

*Minutes of the 10th General Meeting.
Portugal, Sesimbra 12-04-1996
present:*

Altea:

*Mr. Joaquim Roma Perez
Mrs. Margarida Riera
Mr. Jose Davo
Mr. Angel Navarro
Mr. Francisco Candela
Mr. Isidoro Carrasco
Mr. Jose Lanusa
Mr. Federico Candela Lopes*

Bellagio:

*Mr. Bruno Bianchi
Mrs. Carla Piccamiglio
Mr. Alessandro Nettuno
Mr. Emilio Giraldoni*

Bundoran:

*Mr. Jo McNulty
Mrs. Mc.Nulty
Mrs. Denise Connolly
Mr. John Campbell*

Granville:

*Mr. Marc Verdier
Mrs. Denise Renouvin
Mrs. Mathilde Prost
Mr. Jean Marc Julienne
Mr. Bernard Husson*

Holstebro:

Mr. Olaf Sielemann

Houffalize:

*Mr. José Lutgen
Mr. Paul Georges
Mr. Daniel Rob
Mrs. Dany Dubé*

Kötzting:

Mr. Hermann Kumpfmüller
Mr. Theo Zellner
Mr. Gunther Pecher
Mr. Evelin Maurer

Meerssen:

Mr. Charles Majoor
Mrs. Manna Majoor
Mrs. Regien Boeren
Mrs. Irene Raedts
Mr. Hans Ruijsink

Niederanven:

Mr. Jos Mouton
Mr. Jeannot Poiré
Mr. Weydert Raymond
Mr. Paul Klein

Preveza:

Mr. Ioannis Doumos
Mr. Dimitrios Nikou
Mrs. Anna-Maria Sardelis

Sesimbra:

Mrs. Odette Graca
Mrs. Laura Reis Marques
Mrs. Annabella Santos
Mrs. Anna Cardoso
Mr. Albertino Cervalho

Sherborne:

Mr. Mike Balfour
Mr. Sean Walbank
Mrs. Lynne Raddall
Mr. Jeremy Barker

As observers for San Felipe:

Dr. Eugenia Miranda Da Veiga
Dr. Olanoa Araujo

First session 12-4-1996

Opening.

The chairman opens the meeting and welcomes all delegations to the 10th meeting of the Douzelage, this time in Sesimbra. A special welcome is directed to Dr. Da Veiga and Dr. Araujo, our guests from San Filipe and to Mr. Olaf Sielemann from Holstebro. To commemorate the 4 fisherman from Sesimbra who have drawned last week a minute of silence is tributed to them and their families.

Sesimbra has had high ambitions when preparing this meeting: a parallel meeting for education and one for sports and tourism will be held. The chairman hopes that these meetings will be effective. All members of those sub-meetings are leaving the conference-room for the start of their parallel-meetings.

1. Position of Holstebro.

Mr. Olaf Sielemann tells briefly about the problems that Holstebro has experienced after Mr. Jens Garsteen was not re-elected as a member of the council. The new council did prefer not to join the Douzelage. But after a group of young people of Holstebro visited Granville and some other Douzelage-towns, they have changed their minds, because of the enthusiasm the children showed when they came back. However there still are some political problems about travelling. There will not always be 4 delegates from Holstebro every symposium. He is looking forward to see all delegates in Holstebro and he explains that he is present now, to observe how a symposium is organized.

The chairman states that he is very glad that it has been the youth who gave Holstebro the impulses and right arguments to keep on joining the Douzelage"

2. Extension of the Douzelage.

The countries of Sweden, Finland and Austria have become official member of the European Union now. The chairman asks all members to give their opinion on having a Douzelage-plus.

Sesimbra states that it is considered very important that all of us bring our own characteristics into the Douzelage. To their opinion also the 3 new countries could and should make such contribution.

Altea says that they have already some contacts with Scandinavian towns. They would be pleased if contacts are made with the 3 new members.

Bellagio is in favour of having the Douzelage increased by the 3 new members of the E.U.

Bundoran will support the decision of the other members.
Preveza: is in favour of the expansion

Granville: The E.U. now is based on 15 countries. We cannot ignore that fact. It will not be easy to function with 15 members, but on the other hand it is also not easy to function with 12 members.

Houffalize: We will lose some efficiency and energy by having 3 members more. The language problems and transportation-costs will certainly increase.

Kötzting: We are in favour of having the partnership expanded. All people in the Scandinavian countries speak English. That should be no problem.
The more partners we have, the more possibilities of exchanges we will get, and the more advantages for our towns will come out. We are looking forward to it.

Niederanven: We are in favour of the Douzelage-plus.

Sherborne: We already discussed this item several times. We are in favour. We should use the contacts we already have to choose the right towns, that is the obvious line to approach the new members. It however should be towns with secondary schools.

Meerssen: 3 members more can give quite a lot of extra problems. We are not excluding nations if we decide not to expand our Douzelage. On the other hand: Holstebro has already contacts with towns in Sweden and Finland. Kötzting and Bellagio have contacts in Austria.

It certainly would add possibilities to our Douzelage.
The chairman asks Mr. Olaf Sielemann and Theo Zellner to inform us about the towns they have already contact with, in today's afternoon-meeting.

3. European week for young People 1996.

Mr. Gunther Pecher states that all information about this project has been given to all partners in a 4-paged fax. The youth week will be held in a hostel. The period is 18-27 of August 1996 (change of data is not possible). The programme will be similar to last year.

Young people will be living together, work, make music, have discussions about a united Europe. All participants enjoyed being together last year.

The cost are DM 250,- per participant. This price can unfortunately, despite of all endeavours of Gunther Pecher, not be reduced. For the travel expenses: If 5 people travel together on Saturday or Sunday they can get a common train ticket for only DM 30, -from the border of Germany.

Reactions:

Altea: we have sent 4 participants last year. The finances will be causing a problem this year. We would like very much to be informed about any possible subvention on this project.

Granville: All Granvillais participants in 1995 came back home with very enthousiastic stories. It is a very good project. Having young people together is the best that can happen to the Douzelage.

Meerssen: We have 4 girls attending the meeting in 1996

Chairman: Mr. Woesler, who has been a guest during the symposium at Niederaanven, informed us about the various funds. Might it be possible to find some sources to finance the travel-costs from participants from the long-distance-partners.

Gunther Pecher: The organization of this project is receiving subvention from Brussels. They are however not willing to reduce prices. I will examine the possibilities of having travel-costs reduced by European funding. I am not very hopeful about this.

Chairman: The subvention-rules have been improved. If more than 10 persons are in an activity (and in this project certainly are more than 10 participants)perhaps it could be possible.

Bellagio: It is indeed a very good project, but unfortunately we haven't found any participants up till now.

Sesimbra: We consider this project of extreme importance, because youth is involved. The idea however has its costs. A term of acceptance would be very welcome. At Sesimbra some scouts would like to participate.

Bundoran: Because of the travel-expenses it is very difficult for us to participate. If a solution can be found it would be very welcome.

Houffalize: Travel-expenses are always the big falter in the spirit of the Douzelage we need a solution for this.

Chairman: Kötzing has always been very generous in giving the organization of this project to other partners. Sesimbra has stated to be willing to organize it in 1997. Have there been concrete plans about this?

Sesimbra: The plans are not yet concrete, or worked out.

Chairman: I will put this item on the agenda of the autumn-symposium in Holstebro.

4. Evaluation of the Art-exhibition at Straatsbrug:

Gunther Pecher states that he has- the impression that it has been a success. 28 Artists from the various Douzelage-countries participated in this project and over 50 pictures were exhibited. Because of the perfect-location (the press-centre) where a lot of visitors and touristic groups come, about 15.000 people must have seen the exhibition. Gunther thanks all participants for their contribution to this project. The transport-expenses however have not yet been-paid by all countries. Please see to it, that this is done as soon as possible.

Jose Lutgen states that Houffalize has done a substantially tribute by collecting all pictures and they have sent them to Straatsburg. They therefore had to insure the art-material and they have also printed the brochure.

The costs for that are approximately BÉ' 18.500. A contribution of each partner of 50 ECU would help to solve the problem.

Sherborne: I would first like to thank you for your letters' of support for the Sherborne House. They have certainly carried some weight. The Sherborne House is going to be opened now. (a Regional Centre for Heritage and Arts). I hope to have this beautiful centre involved in the Douzelage. A Sherborne art-group of about 40 young artists is interested in the Douzelage. A Douzelage-exhibition can be held in this centre. There will be no charge for renting the rooms.

Furthermore Mr. Jeremy Barker requests all members of the Douzelage to become "friend of the Sherborne House". A small fee of 5 ECU would be enough. It would help if they could show that 12 towns from all over Europe are friends of this centre.
 Sesimbra: Thank you, Houffalize for helping us to find the lost pictures.

Kötzting: Mr. Theo Zellner has very good contacts in Bonn and Berlin. It would be possible to organize a similar exhibition

Chairman: Kötzting, please try to organize the exhibition in Bonn or Berlin in 1997 and Sherborne, try to organize it for 1998 in the Sherborne House.

We thank Gunther Pecher and Hermann Kumpfmüller for the very good job they have done. Also a special thank you to Houffalize for taking care of the paintings and to Mr. Jo Verbrugghen who has done a lot of work by making the brochure.

Project The drop has fallen (item 20 of the agenda)

Mrs. Regien Boeren states that the project of having a travelling exhibition all over Europe has been a subject on the agenda before. 5 members of our Douzelage stated that they could cooperate, depending on the subvention we would receive from Brussels. By trying to get such an subvention a complete estimate of the budget needed, must be sent to Brussels (transport, insurance, rent for the exhibition rooms, cost for the brochure, inauguration expenses etc.) So, each town that wants to participate must send an estimate to Meerssen. All towns will receive a letter on this item.

5. Touristic brochure.

This item will be discussed in the Touristic subcommittee.

6. Honeymoon-project.

Activities:

Bellagio will have an ex change with Houffalize and Sesimbra. After setting the date this will be accomplished.

Houffalize will have an ex change with Bellagio in September.

Other countries can apply too. Houffalize has organized a local festivity evening to pick a winning couple.

Granville has welcomed a couple from Houffalize and Altea. It is a very good way to allow people to get to know our cities. When they get home they talk about the town they visited. That gives a lot of positive publicity!

Sherborne: We have had no response to our proposals. We will try again.

Preveza: The municipality has made some efforts in this direction. We are not certain to continue with this project

7. Fishing Project.

Report by Altea, Granville and Sesimbra.

The second Fishing meeting is in preparation. It will be held in Altea 13th -17th of June 1996.

The programme is as follows:

June 13th: acogida de las delegaciones
cena Y alojamiento

June 14th: Sección de trabajo: cofradía de pescadores
coffeebreak
continuación de la reunión
salida de la cofradía en dirección al ayuntamiento
recepción para el alcalde en el Salón de plenos
Ayuntamiento
Comida
Visita instalaciones del puerto pesquero
Lonja: sustancia pescado a continuación Fábrica de Hielo
Salida del puerto en dirección al hotel
Breve descanso
Cena
actuación cultural

June 15th: Sesión de trabajo: pase de video y
coloquio-conferencia
salida en dirección al puerto pesquero
visita de una embarcación
a continuación excursión en barco por la bahía de Altea hasta Calpe
regreso al hotel
cena
visita Casco Antiguo

June 16th: excursión Sierra Bernia
regreso al hotel

June 17th: salida de las delegaciones.

It is a very important project, because the fishing-industry needs to have support and help to solve their problems. We hope to build on giving this industry an important economic dimension Odette Graca thanks all members of the Douzelage for their moral support. The message during the hoist of the flags yesterday evening was felt clearly by all inhabitants of Sesimbra Chairman: a wreath will be laid by the Monument tomorrow-afternoon during the walk in Sesimbra.

In order to increase the support in the fishing project a coordinator should be appointed between the 3 participating municipalities involved. In that way further areas could be developed.

Preveza would very much like to send a delegation to the symposium in June to see whether they are able to collaborate for they have an important fishing industry as well.

Chairman: There exists a "Leader 2 subvention rule" .which might be quite interesting for your project. Do contact your national agency of the Council of Europe to have th4s rule explained to you.

An agreement has been made that every year the host town of the fishing-project will be the coordinator as well. A so called "flaoting chairmanship" is quite appropriate!

8. Douzelagenda.

There have been not very much exchanges (again) of Douzelagendas. The Chairman likes to make it a point on the agenda every symposium because it is important to ex change regularly the events and important matters that have been going on in our towns. That should not only involve Douzelage-matters, but also events that are of local importance.

Sherborne: We didn't make a douzelagenda, but we have been preparing an agenda on schools. This agenda explains what has happened in the schools. Every Douzelage-town has received a specimen of it.

Niederanven: The Gemengeblat has been sent to the partners. It would cost too much to have this paper translated.

Kötzting: We do have a local newspaper. We will try to select some interesting articles and send them to you translated into the English language.

Houffalize: The community-paper is sent to all partners every month.

Granville: We had very good intentions but, due to several other activities we didn't succeed in making the Douzelagenda. We will work on this. We will send you the municipal leaflets.

Preveza: We will talk about this again in our municipality.

Bundoran: We didn't' prepare a newsletter. We however now started a schools-newsletter. We will send it to you.

Holstebro proposes to have one newsletter for all towns. It seems to him too much to read if 11 newsletters have to be read.

Chairman: The newsletter only is due 3 times a year. It will be very difficult to have it made at one central point. The purpose of this newsletter is to have you partners informed, 3 times a year, about what is going on in your town, not only in Douzelage matters.

Holstebro: we shall try to make a newsletter

Bellagio: We will gather our news and send it to you

Altea: We send our news bulletin every month to our partners. We will try to publish all newsletters that are sent to us.

Sesimbra: With some goodwill it should not be very difficult to accomplish this project. We would be very pleased to receive your local news.

Meerssen: We do realize that our monthly news is in Dutch, but maybe it gives you a small impression what is going on.

Conclusion: We all are willing to try. Keep us all informed

9. Evaluation of the first quinquennium of the Douzelage.
Postponed until the end of the agenda.

10. European Heritage Project.

The purpose of this project is explained to all members in the paper "1997 European Heritage Campaign" contest of International and beyond-frontiers projects.
The theme is Douzelage Heritage Values.

After ample discussion it is agreed upon to work together on the following base:

- * each town will make a video-tape of
 - one church
 - one characteristic ancient house e.g. a farm house or a fisherman's house
- * the video should be maximum 10 minutes.
- * to avoid a disorderly video-tape there should be
 - -a spoken video-tape
 - -a videotape without sound
 - -the text of the video-tape in writing.
- * the video-tapes and text should be sent to Sesimbra, Sesimbra will make a compilation of it. The final video should be spoken in by 6ne voice.
- * Sherborne will have the texts in advance so a perfect English spoken video will be the result of our efforts.
- * schools should be involved in making the video-tape.
- * the aspects that should be in every video (to make a comparish possible) will be sent to you by .Sesimbra.
- * a board of producers is appointed to judge the video-tape before it becomes final:
 - Sherborne: mr. Jeremy Barker
 - Meerssen: mr. Charles Majoor
 - Bellagio: mr. Alessandro Nettuno
 - Houffalize: mr. José Lutgen.

deadline is set on January 1997

11. Children's council Bellagio.

Alessandro Nettuno states that everybody has been informed about the mini-parliament. Bellagio is planning to have this event every year. The mini-parliament will be held on 3 and 4 May 1996 Problems about the European Union will be discussed. some teachers of the European Community will speak. Young people will be given the opportunity to think about Europe and its problems and advantages.

Because some countries must travel for a whole day, the participants will be welcome one day before (on Thursday). There will be interpreters present. The adults who accompany the youngsters can help them, but basically that is not required. Kötzing, Houffalize, Meerssen and Granville will send a delegation.

Niederanven: We will see, it will be rather difficult.

Altea: because of the extra day, we are able to send a delegation.

Chairman: If you cannot participate this year, try to prepare it for next year because now we know it will be held every year.

To Bellagio: a lot of success in having the programme organized.

12. Radio-music project.

Alessandro Nettuno: we received music-cassettes from Granville, Altea, Sherborne, Meerssen, Kötzing and Niederranven. When we have received cassettes from all partners we will start to broadcast them; Every cassette will be accompanied by a story about the particular town and its inhabitants.

Anna-Maria Sardelis:

We received 5 cassettes. We wait until we get one more and then we will start the project.

Holstebro: our music school has written a song just for the promotion of Holstebro. We will give it to Bellagio and Preveza after this meeting.

Granville warns for the copy-right money that has to be paid (authors). The chairman supposes that this is only the case if the song becomes very popular.

13. Sports-exchanges.

Although the Tourism/Sport Committee will talk about this subject it is, according to Odette Graca, important that it is presented also in the general meeting.

It should be recognized that sports will bring our citizens together. An attitude from one city to another could be changed positively if sports exchanges are established. Sports is a positive means to reach a greater area for all citizens. The discussion on sports reaches out through several levels: tourism, education and sports.

END OF THE FIRST MEETING.

SECOND MEETING AT SESIMBRA 12-4-1996

Presentation by San Felipe

Mr. Araujo states that it is a great pleasure to him and mrs. Da veiga to be at this meeting.

San Felipe considers it of great value that items like geographical difficulties and regional integration are discussed. A perspective integration in the European Community and the European International Social pact would increase the level of life standard in Cap Verde.

The Douzelage-organisation is now, by having this meeting making its contribution to cover the gaps that exist between the different countries. For Cap Verde and especially for San Felipe it would be very good to have an introduction in the European Market.

Also cultural elements can help to integrate into modern society.

San Felipe covers about 391 km² and has 27,000 inhabitants.

There is no industry. The main way of making a living is agriculture. It is now changing its structure for tourism.

As there is no high-school in San Felipe a lack of training has occurred, which leads to a high level of unemployment.

The national resources consist of the wide" landscape and the variety of climates.

While the Europeans worry about the quality of life the people in San Felipe worry about the question how to survive. There is no opportunity for any progress in the future. Children do not have access to education, also because of the lack of basic instruments.

Employment has been increased up to 35 t. That effects a wide range of consequences of the society. Cap Verde is a very vulnerable country.

With the help of the International Community roads, an airport and a port have been built now. Water supplies and energy-supplies have been brought to several villages.

It is of great importance that the youth of Cap Verde is motivated. Mr. Araujo demonstrates his sincere feelings that exist between the various countries.

Chairman: Thank you for the very impressive image you gave us of your town. Although we cannot bring big solutions for your problems right away, we feel that, as connecting towns, we are responsible to try to give an active contribution.

Sesimbra, as a member of our Douzelage, will be the intermediary to look if concrete help in certain specific projects can be offered.

As an example of that Sesimbra has proposed the action "Toys and books for San Felipe". We can offer you our gilts alter the last meeting. But please, let us know if they are useful for you.

14. Sailing contest Starmanche.

It is very important to have the Douzelage represented in the Sailing contest Starmanche. It makes our Douzelage wider known b}' the public. Jean Marc Julienne is very happy that he received 3 answers from possible participants: Houffalize, Niederaanven and Kötzing. He calls upon people who live near a coast and who know how to sail to participate in this project. We still have 15 days to complete the crew.

Chairman: Meerssen tried very hard to find a few participants. It is however a hazard event and quite some experience, skills and a lot of courage are needed to be in the crew.

Altea: We like to participate. We, as you all know, have two nautic clubs. We even do have a very famous sailor who wants to take part in this event.

Sherborne: We tried very hard to find an experienced sailor. We did find one but the man is also a teacher and cannot get the time off when the race is to be held.

Bellagio: We will try to find some participants

Chairman: The event takes place every two years. Granville therefore should try to repeat this project and start now to establish that a crew can be formed in two years.

15. Work-experience project.

Niederaanven: We have designed a form to have the demands and offers for this project registered.

43 % of all inhabitants of Niederaanven are foreigners. Many of these people need Au-Pair-girls. You can use the forms to apply. Chairman: We all will thoroughly study the form. It however should be translated into the English language.

Meerssen: We are awaiting an answer from Kötzing about the shadow-judging. We have found a candidate to do this. Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher is trying to get approval for this project by the German Ministry of Justice.

A student from Granville will follow a stage period at a Meerssen' company again.

Because of the fact that legislation doesn't allow to have long-term unemployed people to have a trainee.-job abroad, the exchange with Kötzing that have been planned cannot take place. In Meerssen we have found 11 candidates to participate in a beach-cleaning-job at Sesimbra during summer .1996.

Granville: Mr. Jean-Marc Julienne hands out the GRETA-programme to the various partners. This programme is for university-students who are willing to accept trainee-places abroad.

Chairman: Before we can discuss this we all have to study it. I will put it on the agenda in Holstebro.

16. Gourmet-Project Granville

The gastronomic meeting has been prepared. Due to the data which appeared to be very inconvenient, the project has been cancelled. It however was a wonderful idea and it certainly will be planned in approximately October 1998.

Sherborne: It is a wonderful idea. We have found people and wine. Only tracing a chef was our problem.

Altea: The proposal was received very enthusiastic at Altea. Due to the data planned (In Altea the touristic season starts on those data) we were not able to attend to this meeting. In Bellagio, Bundoran, Niederranven and Kötzing the same problems arose.

Meerssen: We did find 2 candidates. They were in fact very disappointed when they heard that the project had been cancelled. They are looking forward to the new data.

Chairman: Granville shall inform us about the new data as soon as they know them. Please, let us know long before the meeting is to be held, so we can all prepare in a sufficient way.

17. Red Cross-meeting:

Altea would like to organize a meeting between young members of the Red Cross Associations (3 youngsters from each town accompanied by 1 adult). The meeting will take place on 9-13 September 1996. The youngsters should be 15- 23 years of age. Information about this project will be given to all partners. (If a town doesn't have a Red Cross department but for instance a life-guard-service is that alright too)

Bellagio: We need to discuss this item with our local Red Cross. We will let you know whether we can participate.

Kötzting: We have some questions: how is this project financed and is there any subvention available?

Granville: We have some young people who work for the local Red Cross. We will contact them.

Sherborne: We will pass on the information, Wee however need to know more details, particularly about the costs involved.

Mr. Joaquim Roma: A camp will be organized where the youngsters can stay. We contacted Brussels already for financial support. Travel-expenses must be paid for by the participants.

Chairman: All partners should send names, addresses and telephone numbers of the local Red Cross or the life-guard-service to Mr. Joaquim Roma.

18. Exchange of houses.

The information has already been given to all partners. It is very simple: People from one town can exchange their house during a certain period in holiday season with people in a partner town.

Every town should make a list of available houses. Per city 1 person should be responsible for this list.

Meerssen: We proposed this project some years ago. We will be able to find families who are willing to participate. We will make a list.

Sherborne: We are in favour.

Niederanven: We have to await the reactions of our inhabitants, for this is not common in Luxemburg.

Kötzting: Who will be responsible? We do need to see the kind of people who are participating. Till now we have some doubts.

Chairman: It must be a matter of good faith. A guarantee cannot be given. You must not take responsibility for something you cannot fulfil. This project must depend on mutual trust between participants. Douzelage committees could not and should not accept formal responsibility. It is impossible to have the houses controlled every day.

Preveza: We support the idea.

Bundoran: We support the idea, but we do have some reserves about it because many people of Bundoran are working during the tourism-season.

Bellagio: Al though it is not a tradition in Italy we will try to cooperate.

Altea: We will publish it although we do not have experiences with the idea.

Sesimbra: We think it is a very interesting idea. We will publish it, although most of the houses will be occupied during summertime.

Conclusion: We shall all publish the project in our local newspaper. Every town shall make a list of available houses and families.

19. Description of Douzelage towns.

The aim of this project is to have all information of all the Douzelage partners at hand in a comparable way in case somebody wants to know anything about a partner. The booklet to be made is not to be printed or published. It is just for the purpose that you can have all the relevant information available should anyone ask you for it at the town hall. The information must be useful and precise.

All the information (see the booklet of Altea) in English language should be sent to Altea Bo they can gather it and make the booklet. Deadline is in 3 months: 15 June 1996.

Sherborne is asked to control the English texts.

20. The Drop has fallen

Already discussed under item 4

21. Douzelage Comic Strip.

Mr. José Lutgen states that one of the items during the Symposium at Houffalize was the respect for Children's rights. The idea of a comic strip was introduced. Houffalize contacted a designer who has made this comic-strip. There are no words added to the strip. We can make a children's competition of it. All children should make a small poem or prose text to the comic-strip or fill in the text in complete freedom.

A jury will pick out the best in every town. The price would be: 90 ECU per town. (This would cover the author's rights).
The project concerns children in the age of 8-12 years.
The Education committee will be asked to discuss this item too.

Reactions:

Granville: We will be glad to give it to the schools.
Sherborne: This is once again one of the marvellous ideas of
Houffalize: We will certainly join the project.
Bellagio: We will do anything possible to join the project.
Niederanven: There will be no problem to participate.
Kötzting: We will be glad to join this wonderful idea.
Sesimbra: We will participate.
Meerssen: We will participate.

The best comic-strip will be framed after Mr. Sauter and Mr. Noutros Gali have put their signature on it. The children of Cape Verde will also join this project (without charge)
José Lutgen will send a description of the proposal and a account to all towns. Schools will be asked to organize this project in autumn 1996. Deadline for the subventions is January 1997.

22. Newsletter-Project Sherborne.

This is an educational programme funded by the European Union, It has 2 aspects in it.

A. A Socrates-programme that is directed by Holstebro

B. This primary-schools project.

The towns of Bellagio, Kötzting, Holstebro, Sesimbra and Bundoran are joining the programme. A primary' school sends a newsletter to all other schools. It is a very' dynamic project

END OF THE SECOND SESSION.

Third session of the 10th meeting of the Douzelage
Sesimbra, 13-04-1996.

23. Choir Festival at Preveza.

Mr Joannis Doumos invites all partners again to see whether a choir can join this festival in 1996 or in 19.5'7 .The deadline for 1997 will be the end of March 1997. Information about costs and accommodation will soon be sent to everyone.

Reactions:

Granville: Due to our lack of means and because of the summer holidays we will not participate.

Sherborne: We do have 5 choirs in Sherborne. We shall try to send one of them.

Houffalize: Maybe we are able to join with a small choir.

Altea: Last year we did participate in this festival. It was a wonderful experience. It is very interesting to hear music you are not able to hear every day. The organization was perfect.

Bellagio: We hope to participate. The expense we have to make to send a choir are very high.

24. Dorset Opera.

All partners received an entry-form from Sherborne. The Dorset Opera was a fantastic success last year. It has been an extraordinary experience. A unity between the singers and the children's choir was developed in 10 days. For this year no subvention has been asked. Next year the organization will keep to the time-schedule to ask for subvention. The participants usually are 16-23 years of age, but also adults are very welcome to participate. It is however primarily meant for young people.

You can register for this year or for next year by the entry form handed out to you.

25. Book of proverbs.

The first 15 proverbs have been completed.

The second 15 proverbs have been sent to the partners, we have not yet received all of them back.

In a short while the next 15 proverbs will be sent to all of you with the request to translate them in your own language or to comment the translation already given. You'll have 2 months time to do this. Chairman: For this project subvention must be possible.

26. European Union Subventions.

The chairman states that the general regulations for twinning have been improved. Our Douzelage obviously has inspired the Committee because multinational exchanges have got priority and travel-subventions have been increased by 50%. However, one has to be very clever to find a way in the specific programmes. For some activities of the Douzelage realistic possibilities have been opened.

Sesimbra got the maximum amount of subvention possible from Brussels (10.000 ECU).

Sherborne: Dorset has an office at Brussels. Mrs. Laura Huskins works at that office. She is very competent and shall be very useful in future. For the address: ask Mr. Jeremy Barker.

Houffalize has some very close connections to Mr. Van den Broek from the European Community. Mr. Majoor and Mr. Lutgen will make an appointment to visit Mr. Van den Broek.

Sesimbra: When we were at the Symposium at Houffalize we went to see Mrs. Barbara Lücke at Brussels. We received the maximum subvention possible for organizing our Symposium (10.000 ECU). The problem is however that a town only can ask for subvention once a year. So several activities in one year can not be done.

27. Contribution for the Presidency.

The chairman states that it has been agreed upon that the contribution for the Presidency would be 500 ECU per partner for the first years.

Now a regulation for the future must be spoken upon.

In 1995, after 4 years of presidency without any contribution, 500 ECU seemed to be the right amount to cover the previous years.

Now the chairman proposes to set this amount at 150 ECU a year.

Reactions:

Sherborne: We can manage 150 ECU per year.

The 500 ECU of previous years will be paid as soon as we are back in Sherborne.

Bellagio: We can manage 150 ECU per year.

Sesimbra: This will not be too difficult for us.

We however have to discuss it in the council-meeting.

Bundoran: It will be no problem for Bundoran. We would like to have a bill.

Granville: This seems correct to us.
 Houffalize: We will be glad to pay our contribution
 Kötzing: allright with us.
 Niederaanven: we agree.
 Preveza: we agree.
 Altea: we agree.
 Holstebro: We will have to ask the town council.

28. Douzelage trip-strip.

The chairman explains the meaning of the trip-strip. Those people who will have the trip-strip stamped could become a honour-title or something similar. The trip strip is passed on to let each delegation look upon it.
 The project is agreed by all partners.

29. Education letter/Coat of arms.

The chairman explains the project Meerssen has developed for the local children. There has been a contest for children in the age of 8-11 years. The coat of arms of all Douzelage-towns where the subject. 12 Shopkeepers have been cooperating on this item by having one of the coat-of-arms exhibited in their window. Children should find the right coat of arms to the right town. After that they should colour it into the prefixed sticker page. The most beautiful and correct sticker-page got a prize. To this project an educational letter, designed by a local Douzelage member, was added. The letter has been a subject at the schools. It explained the meaning of a coat-of-arms is and its history and of heraldic in general. It has been quite a sympathetic and successful project in which all the schools have been involved.
 Before the first of June we want to start a new project based on a similar concept with the item "Folkloristic clothes". Therefore we need the help of all our partners. Please send us a picture of your regional or local folkloristic clothing before the first of June. A short description c.q. explanation of the clothing should also be included.

partners promised to do so.

30. Cookery Cards.

300 sets of the cookery cards have been sold in Meerssen (in Dutch language). We now can also produce them in the English, French or German language. For 1 set we have to charge 4 ECU. Orders can be faxed to Meerssen.

31. Next General meetings.

Mr. Olaf Sielemann has gathered some information about the two towns to which they have already been twinned to:

Karkkila in Finland:

Karkkila is a small town with 8.500 inhabitants.

The town is about 65 km North from Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

The town is known for its foundry-industry and also for the scenic beauty. The town has hundred lakes. The name Karkkila means: "Sweat drops".

Oxelösund in Sweden:

Oxelösund dates back to the Viking age. Fishermen and pilots settled at an early stage at the sand close to the island with the white beam-trees (Oxlarns).

During this century Oxelösund developed into a modern industrial community based on the steel industry and port activities. It's position on the coast provides Oxelösund with unique opportunities for leisure time and recreation.

Despite industrial expansion, Oxelösund has preserved its small town character and fishing e.g. is still an important branch of industry.

The basis for this development in Oxelösund was the construction of the railway from the Berslagen mining district and the extension of the port: which took place early 1877.

The economy of Oxelösund is dominated by the steelworks, the largest industry in the country, which is now owned by Svensk Stål A.B. (SSAB) and is the leading reproducer of heavy-gauge plate in northern Europe.

Oxelösund has one of the best ice-free deepwater ports on the east coast. The quays have a combined length of 1.520 m and the deepest depth of water at the quayside is 13,7 m.

The port which can accommodate vessels of up to 80.000 tons is owned by the local council of Oxelösund and SSAB.

Oxelösund has 11.800 inhabitants, 8 schools and is situated 100 km south of Stockholm.

Mr. Olaf Sielemann will take the responsibility to start the first contacts, and see whether these towns in principle are interested in becoming a member of the Douzelage. He will invite them to the meeting in Holstebro in autumn 1996.

Mr. Theo Zellner has promised to start looking together with Bellagio for an interesting candidate in Austria which has to be at least 250 km away .from Kötzing and Bellagio.

Mr. Olaf Sielemann pronounces that the data for the symposium at Holstebro are:

10 -14 October 1996.

This suits every partner.

Mr. Olaf Sielemann will select a specific item and the agenda will be made in cooperation with the chairman. Although there will be no parallel meetings of education .in Holstebro, it would be very convenient if the Douzelage members could meet some teachers of Holstebro resp; bring some teachers along in their delegation.

Spring 1997.

Mr. Jo McNulty announces that the data are set on

3- 7 April 1997

That will be the weekend after Easter. There will be a parallel meeting for Education. Preveza (Orthodox -Easter) will be present too.

Autumn 1997

Granville will be preparing to be the host for this symposium in September.

Spring 1998.

Bellagio will be the host in May 1998. They will prepare the Trade market then as well.

32. Proposal Preveza

Anna Maria Sardelis will talk about this proposal on bilateral base with Sesimbra.

33. Proposal Sherborne-Bundoran

Mr. Jeremy Barker tells that the moral of the visit to Bundoran has been that personal contacts in the end always pay off.

Mr. Jo McNulty states that they were very pleased to have Jeremy and Katharine Barker in Bundoran.

The contacts between the church-leaders would be welcome (on Ecumenical bases) .Every partner will send the name and address of the church-leader to Bundoran.

9. Evaluation of the Douzelage.

Mr. Odette Graca of Sesimbra:

1. The Douzelage is a project of extremely great importance, The past 5 years have given us new perspectives and have led to closeness of the inhabitants of our mutual towns.

2. The decision that we have to have a coordinator for each project will give OUI' work an extra profitable dimension.

3. We should try to involve all structures of our towns into the Douzelage. Sesimbra will have elections in November 1997. Odette expresses her worries about the understanding of the inhabitants for the Douzelage. The organization therefore should be developed. The whole community should be involved in our projects.

4. During this symposium Sesimbra has managed to give an impulse to the general meetings as well as to Education, Sports and Tourism. A lesson to be learned is that coordination is very important to establish it all.

We all should show the European Union that projects have to be provided with a good level of support. Especially transport-subvention is essential. For this reason we should be working very hard to obtain support to develop Europe. The support should have an even more realistic and practical view.

In Biarritz a conference is held about Twinning. It seems to me very strange that no person is invited from the Douzelage. Though we are mentioned as an example we need to transmit our ideas and thoughts even more. The value of our contacts should be carried out.

We feel that problems with getting information of one another sometimes are difficult. It takes about 4 months in general. We need to have the information more quickly. The well-being of the projects depends on it. Therefore we feel that we need to move on to a higher scale. With the help of Brussels we should express our hopes for the future.

Sesimbra will do everything to tell everywhere about our beautiful and wonderful Douzelage.

Altea: We completely agree with Odette Graca. We all feel the intention of our Douzelage.

Bellagio: Odette Graca has been very clear. We do appreciate the words she has spoken. Of course we are of the same opinion. We are very glad and satisfied with our mutual interests and we will certainly do our utmost to improve the quality.

Holstebro: I hope that we can establish that the Douzelage will be better known by our inhabitants.

Bundoran: Especially for young people the Douzelage has been very good.

Preveza: We fully agree with what Odette Grace has stated. We do face the same problems. We furthermore ask the towns in the Centre of Europe to take good care of us.

Granville: I want to thank our friend Henri Haffray who has had the wonderful idea of having a Douzelage. Regarding the future I would want to say that we have to limit ourselves to useful matters. We should work hard on important projects. The number of projects therefore should be reduced. Furthermore I feel it very important to increase our efforts to promote our Douzelage.

Houffalize: Thank you Odette for your beautiful words. We should at least have 1 or 2 representatives attending our symposia regularly. We should also pay attention that our projects are carried out until the end. Each country should have the concern of one project. We must promote our regions. Therefore at every meeting a journalist should be present. After the symposia the people must still be talking about our meeting. Maybe it is possible to have a book made of the first 5 years of Douzelage. We also feel very strong about the information-problem we are facing.

Kötzting: A lot of beautiful things have been said. The organization and population should mingle more. All of our projects have the purpose to bring the people of our towns together.

The Douzelage is known to be an example for Europe. This could be developed further. We want to thank Granville for the, wonderful idea they have had 5 years ago. Also we want to thank Charles Majoor who is the motor of our Douzelage. Getting and sending the necessary information starts with our selves. Only we can improve the structures in which now sometimes projects falter or stagnate.

Niederanven: First of all we want to thank Sesimbra for the wonderful way in which they have succeeded organizing this symposium. As a member of the Douzelage we are enabled to carry out the principle of one Europe. We will do anything possible to go on with the Douzelage. We however should concentrate on important projects.

Sherborne: Jeremy Barker states that the Douzelage is about the most interesting in his life. He is very dedicated to it. He furthermore states that he hadn't the slightest idea what the Douzelage would grow into, 5 years ago. We all together have made a lot of mistakes the past 5 years. Also we made more steps forward than we could ever imagine. Our aim still is that we want to promote the idea of one Europe.

4 questions we must keep in mind:

- * what has been done
- * what method was the most effective to achieve it
- * what priorities do we have in future
- * what did we learn in the light of the past 5 years.

Citizens now become aware of the Douzelage. Unfortunately we get very little cooperation from the press. The highest event for me was the presentation of the folk-dances last night. There were so many people involved in this wonderful event! Because of the finances we haven't achieved all that much as we wanted to. Education however has been an enormous success. Sporting not as much as we wanted to. On the economic level we have reached a breakthrough. Businessmen should continuously be involved in our efforts. The economic part has achieved an actual economical advantage. I would like to see much more. Mike Balfour has done a tremendous job on this.

To raise money is an endless struggle and hard work. We have to work bottom up. More personal contacts could help in this.

Mike Balfour states that Odette is right: coordinators who work on time-schedule would have positive effect on the projects. A personal note: I think it is very nice that we are unique. But I would like it better if we could be the inspiration for 100 Douzelages.

Meerssen: Many wise and true words have been spoken.

Nevertheless I would like to add some remarks.

I am very proud of the results we have achieved up to now. We are all relatively small towns and we must live from our ideals. Those ideals are high but hard to put into practice.

Because we are all so very motivated we can deal with the complications and confrontations the Douzelage brings to us. We all faced interest and understatements and we must try to change that. That takes a lot of time and energy.

We have to accept that, because we are working with 12 towns with all kinds of problems.

Many nice projects have flourished or start to flourish. We however have to choose priorities. We cannot establish all we wish, at once.

Youth is very eager to come into contact with other nationalities. To push associations or clubs appears not to be as easy. We have to find a way to improve this.

All towns have appointed a contact-person. We all have to be addicted to an active, recognizable contact. We therefore should keep the addresses, telephone numbers and faxes updated.

Everybody should send an actual list to each partner.

I will do my utmost to get a more regular contact with Brussels. It will however not be easy to accomplish that.

We furthermore should be aware of our limitations. It is important and vital to look critical at certain activities.

These have not to be always done by all twelve.

A possible politicizing of our Douzelage would be a disaster. We fortunately have some examples where it worked out very well, but sometimes it endangers the progress of our Douzelage. We must not let this happen.

I think that it is very important that we work not only for our limited towns but we must interest our neighbour towns and our regions too.

As a conclusion I would like to say many thanks to our host Sesimbra who has done a wonderful job allowing us to have this fruitful meeting by having it organized very well.

34. Tourism.

It appears that there has not been spoken about the Brochure in the parallel meeting of Tourism.

Holstebro didn't react on the repeated question of Preveza to send in some text. It now is not in part of the brochure.

Chairman: we have to accept this fact. When the film was produced many of our partners were under time-pressure to have it done as soon as possible.

All of us have bought the film now. If there is made another film we would have to double expenses on this. We cannot accept that.

The towns that are printing the brochure:

Sherborne and Bundoran: Yes, in cooperation between our two towns.

Niederanven: Yes, we are about to make it in cooperation with Granville and maybe Houffalize in the French language.

Preveza: It is very expensive to have the brochure printed. I cannot give you the prices right-away. I have to consult the community of Preveza first. Because of the small number of specimen it is very costly.

Holstebro: Mr. Olaf Sielemann doesn't know the project

Bellagio: At the moment we cannot afford it, eventually we will print it.

Chairman: When the 3 new members are included we will have to make a new brochure. We however decided now that we took it for granted that everybody would buy the film from Preveza and decide individually when the film was to be printed.

Altea: We will produce the brochure.

Sesimbra: We think it is very bad for the spirit of the Douzelage if Holstebro is not in the brochure. It might cause a delay now, but leaving out Holstebro is very bad for our image. We will produce the film.

Meerssen: We will produce the film. We are planning to make it a little bit bigger because no leaflets of the measure A4 will fit in it this way.

Mr. Olaf Sielemann will take the brochure to the community and than will see whether the brochure will be useful to Holstebro, He has already been ordering 500 specimen.

35. European Tourist exchange.

Bellagio suggested this project.

Details:

There will be room for 12 exhibitions. Each partner will have 9 m² at his disposal. The decoration will be a responsibility of each partner. Each partner can bring its own material and should use its own creativity. The panels will be 2 m high, decoration is possible for 1,5 m.

In every exhibition-part will be the heraldic shield, the name of the town and it's flag.

There should be provided for

* a panoramic photograph

* small amount of text on the characteristics of each city.

There will be room for the characteristic merchant selling products and arts + crafts, or other characteristic products. Before we all can decide on this proposal we have to study this.

Bellagio likes to start this project in May. 1998, together with the symposium they will be organizing.

36. Proposal of Preveza. (annex 2)

The deadline for this proposal is 29 April .1996. That leaves two weeks to prepare this item.

Chairman: You should be realistic. This is an annual event. Try to organize it again in .1997. Send the programme to Sesimbra and Altea so they can look upon it now already.

37. Toys for San Felipe.

The toys and school necessities will be handed over to San Felipe tomorrow morning at 11.00 O'clock.

Chairman: Please let us know if this type of toys is welcome in San Felipe. If yes, we would try to organize something similar again. We will not be hurt if you tell us that other necessities are more welcome. Please tell us honestly.

FINAL MEETING of the 10th General meeting.

Sesimbra, 14-4-1996

All delegations wish the people of Preveza a very happy Easter.
We do appreciate your presence here today.

Mr. Jan Swanenvleugel gives the final conclusions of the Educational meetings:

"Regarding projects which already existed we tried to give them a new push. We asked the members to go on with these projects and not to stop working on them. We want them to continue the history project and to keep in contact with each other. Workshadowing for teachers was also advocated. Other projects which were tried to be initiated were:

- a. a project on ecology/Meerssen, Preveza and Altea.
- b. Computer conferencing via Internet
- c. we also tried to initiate education committees in every municipality of the Douzelage.

After this, a number of members gave a brief explanation of the education system in their countries and this was continued on Saturday morning.

From this we learned that in every country many things were good but that also a lot of things could be better.

On Saturday several speeches on tolerance were delivered. Madame Soares' speech was very impressive. She blamed mass-media and especially TV to have a bad influence on our children regarded to violence, aggression etc. The task of the school will be to prevent the children from being aggressive or violent. But this cannot take place without the help of the parents. The family is the cornerstone of our society and the parents have the first responsibility for their children. So give parents the opportunity to be at home with their children and do not create a generation of "Latch-key children".

Mr. Montero asked everybody to guard over tolerance and to teach the children why and .how to be tolerant. His conclusion was *Il It is not the world we leave to our children, but the children we leave our world"*.

Everybody in the meeting agreed with that. Madam Gonsalvez asked to make education more democratic. This means: Let there be a good cooperation between parents, teachers and management.

On the last days new project against prejudice was launched. Most members were enthusiastic and one of the members of the Meerssen delegation promised to send questions on this project to every community, before summer holidays.

Some conclusions were drawn:

- a. financial sources for some countries which want to participate in the meetings should be better.
- b. education in tolerance starts with knowing each other.
- c. members should like to have a meeting twice a year and also direct contacts between schools should be possible.

Chairman of the meeting
for one morning,
Jan Swanenvleugel"

Conclusions of the meetings on Tourism
by Odette Graca:

Thank you to the press, translators and everybody present for all the work you have' been doing. Also a thank you to Hotel Do Mar who made this all possible.

The tourism -meetings have been fruitful. We had representatives of "The blue Coast", "Evera" and the Scandinavian Tourist Board. We had parallel debates about the potentialities of each town, specific subjects and common projects.

They allowed us to have deliberations about environment, cultural events and tourism.

Once again the importance is pointed out of having a tourism coordinator.

Conclusions of the meetings on sport

The level on which the Douzelage has its sports events has been a matter of discussion. The humanistic aspect in this is important. We have associated the respective into the European Traditional games. The exhibition of the games will continue at schools, so students are enabled to get to know the Douzelage better.

During the meeting some specialists of the Human University, the European parliament and Mrs. Soares have spoken.

Discussed was the friendship, tolerance and justice during sports events and also development of cultural and economical aspects of sports in our towns. Sport has become a universal factor. All modern Governments are dedicated to the ex changes of sports. We therefore try to present sports as an important item for the Douzelage. On the intergovernmental conference sports are thought to be important too. We should therefore support the efforts made in this area.

Chairman:

- 1. The debates have now all been concluded*
- 2. The completion of the Charter we have all signed in Granville can now be done.
(All charters have been completed with the stamp of Sesimbra).*
- 3. The equipment for schools and toys are handed over to Felipe. San Felipe hands over some presents to all delegations.*

Chairman:

I would like to thank all the people of Sesimbra for their wonderful hospitality. Odette can be very proud of her team that has done such a wonderful job. Please pass those compliments to everybody whom it concerns. Also thank you to all the sponsors on the impressive list.

*Sesimbra, April 1996
R.V. Boeren*

To:

All Douzelage-partners

Meerssen, 2 May 1996

Dear friends,

Mrs. Laura Reis Marques has sent me the conclusions of the Tourism and Sport Meetings that were held in Sesimbra. Please, add these conclusions to the minutes you already received, to make them complete.

CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING ABOUT TOURISM

1. We state the importance of the debate about Tourism that took place in this 10th Douzelage Meeting in which have participated, beyond the delegations' members, nearly 50 invited people among whom we point out the presence of a representative of the Tourism Board of Costa Azul, the Town Councillor of the Evora Town Council and a the former director of the C.T.P. (Portuguese Tourism Centre) in Scandinavia.

2. The debate held in a parallel meeting allowed:

- The presentation of the potentialities of each Douzelage town.
- The presentation and discussion of specific terms and common concerns in the ambit of Tourism.

3. The debate about Environment is extremely important for the Quality improvement of the touristic offer.

4. Cultural Tourism should be developed within the Douzelage through promotion and diffusion actions with the local economic agents.

5. In order to obtain a better knowledge in each municipality, we must have a list of each one's potentialities in the mentioned areas, which must comprise the Travel Agencies and Tourist Information Offices.

6. All the Touristic projects should have an annual periodicity, which will allow the achievement of a greater dimension within the Douzelage.

7. We restate the importance of a Tourism Coordinator in the Douzelage.

The conclusions were approved by acclamation.

**DOUZELAGE MEETING IN SESIMBRA
11TH TO 15TH OF APRIL 96**

"HUMAN DIMENSION OF SPORTS ACTIVITY"

CONCLUSIONS

This 10th Meeting had the participation of the delegations' members, specialists in University Teaching, The Portuguese Olympic Committee, The European Parliament. Mr. Sérgio Ribeiro, and also the honourable presence of Maria Barroso, beyond 20 invited people from the local Sport Movement.

First of all we would like to express our satisfaction with the fact that sport had been a theme for debate in the history of the life of our young Douzelage. Above all we intend with him, to improve the approach among the peoples, the friendship, the tolerance, the justice, the participation, recognising him as an element of doubtless importance for the social cultural and economic development of our lives.

We have noticed the differences existing among the "Sport realities" of the Douzelage partners. From an occasional event done by a small number of people, sport has become a universal activity, important for the life of both individuals and societies.

The economic and political power has already accepted this tact. It is rare to find nowadays a government or even a modern municipality which doesn't pay a special attention to the sport activity expressed in the existence of its specific bodies. However, in spite of its huge potential, sport hasn't always been done or uses in order to dignity and humanise its agents.

To analyse the causes and the circumstances that contribute to the fact, as well as to find the means of transformation, is the motive of our proposal for the creation of a Douzelage Sport Observatory, through which we intend to achieve a better knowledge of those realities, reflect upon them, establish sport exchanges, especially among young people.

This meeting, in its panel about sport. emphasised the Douzelage connection to the European Union and, in the Inter-Governmental Conference for the revision of the European Union Treaty , it supports and encourages the efforts of those people and entities, who defend the importance of the sport activity in the makin9 of the new Treaty.

The conclusions were approved by acclamation.