelage
Committee

Saturday, 7th May 1994 09.00 hours
Hotel Preveza Beach.

Present

Chairman	Mr. Karel Majoor
Altea:	Mr. Andrés Ripoll Florens Mr. Juan Bia Lauriza Ahuir Mr. José Perez Grau Mr. Jerondmo Ripoll Ronda
Bellagio:	Mr. Igor Pescialli Mr. Bruno Bianchi Mrs. Maria Angela Gilardoni Mrs. Donatella Gamdola
Bundoran:	Mr. Sean McEwiff Mr. Hugh McGowan Mr. Michael McElhinney Mr. Joe McNulty
Granville:	Mr. Bernard Beck Mr. Henry Haffray Mrs. Helline Michael, Mr. Pierre Audrain
Houffalize:	Mr. Alphonse Henrard Mr. Daniel Rob Mr. José Lutgen Mr. Fulluci Colin
Kötzting:	Mr Gunther Pecher Mrs. Eva Maurer Mr. Hermann KumpfmUller Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher
Meerssen:	Mr. Fernand Jadoul Mr. Hans Ruysink Mrs. Regien Boeren
Niederanven:	Mr. Jos Mouton Mrs. Jacqueline Guillaume Mrs. Annette Faber

Mr. Jeannot Poiré

Preveza: Mr. Nikos Grannoulis
Mrs. Miranda Papadimitriou

Sesimbra: Mrs. Laura Reis Marques
Mr. Ezequiel Lino
Mr. Archadis Barvallio

Sherborne: Mr. Jeremy Barker
Mr. Michael Balfour

Holstebro:. not present.

I. Welcome.

The chairman, Mr. K. Majoor welcomes all delegations to this first general Douzelage meeting. For the excellent way the delegations have been welcomed and the way the meeting is organized (translation is well taken care of) by Preveza, a firm applause is given to our hosts Mr. Nikos Grannoulis and Mrs. Miranda Papadimitriou of Preveza.

II According to the agenda for the general meeting that Mr. Majoor, has distributed the following items come at order:

1. Position, of Holstebro.

As. a result of political changes the board of Holstebro. has re-evaluated their foreign contacts. They decided that, for the coming period priorities will be given to their. contacts with Scandinavian towns and the economic cooperation with a Polish town. The president visited Holstebro to convince them of the importance of the Douzelage and the meaningful Symposia twice a year. This visit however had no effect on the decision of the board. Mr. Kurt Larsen and Mr. Jens Garsteen will try to set up an association on a non-political base to continue the Douzelage-participation. This however will take some time. The president likes to know the opinion of all partners on this item.

Sherborne: The relations between Sherborne and Holstebro are very good. Mr. Barker is very optimistic about the fact that they will succeed in setting up a Douzelage-association.

Granville: There are frequent contacts between

Granville and Holstebro. (exchange of pupils). We have to decide about the things that happened at Holstebro. It is very important that the Douzelage becomes less dependent on political changes. Granville will continue the contacts with Holstebro.

Sesimbra: We would very much like them to stay and participate in the Douzelage. Now that Holstebro cannot longer be the chairman of the Touristic Committee, Sesimbra would like to take over this responsibility, because of our experience with this item.

Kötzting: The exchanges are quite good with Holstebro. Kötzting has the most frequent contacts with Holstebro. We should give them time to form an independent committee.

The president concludes that a formal declaration will be made of this decision of the General Douzelage Committee.

As a conclusion that must be drawn from these problems Holstebro is dealing with the president says that All partners should try to form a non-political committee. It also is very important to have a lot of inhabitants join the committee, so the Douzelage-participation will be more solidly integrated in the towns.

Question: 1. Are there already non-political committees,
2. Will a change of politicians have any effect on participation in the Douzelage?

Altea: Altea has a non-political committee that is made up of The presidents of the local associations. It is quite a large committee. From this committee various smaller committees have been elected. It works quite well.

Kötzting: The committee is politically involved, but a change of politicians will have no effect on participation in the Douzelage.

Bellagio: Because Bellagio is rather A small town the committee has been formed by politicians. Any change of politicians will have no effect on participation in the Douzelage.

Sherborne: The majority of people involved are non-politicians. Mr. Barker agrees with the point of view that it is very good to have non-politicians join the committee.

Granville: Granville has created an association that depends on the community. Because the Douzelage is very different from other jumelages, Granville tried to find a way to involve the community in it. So, an independent association with frequent contacts to the community, has been made. It works well.

Preveza: Mr. Grannoulis is very sorry that Holstebro is not present. He shares the opinion that all matters concerning the Douzelage should be taken care of by a committee. He will certainly undertake some action to form an association in Preveza. The local government will support this committee. Changes caused by elections will not have any effect on participation in the Douzelage.

Bundoran: Because Bundoran is rather a small town participation in the Douzelage is a concern of the local authority. Elections will have no effect on participation.

Houffalize: The committee has been formed from various local committees. This committee can do his job apart and independent from politics.

Meerssen: Has an independent committee, supported by the local authority.

Sesimbra: Has a committee. Mr. Archais will see to it that as many inhabitants as possible will join this committee.

Niederanven: The situation in Niederanven is more or less the same: part are politicians and part are people from the associations. This mix is necessary, otherwise it couldn't function. The local government is needed to get the work done.

2. Touristic Committee.

Kurt Larsen has to give up the chairmanship of the Touristic Committee as a result of the difficulties in Holstebro. He therefore has sent back all the 1. photographs that have been sent in to him to make the brochure. The drafts that have been made by a firm in Holstebro have not been sent back., because it would cost DK 10.000.-- (± 1000 ECU) to take them over. It is very important that this brochure is made, it therefore is also of great importance that one of the other partners takes over this task.

Opinion of the various partners:

Altea: We talked about the Touristic Committee. We strongly feel that it must be continued. Altea will not be candidate for the chairmanship.

Kötzting: The importance of the brochure is evident. It is needed therefore too that we get a new chairman. If nobody else is interested we will try to accomplish it.

Bellagio: A new chairman should take over the task. The local Touristic committee has let us know that they will do it if there are no other candidates,.

Sherborne: The appointment of a new chairman is important. Because Sherborne has the committee of Education we cannot take over this task. We however will fully support the new chairman.

Granville: Granville has shown that organising a touristic matter can be done. The brochure evidently must be made so we can directly come in contact with all inhabitants.

Sesimbra: We do need a new chairman and as already said we would like to apply for it, because of our experience with tourism. We have made a local brochure now to let the inhabitants know what the Douzelage is. In 1996, when the symposium will be held in Sesimbra, everybody will know what the Douzelage is.

Preveza: A Touristic Committee is absolutely necessary. Promotion of tourism in our cities is of great importance. We therefore would like to take the presidency of the committee.

Bundoran: The chairman of the committee will have our full support. Tourism is our only industry.

Houffalize: We have decided in Kötzting to make a common Tourism brochure. Also a chart was decided upon. This chart was found excellent by every-one. We should definitively stick to this.

Meerssen: The decision made in Kötzting about the Tourism Brochure should be held on to.

Conclusion: The various responsibilities must be taken by each city.

There are two candidates for the chairmanship: Preveza and Sesimbra.

The first idea of Holstebro should be finished. : a douzelage-map with the addresses of all Touristic Information Offices and an explanation of the Douzelage in various languages.

Preveza says that first a research will be needed to coordinate these actions. The projects must be mobilised by the Tourist-agencies.

The president replies that in those discussions a lot of time will be involved. It is vital that there will be one

coordination-point. This is the chairman's task. The various partners should discuss it outside the meeting. (After various bilateral deliberations the following' decision has been taken: Preveza will fulfil the chairmanship for the first two years and will have two items to be taken care off:

- the common touristic brochure
- stimulation of all local touristic travel agencies to promote Douzelage exchanges.)

3. Douzelage-badge.

Mr. Mike Silberrat from Sherborne has designed the Douzelage-badge. Michael Balfour presents it to the partners.

The costs of the badges (colour design are:

- 1000 badges Engl. Pounds 1.20 each
- 4000 badges Engl. Pounds 0,90 each.

The badges will be of high quality. They can be ready within 8 week. The badges can also be produced in black and white.

Reaction of the partners:

Altea: We agreed to have these badges. Sherborne should continue to produce them. We can order up to 300 or 400 badges.

Kötzting: In principle we Are absolutely in favour of having those badges. We however hesitate about the number we can order. Approximately 300-400 can be bought by Kötzting.

Bellagio: The work Sherborne has done is excellent. We are thinking of using the badges as a present for the schools. We can order 300-400 pieces.

Granville: We are in favour of having the badges produced. However, badges are not trendy anymore in France. Nevertheless we will follow the decision. We cannot place a very large order. The people of the Committee will wear them.

Preveza: We agree in having the badges produced. It however will require a change if the Douzelage will be extended. Maybe we could have a design for a similar badge with more stars.

reply Sherborne: To have the name Douzelage promoted has cost us all a lot of work and energy. We think we should in any case keep the name Douzelage.

President: the sticker too has been made under the name "Douzelage". If we have to wait with all projects until a possible extension we cannot do anything no more. It would more or less paralyze our activities.

Bundoran: We fully support the badge-idea. The name Douzelage has become traditional. We do not want a change of this name.

Houffalize: The badge has our full support. It must be seen as an addition to the passport. Visitors from partner-cities will be immediately recognizable.

Meerssen: The badge can be produced the way it was presented. We can order 300 pieces.

Sesimbra: We agree with the design of the badge. We can order 300 pieces.

Niederanven: We agree. We can order 300 pieces.

Conclusion:

The idea of a badge is accepted. Approximately 3000 to 4000 pieces could be made of the coloured version of the design. If any of the other partners should want to make an alternative offer, this should be done within a month in accordance with the chairman of the General Committee and with Sherborne.

4. Trade-directory.

Chris West of Sherborne has made this proposal. A copy has been sent to all partners.

Reaction:

Altea: We talked about this idea with local enterprises. It is very difficult to find any enterprises that are willing to participate, for the matter is very complicated.

Kötzting: It is a comprehensive project. We will try to join it.

Bellagio: For us it is a quite difficult project for we don't have many industries. A business-list could be very useful.

Granville: The project is rather difficult. We think we have to make a link with the Chamber of Commerce. The results of the project would depend on them. We surely send them all the relevant information.

Preveza: We think that the suggestion of Granville to link in the Chambers of Commerce is a very good idea. The proposal of Sherborne is also an excellent idea. The contact could be made very efficient. We should try to make this proposal work.

Bundoran: We have a 100 % tourism-industry. We therefore are not in the position to participate in this project. We are surely not against it, but we will not join you.

Houffalize: We cannot take the organization of trade in our hands. The Chamber of Commerce and other economic organizations have this task. We will ask the Chamber of Commerce to participate in this project.

Meerssen: We have no summary of businesses. We also will ask the regional Chamber of Commerce if they are able to make one.

Sesimbra: We do not have a summary either. A new organization at Sesimbra is working on this. We will contact all of you when it is ready.

Niederanven: We have a booklet in which the Chamber of Commerce has mentioned all the industries. This information can be sent to all the partners. We would like to participate but it is impossible for us.

Conclusion: During the Symposium at Bellagio we have experienced that it is very difficult for the local authorities to bring about an the economic spin-off. Exchange of addresses of local businesses will not be of any help. Everybody should use his contacts in their own town or region to find out if local industries are interested. Exchange on bilateral level should be possible.

The regional Chambers of Commerce should be provided with all the necessary information. The partners who Are able or willing to do so are:

Kötzting, Meerssen, Sherborne, Granville, Houffalize and Preveza.

5. Travel-agents-list.

Sherborne proposes to involve the local travel-agencies who sell holidays in the Douzelage. We could generate a lot of tourism in this way to our partner-towns. Two travel agencies in Sherborne have already been evolved in this. Granville too has shown a good example by, organising the arrangement to Preveza.

Reactions:

Altea: We think this is an excellent idea. We will write a letter to all the local travel-agencies to activate them.

Kötzting: We only have one travel-agency. We cannot force them to participate. We however will send all

prospectuses of the partner-towns to them, so they know about the possibilities.

Bellagio: We do not have a travel-agency in Bellagio. We however will support the project and therefore we will send you all a number of brochures of Bellagio. We cannot organize any kind of trips to the partner-cities.

Granville: We think that having the local travel-agency involved is the way of attracting people's attention. We have given all information to our travel-agencies. A really pleasant contact has been accomplished now.

Preveza: We will organize a trade-presentation for hotel-associations and local Tourist Information Associations. We think that this proposal should be worked out. It might be very interesting. The chairman of the Tourist Committee should work out this idea.

Bundoran: We are very interested, because Bundoran's only industry is tourism. We certainly will encourage people to travel to Douzelage-towns. We think that it is very important to have as much exposure as possible. We think that forming a subcommittee on this item is a good idea.

Houffalize: Activating the local travel-agencies is a Good idea. The passport can play a special rule in this item. We surely will cooperate.

Meerssen: We will participate in trying to get the local travel-agencies interested in the partner towns.

Sesimbra: We do agree on this project. Every town will have more profit of the Douzelage by doing so.

Niederanven: We have no travel-agency of any importance. We should however be able to make some arrangements. We would like to ask Henri Haffray to help us with this item.

Henri Haffray: There is more to it than just getting Douzelage-people interested. The Douzelage should take initiatives to start up this project. Our task in this project is to send in the information. After that the professional agencies will have to take over.

Conclusions:

1. The Tourism-Committee should be active to work out the proposal;
2. All towns that have touristic industry must be working on this project. All the local specialists can be involved.
3. We must not forget the specific groups, such as seniors, sports associations etc.
4. We all make our proposals on this item and send them to the chairman of the Touristic Committee.

Work conference of the General Douzelage
8 May 1994 08.30 hours.
Preveza Beach hotel.

6. Honeymoon project.

Developments of this project:

Altea: Altea has had an exchange of a honeymoon couple with Meerssen last year.

Kötzting: We are negotiating with Sherborne to have the exchange.

Bellagio: This year we will have an exchange with Houffalize, and next year we will come to an agreement with Sesimbra.

Sherborne: We will have an exchange with Kötzting.

Granville: We have had an exchange with Sesimbra already. We will have negotiations with Altea about the exchange in 94-95.

Preveza: We apologize that we have not managed to conclude the negotiations with Sherborne up till now. We will make some appointments with Sherborne concerning the exchange.
Furthermore we would like to propose an exchange with Niederanven.

Bundoran: The exchange of a honeymoon couple with Niederanven has been done. We think the Tourism Committee should take part in those exchanges.

Houffalize: Contacts with Bellagio have been made for September. Proposals from other cities are very welcome.

Meerssen: We have had some very nice experiences with Altea in the past. We will try to have an exchange with Houffalize now.

Sesimbra: We invited Bellagio. The exchange. Will take place this year.

Niederanven: We have had an exchange with Bundoran.
Appointments will be made with Preveza.

Education.

Mr. Jeremy Barker says that the Education Committee is working extremely well. Several exchanges have been made. Now however time has come to have another meeting. He proposes to have this (parallel)meeting in the context of the symposium at Altea.

Altea: There of course is a possibility of having Parallel meetings at Altea on education. The first meeting on education was also held in Altea. We will have to see how many people will attend to the meeting in regard of the accommodation we can offer.

President:

The official delegation to this meeting must consist of 4 people. 2 people on education-expertise and 2 people on general Douzelage-items. Question is if there are possibilities to have the meetings at the same time in different rooms.

Altea: In this way it will be no problem. These accommodations can be provided for.

Reaction:

Altea: We will have two representatives on educational matters present.

Kötzting: There will be two representatives on Education present at Altea.

Bellagio: We haven't participated up till now. In future we will participate. In Altea there will be two persons on educational matters present.

Sherborne: O.K.

Granville: We will have two representatives for education in Altea.

Preveza: We couldn't attend Altea for the first meeting on education. We will be present in September in Altea with two experts on education.

Bundoran: We will participate in the educational meetings.

Houffalize: We will participate in the educational meetings in Altea.

Meerssen: There will be representatives on educational matters in Altea.

Sesimbra: A delegation on educational matters will be present in Altea. We also have a teacher willing to participate in the work-shadowing. She however speaks no English. The countries therefore must be Belgium France or Luxembourg. Period: 1-15 September 1994. In 1995 an

exchange can take place. Please reactions on this proposal. Exchanges will be bilateral arranged.

Niederanven: We only have a primary school. A delegation will be in Altea to attend the parallel meeting on education.

On education:

Granville states that the work on a historical project of Preveza-children has been received. It was an excellent piece of work for which he wants to thank these children. The original work has been submitted to the Director of Education in Granville. Copies of it were given to primary and secondary schools and to the library. Granville has not been working on this project because there are no Roman ruins in Granville. Within 1 month the 50th anniversary of D. Day will start. All schools will participate in this project. Subject: The life of Granvillian inhabitants during the occupation of World War II. When the works are completed they will be distributed.

Summer camps:

Granville would like to find other cities to send the children to on summer camp. Greece would like to participate, specific information will be exchanged. The subjects proposed in the educational meetings will be worked out during the parallel meetings. Discussions on specific projects will take place during those meetings. Any results will be integrated in the general meetings of the Douzelage.

Conclusion:

All delegations will have their representatives in Altea to join the parallel meetings on education.

Environment

Sunday, 8th May, 1994 09.30 hours.

Mr Nikos Yannoulis, Mayor of Preveza:

Environment is a subject that is extremely important. All people deal with this element. We should look upon it in a wider dimension than just our own city or country. An environment-committee should be founded to make a summary of all the specific problems each of the Douzelage Cities are dealing with on behalf of our inhabitants, most specific for our children, the problems we have on environment should be solved'. The inheritance of historical monuments is very important. We should do everything in our power to save it. Saving environment is a very complex and difficult problem. Specialists from each country must be

counselled to solve these problems. Several subjects will be pointed out by the various specialists on the specific items.

1. Mrs. Sophia Karamanidou
Literature professor
Founding of an Environmental Education Centre in
Preveza.

The problems we are confronted with in Preveza oblige us to see the need of education about environment. Education on this subject was our target creating awareness of environment and of the problems related to this. We now undertake specific actions on. educational policy. This of course is important for all the Douzelage-cities. We therefore propose the creation of a network, formed by schools on environmental education. Therefore a map should be made with all specific information of all the twelve towns and how they are dealing with their problems in this area. This map could be implemented in the centre of environmental education in Preveza. Please hand over your written proposals on this item.

2. Konstantinia Petropoulou
environnemental education about
the problems of to lid waste treatment.

The increase of solid waste makes it important that we dispose of it according to the legislation. The management is now divided in two

1. household solid-waste
2. specific solid waste as f.i. hospital-waste
chemical waste.

Even the smallest village has to deal with this item. The problem occurs everywhere. A project of recycling glass and paper has already been *set up. The local authorities have informed all inhabitants about it and they cooperate with the educational system now. Solution of these problems requires an integrated program:

1. reduce the quantity of waste by informing the consumer. Try to influence the consumer's habits.
2. controlled use of plastic packing materials
3. increase useful recyclable elements such as paper and glass
4. give specific rules for specific solid waste.
5. train high specialised people to deal with these problems.
6. a feed back of the results and evaluation is necessary.

In Preveza some very successful results have been achieved. The financial and structural help of the local authorities is very vital, just as systematic information towards all inhabitants.

Mr. Th. Paparoidamis DEYAP about water management in Preveza.

We all know that the water resources are fundamental for life on our planet. Management to maintain the balance is also vital. The problems that have to be solved are similar throughout the whole world. Some proposals are made for the rational use of water:

1. develop a network to exchange information between Douzelage-cities in relation to water management.
2. Make a summary of the following questions:
 - what is the framework of the organization
 - what are the local problems
 - when and where is water re-used
 - what are the costs of producing clean water
 - what is the influence of the consumer-behaviour
3. these questions could serve as a base for setting up the project,

J`

Mr. Vassilis Rzburos
electric Engineer of the Techn. University Athens.

Mr. Vassilis Tzouros was in charge of the Preveza Water Cleaning Unit that was completed at the end of the year.

In Greece the technology of Northern Europe was used already many years before. The technical know how of re-using waste-water can be a point of exchange of information.

Therefore a (bilateral) information between countries of the Douzelage could be very useful.

Mr Papayamis: Director of an industrial unit (porques) at Preveza.

As director of an industrial unit Mr Papayamis has developed an integrated approach of the waste problem. It is a constant fight that nothing of the environment shall be destroyed by the waste his factory produces. He invested a large amount of money to accomplish that. Production, on the other hand, doesn't stagnate and liquid waste doesn't destroy the environment. His industry is fully computerised, and an example to various industries in the region. It also functions as a study-object for the schools and universities in the region. His factory is a model of an industry who produces at full competence and does not spoil the environment.

Conclusions:

1. set up an ecological committee for the Douzelage which can start exchanging information
2. make a structure of the environmental legislation
3. implement ecological affairs in to the educational program.

The European council has several programs about environment: Mr. José Lutgen and Mr. Majoor will try to get a subvention to start a Douzelage-project on this item.

Reaction from delegations:

1. Granville: We underline the importance and the complexity of this item. We are though, a little bit frightened by the ambition of the proposals. We however will give our support. Education to young people and exchange of information are very important.
2. Bundoran: We thank Greece for the impressive presentation. Bundoran is very proud of its environment. We strongly support the educational aspect of the proposals. We agree with the French delegation that some proposals are very ambitious.
3. Houffalize: We are quite concerned about these items. We only have nature to offer to tourists. In Houffalize all delegations will be acquainted with 4 elements in "Children's City": "Health, security, tolerance and environment". We already do have an European Centre with the task to increase children's awareness. The proposals of Preveza are quite complex.
4. Sherborne: We support entirely the proposal to put these educational items on the environmental agenda in Altea. Various projects could be taken over by the Education Committee.
5. Kötzing: We would like to invite a delegation of Preveza to Kötzing to see how we handle this problem.
6. Bellagio: We do agree with all our partners that the problem is very complicated. We try to get the schools to be aware of the importance of these problems. We will take part in this project.
7. Sesimbra: We think it is a very interesting project. We want to ask you to put it on the agenda in Altea so a special committee can be formed.
8. Niederrhein: Our school has already organized a number of actions. Various projects have been done already, such as observation of the animal-life, cultivation

of nature and so on. All Douzelage-towns will receive specific information about this.

Conclusion President:

- we agree that this matter should be partly given to the Educational Committee;
- we will put it on the agenda in Altea;
- Preveza will make a questionnaire within 1 month;
- support of Brussels will be asked for by Mr. Lutgen and Mr. Majoor.

General Agenda Sunday 8th May 11.00 hours.
Preveza Beach Hotel.

8. Sport-activities.

To start a second endeavour) a survey on sport-activities a questionnaire has been sent to all the partners.
reactions:

Altea, Kötzing, Bellagio, Sherborne, Houffalize, Meerssen, Sesimbra and Niederaanven:
The questionnaire has been sent in.
Granville, Preveza and Bundoran will send it in to Meerssen on very short term.

Sport exchanges are very good to deepen the contact between our inhabitants. As soon as all get the summary from Meerssen, stimulate all of your associations to get in contact with other partners.

9. Preparations for projects.

The experience has thought us that it takes time to get a new project started or to activate other partners for a project. Give yourselves a preparation-time of 6-12 months!

10. Work-experience jobs.

Sherborne: This project has our full and Complete support. Due to recession however it is very difficult to find companies which will participate. That is why we can not always participate. We will keep on trying.

Granville: We would like to thank Mr. Majoor for his concern in this project. 9 Young people from Granville went to Meerssen for a very useful job-experience. Various other job-experiences were fulfilled. It is a very useful remedy in the fight against unemployment.

Preveza: This project of professional training must be an object of study and research. A program should be formed by a special committee. A list of various specialisms of various cities should be made. Chambers of Commerce should look upon this item too. We should try very hard to get it into a wider framework.

Meerssen: Request to all partners: Try to get young people interested in this project. It is one of the most demanding and important projects. Do not look only in your own town for available trainee-places, look for it in your region too.

Niederanven: Proposal: The manager of the Niederanvener Sheraton-Hotel is willing to accept Douzelage-students to have a work-experience-job in his hotel.
reactions: Granville as well as Preveza are interested. They will get in contact with Niederanven.

Sesimbra: Proposal: The last 2 weeks of June there are work-experience jobs available to clean the beaches.
Reactions, please before the 15th of June to Mrs. Laura Reis Marques of Sesimbra.

11. Newsletter (Douzelagenda).

We all must come to the conclusion that this project has not been very successful.

Question: should we continue this project?

Réactions:

Altea: We do not have the possibilities to make a newsletter 3 times a year. we give it up.

Kötzting: We are always glad to receive news from our partners. We will get somebody who will take care of this item regularly.

Bellagio: Because of publishing-problems we haven't attended it up till now. We will see if we can continue it in the future.

Sherborne: we think the Douzelagenda was a very good idea Although we were too occupied to get it done. It serves two purposes: for the Douzelage-towns as well as for your own public relations.

We do congratulate Sesimbra. It is very frustrating to have to listen to all the propaganda how successful we all are, and nothing ever comes out. Sesimbra however did it the only correct way. We should set a deadline on when the next Douzelagenda should be distributed.

Granville: We will send a Douzelagenda to all of you as soon as it is issued.

Preveza: This is a very difficult subject for us. Maybe an annual newsletter would be better.

Bundoran: We do not produce this newsletter.

Houffalize: Producing the newsletter has been a very good idea. We should try to continue, so the public will be aware of the Douzelage-activities.

Meerssen: We shall try to continue the newsletter.

Sesimbra: We are in favour of making the newsletter 3 times a year, because it is an important project. If local papers are sent to us we sometimes cannot read it because of the language-problems.

Niederanven: The municipal Bulletin will include the information.

Conclusion:.

Purpose of the newsletter:

1. keep the partners informed. The language we agreed upon is English!
2. It is very important to have a certain frequency in producing the newsletter. An annual survey wouldn't fit into this purpose.

We appreciate very much the information we have got regularly from Altea, Granville, Niederanven and Sesimbra. Please keep each other informed about the items you judge important or just nice to know for all of us. Each town should take-its own responsibility in this item.

12. Happy Family Game.

The President explains the way the Happy-Family game is played. in French it is called 'lieu de 7 Familles' In Dutch it is called "kwartet-spel", in German "Quartettspiel". Photographs should be sent in in COLOUR! 4 Photographs of 4 special items should be handed in by each town. The deadline for this is: within two months. Every town could make a photo competition for it among the local inhabitants.

Altea: 4 slides will be sent to Meerssen. Please look after the quality of the photographs.

Kötzting: We published the slide-competition. We received no reactions at all. However, we will send in 4 slides.

Bellagio: We have had no reactions to our advertisement. We will send in 4 photographs within 2 months.

Sherborne: we will participate.

Granville: We have had our contest already. It went very well. 4 coloured pictures will be sent to Meerssen.

Preveza: we will participate.

Bundoran: we will send you the photographs.

Houffalize: we will join this project.

Meerssen: we will join the project.

Sesimbra: we do not know the game. We will however participate.

Niederanven: we agree and we will send in 4 coloured photographs.

13. Computer conferencing.

Mr Jeremy Barker explains the meaning of this project. In the fax of 26th of March the project is explained.

Reactions:

Altea: We have a computer-club We are interested in this project.

Kötzting: We do not know all the technical details of this project. Please give us some more information:

Bellagio: We will take this project into consideration. It is very new to us. Maybe it will be useful.

Granville: Maybe education.(high-school) will be interested. An expert will be asked about this proposal. The communication by fax between our towns now is very satisfying. For us this project has not the highest priority.

Preveza: We should set up this project in a wider frame-work. There should be a constant flow of information, the financial aspect could be taken care of by the community.

Bundoran: We certainly are interested. Research however will be necessary.

Sherborne: The costs of this program will be rather low.

Sesimbra: We cannot accept this project. The information we have is that it is very expensive to buy the software.

Niederanven: We have several reservations about this proposal. The financial consequences are not incalculable.

Meerssen: As to my information it is not really a method of computer-conferencing, but it is telephone conferencing. Information was also given to me that this is not possible without a computer-program. We therefore are quite reserved about this proposal.

Mr. Barker is very disappointed by these reactions. The system gives quite some advantages, and the costs are rather low. It also is a very dynamic system. It would give us tremendous advantages on educational communication.

Kötzting: The hidden costs of the telephone-lines are rather high.

Conclusion:

If you are interested: contact Sherborne.

We must however conclude that several members are rather reserved as to participating in it.

Sherborne: We will look forward to the reactions. Let the rest of us join the project when they can.

14. Art-exchange-project.

Meerssen has sent the information to all partners.

Reaction:

Altea: We have transmitted this information to an association. We are interested.

Kötzting: We are ready to receive the-exposition.

Bellagio: we don't have any artists. We are not interested.

Sherborne:.. We think this is an excellent idea. It has however many financial consequences. You have our fully support.

Granville: We do participate. Transport and insurance of the works of art maybe difficult.

Preveza: If all practical problems can be solved, we can have the exhibition.

New proposal: Every year a common exhibition can be held in one of the partner towns in Europe.

President: Please work out this proposal in writing, and send it to all partners.

We can have a reaction of all of us in Altea.

Bundoran: no reaction.

Houffalize: We will participate.

Sesimbra: We do have a small gallery in which we could have this exhibition.

Niederanven: We will participate.

15. Song-book.

All partners are collecting well-known songs.
Kötzting is also preparing a chorus-song-book. They will prepare a letter to all choirs and then ask them to give a reaction to their proposal.

16. Preveza Youth theatre.

The theatre group consists of 27-pupils. They will travel by bus.

- Concrete proposal from Kötzting:
Preveza Youth Theatre is invited to Kötzting in the period from 11 to 15th of July 1994.
- Meerssen will see if it is possible to receive them too
- Niederaanven will think about inviting them in 1995
(Cultural Capital).

17. Cookery Cards.

The president thanks all members for sending in their recipes. We are now busy having the recipes translated. After that specific information can be given about the price, which depends on the total amount that will be ordered.

18. Extension of the E.C.

Reactions:

Sherborne: We have discussed this item. We stick to the opinion that we cannot exclude any new partners. We however want to keep the name Douzelage.

Preveza: We agree in principal that the number of members of the Douzelage should match with the number of members of the E.C.

Meerssen: President:

In my view it is not necessary to have the number of EC members match with the number of members of the Douzelage. It will cost tremendous energy. With our small facilities and budgets we should seriously think about this item. Contacts with Holstebro have already shown that they

prefer bilateral contacts. A douzelage of 16 members would not be manageable anymore. At the least, it would become very complicated. We do have time to think this over until 1995. Please take your time for this decision.

Short presentation of Mr. Calabes from Slovakia, who is guest of Preveza during this Douzelage-meeting.

Mr. Calabes appreciates the invitation of Preveza to be in this meeting as observer. The official jumelage consists now during 10 years. His hometown Spisská Nová Ves has 40.000 inhabitants. They have many bilateral contacts with Germany, Hungary, Poland, Great Britain and Greece.

An Economic City Cooperation has already been set up between the countries of Eastern Europe. Also many contacts have been established between the children.

19 Flag of honour.

Meerssen applied again for an award at the Council of Europe. It is a very big pleasure to announce that we will receive the European Flag of Honour because of our activities in the Douzelage and because of the efforts with our sister town Vatra Moldovitei from Romania. The president is sure that other towns too can apply for this award.

In Meerssen, in the middle of September, 1994 the flag will be handed over. We have to organize some festivities for this. We will invite all members of the Douzelage And of Vatra Moldovitei to join us.

We will keep you informed. The application forms will be sent to you if you are interested.

20 +

21 Parade of past/future activities.

We all have to make a survey of these activities. (If not yet ready, please make a survey within 14 days.)

Reactions:

Altea: We haven't written it yet. We will make a survey within 14 days.

Kötzting: List is ready.

Bellagio: List will be made as soon as possible.

Sherborne: done and distributed.

Granville: We will give a summary in a few weeks.

Preveza: We will give our list within a few weeks.

Bundoran: We will try (elections!!) to make a summary within a few weeks.

Houffalize: we will have the summary prepared on short, notice.

Sesimbra: done and distributed.

Meerssen: done and distributed.

Niederanven: We will give it on short notice.

22. Passport.

Altea: The model of Meerssen we only received yesterday. (The post office kept sending it back to Meerssen) We will work on it.

Kötzting: we have produced it.

Bellagio: we are working on it.

Sherborne: The passports will be finished by The Altea-meeting.

Granville: We followed the Meerssen-example.

Preveza: We have prepared the passport.

Bundoran: we will work on it.

Houffalize: ready and distributed.

Meerssen: ready and distributed.

Sesimbra: ready.

Niederanven: we are working on it.

23. Trip-strip.

The meaning of the "trip-strip" is:

If all of you make a (separate) strip on which 12 stamps, can fit, the passport holder could have a stamp in every town he visits.

The first one who has all twelve stamps should be given a honorary membership.

Therefore each country should develop a stamp of the Douzelage, connected with their own town.

Meerssen will work out a specific proposal.

24. Programme for coming meetings.

Altea: 1-5 September 1994: stands! Combined with Educational meeting.

1995: Niederaanven and Houffalize.

Both towns will discuss the exact dates. This information will be given to all members as soon as possible.

(NB. Niederaanven will be host in spring 1995, Houffalize in autumn 1995).

1996: Sesimbra has been given the meeting in spring 1996 during the meeting in Strasbourg. They have been preparing themselves already to have the meeting then. Bundoran will have to discuss at home with the rest of the Douzelage-committee if in September or October of 1996 will be all right for them. They will let us know as soon as possible.

25. Proposals:

Altea Music Group. An exchange with other towns is possible. Information translated in English about this group will be distributed.

Sherborne: Dorset Opera.

Every year 2 performances are held. Students of the Douzelage can join this opera which will be shown over a period of 10 days. Boarding will be at schools. Cost: 200 English Pounds. There are 8 places reserved for Douzelage-students.

Sesimbra: United Towns Organization.

Sesimbra has been chosen member of the UTO.

Every two months there will be published a newspaper. Mrs. Odete Graca has already written an article about the Douzelage to be published in this paper.

26. Conclusion of the president.

I have come to the conclusion that we all have done a lot of work. There has given a lot of energy to our Douzelage. We had a good meeting. Not in the least by the excellent organization by our hosts of Preveza. I would like to thank Mr. Nikos Grannoulis and Mrs. Kiranda Papadimitriou for the excellent way this symposium has been organized.

Meerssen, 18 May 1994

minutes by Regien Boeren.