

TWELFTH DOUZELAGE CONFERENCE

BUNDORAN

3rd - 6th April 1997

PRESENT

Altea

Joaquin Roma
Francisco Candela
Miguel de la Hoz
Such Fuster

Bellagio

Angela Gilardoni
Carla Piccamiglio
Allesandro Nettuno

Granville

Jean Marc Julienne
Bernard Husson
Mathilde Prost
Pierre Brouca

Holstebro

Olaf Sieleman
Mette Sorensen
Hanne Bodiker
Hans K. Didriksen

Houffalize

Paul Georges Duchesne
Mme P. Georges Duchesne
Dany Jacobs

Kötzting

Herman Kumpfmuller
Wolfgang Kerschler
Evi Maurer
Gunther Pecher

Meerssen

Regien Boeren
Peter Smeets
Jan Swanenvleugel
Irene Raedts
Olga Ruysink
Hans Ruysink
Theo van Aalst
Peter Gillessen
Betsy Gillessen

Niederanven

Jeannot Poire
Christiane Poire
Jean Schiltz
Paul Klein
Reine Kohnen
Georges Kohnen
Claude Kohnen
Arnold Kess
Jos Mouton
Jacqueline Guillaume
Marie Jacoby-Herbrink

Preveza

Dimitrios Donos
Anna Maria Sardelis
Domosthenis Zabas
Elias Konstantinou

Sesimbra

Odete Graca
Maria Manuel Gomes
Ida Carvalho
Susana Sousa

Sherborne

Jeremy Barker
Mike Balfour
Lynne Raddall
Norman Rawles
Karin Robson
Alan Ashby

Bundoran

Joe McNulty M. McGlynn
M. McElhinney D. Connolly
F. Hutchinson-Travers
M.D. Mulhern F. O'Gorman
S. McEniff F. McEniff
John Campbell
Anthony Begley
Mrs. Maura Stutterd
Mrs. Jacqueline O'Reilly Dillon
Miss Collette McAree

OPENING REMARKS

1. Jeremy Barker, acting President, spoke for all the Delegates when expressing his sadness that Charles Majoor had had to withdraw from the Douzelage. A card would be signed by all and a presentation would be made at the next Conference at Granville. Charles Majoor had sent his greetings and expressed his sorrow at not being present but hoped to come again in the future.
2. Jeremy Barker noted that the Bundoran Conference was the historic 12th meeting to complete the circle of all the towns and thanked Bundoran for their welcome and organisation.

A. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FUTURE PRESIDENCY

1. Confirmation of Election of President for Three Years

3. By a majority it was decided that the length of term should be for three years and that the position of Vice-President should be held by the town holding the next Conference.

2. Election of President

4. Jeremy Barker (Sherborne) was elected as President and stated that he was conscious of the honour and responsibility.

3. Election of Vice-President

5. Jean Marc Julienne (Granville) was confirmed as Vice-President for the next six months.

4. Arrangements for the financing of the Presidency

6. It was agreed that each town would continue to contribute 150 ECU towards the fund and Meerssen confirmed that they would transfer the 4000 ECU they were holding to Sherborne.
7. Funds should be available from Brussels; the European Twinning Grants Scheme and 1997 Information for Conferences contain much information and projects such as the proposed Community Play and Mini-Parliament in Bellagio should benefit. A summary of all schemes and relevant information would be circulated and concrete information should be available by the Granville Conference.

B. SURVEY OF RECENT EXCHANGES

5. Fishing Project: Altea-Granville-Sesimbra

8. The new date of 4th-7th July was confirmed and all the participating towns considered it to be an important and interesting project. It was hoped that Bellagio would also participate and they would be speaking to their Commission to see if they would be interested.

9. Preveza would also like to consider the project but there would be problems for them to overcome.

6. Honeymoon Exchanges

10. Bellagio, Altea, Preveza, Houffalize and Sesimbra all reported on successful and happy exchanges and were looking forward to future successful arrangements.

7. Sports Exchanges

11. Niederanven, Houffalize and Meerssen continue to stage successful football exchanges. Forthcoming dates were 18th May, Meerssen/Niederanven, and 23rd August, Benelux towns.

12. Sherborne spoke of a proposed Youth Rugby programme and on the Junior section of their Golf Club. Niederanven and Kötzing were both interested in the golf and wanted further information: Altea and Sesimbra would check if their clubs would like to participate.

Action: Sherborne

13. Granville informed the delegates that their Water Polo Club would like to make exchanges.

Action: ALL

14. Sesimbra presented a proposal for a new Sports Programme with the objective of stimulating better knowledge of all facets of sport, including "sex equality and the problems of violence". A separate Sports Committee is proposed, perhaps linked with Education, and more information will be circulated to all the towns.

Action: Sesimbra

It would be discussed in the partner towns and initial reactions reported back to Sesimbra; in the meantime Sesimbra requested a complete list of all sporting organisations and contacts.

15. The President, Jeremy Barker, considered this would be an item to be discussed at the Granville Conference when the whole reorganisation of the Douzelage would come under consideration.

8. Miscellaneous Reports from the Towns

16. **Sesimbra:**

The European Heritage Project has not been completed because of lack of funds and not all towns are participating. A FAX will be sent with further information.

Action: Sesimbra

17. European Tourism Workshop - this Project has been presented and suggestions are welcomed. The Trade Fair will boost tourism in the Low Season, will be for one week and will coincide with a Sea Festival.

As this Project was welcomed by the Delegates a firm date would be needed and Sesimbra would require confirmation from the towns by May 10th as to whether they would be participating and able to mount exhibitions.

Action: Sesimbra

18. **Preveza**

The European Heritage Project has been completed and the video brought to the Conference.

We have participated in the Douzelage Radio Project with very good reactions and hope for future broadcasts with all the towns.

A Comenius Programme with Kötzing is being negotiated

**Action: Kötzing
Preveza**

19. **Niederanven**

A new Committee has been organised to undertake new projects.

20. **Meerssen**

We have taken up training places for students in Granville and Bellagio.

A new promotional commission is being undertaken to promote the Douzelage in Meerssen as it is not known throughout the town and the inhabitants do not realise that the Douzelage is for everyone.

In October 1996 we held a successful artists exhibition.

We are presently working on the European Heritage Video project and it should shortly be completed.

Our Comic Strip has been completed and sent off to Houffalize.

The Chess Competition has had to be cancelled but we hope it may be possible to hold it in five years time.

We are raising at the Education Committee our proposal to hold a Conference on 21st, 22nd and 23rd November 1997 at Vaeshartelt Castle, Maastricht/Meerssen, on the subject of Racism, Discrimination and Prejudices (copy information attached). The question at this Conference is to see if the partner towns are interested.

Action: Meerssen

21. **Kötzting**

Our main activities have been in education such as the Combatting National Prejudices project with Meerssen and the Comic Strip Project with Houffalize. On the 10th March we started up on the Internet with Meerssen. We have connections with a commercial school in Holstebro and pupil exchanges in Sherborne.

Our Sports Club is going to Sesimbra in 1997 and Bundoran in 1998.

We shall attend the Mini-Parliament in Bellagio and the forthcoming Conference in Hull.

We have an art exhibition with Altea.

The Annual Week of the Young will take place with Preveza, the Czech Republic and other Douzelage towns.

22. **Sherborne**

We have completed a successful first year Comenius project with Holstebro and Ilseburg with exchanges and friendships formed. Future plans include setting up a web page on the Internet.

Following the successful visit in 1996 by students from Preveza for English Language Holidays another group is expected this year to coincide with Focus on Youth. 18 students from Sherborne will be going to Preveza in July.

We are looking forward to the Gourmet Project in Granville.

We look forward to once again having participants from other towns in our Dorset Opera to be held on 15th/16th August. This year's production is "L'Elisir d'Amore" by Donizetti and further information will shortly be available.

We are also proposing to stage a Community Play, an ambitious project which will attract European funding if more than three towns participate. It is hoped that some five to ten youngsters from each town will take part.

We have successful sports exchanges with Holstebro and Granville and are proposing a new Youth Rugby tournament.

23. **Bundoran**

We have participated in the Combatting National Prejudices project.

We are developing the Eurolink and have had a successful Teacher Exchange.

24. **Houffalize**

Four students are going to Germany and two teachers and pupils will be going to the Mini-Parliament.

Meerssen and Preveza have sent their entries for the Comic Strip but we still wait for the other towns, despite having sent the information in July 1996.

The Douzelage has been late in replying to FAXES regarding "Twelve Towns to New Europe": the books will be forwarded.

25. **Holstebro**

The reports on our exchanges with other schools will follow.

We did not receive any interest from our schools regarding the Comic Strip.

Internet - our connection is through Olaf Sieleman on his personal PC.

We wish to prepare a special project on music for which we will receive funding and we shall shortly be able to give more information. **Action: Holstebro**

26. **Granville**

Two of our pupils will be going to the Mini-Parliament.

27. **Bellagio**

We have pupils who will go to Meerssen.

A new Internet is arranged for the Mini-Parliament.

Promotion of the Douzelage for TV transmission and a cassette is available.

28. **Altea**

A letter has gone to Holstebro regarding the Festival Theatre.

Two students and teachers are going to the Mini-Parliament.

A musical exchange is being made with Sesimbra.

A Local Radio Project has been started and we have already had four hours airtime to speak about the town. We have spoken about Holstebro, Granville and Sesimbra and it has been well received.

C. PROJECTS NOT YET FINISHED OR IN PREPARATION

9. European Heritage Video Project

29. As reported in Paragraph 14 this Project has not been completed.

10. Art Exhibition - Sherborne

30. Applications for Lottery Funding are going ahead for the opening in late 1999. There will be £1 million for the new art gallery and it is hoped there will be an exhibition from the Douzelage towns with representatives from each town invited.

11. Choir Festival in Preveza

31. Brochures have been distributed and choirs will be welcomed next July. Kötztting commented on the difficulties posed by different school holidays in the various towns.

12. Book of Proverbs - Meerssen

32. A tremendous amount of work is involved in this Project and a fresh start would have to be made as an incorrect dictionary had been used to date. It was questioned as to whether all the partner towns were interested and a decision would have to be made as to whether or not to proceed. **Action: Meerssen**

13. Symposium in Granville Autumn 1997

33. The General Meeting would be held on the 10th to 12th October and the Douzelage delegates would be welcomed on the 9th.

34. Gourmet Project - this is being held at a parallel meeting on the 10th and 11th October, with one or two representatives from each town, and will be open to the public. More information on paper was requested. **Action: Granville**

35. A proposed Pupils Art Exhibition would require at least eight towns to participate. **Action: Granville**

There is also a proposal to hold an Art Exhibition divided into two sections, one for Granville and another for the other members of the Douzelage.

36. Starmanche - there are some problems with moorings and more information will be available in June. An excellent brochure on Granville and its sailing facilities was presented to the Delegates. There is a contact point for the Station Voile.

Action: Granville

14. Symposium in Bellagio Spring 1998

37. The General Meeting will be held on the 14th to 17th May.

38. The Trade Fair will be on the 13th to 17th May (5 days, 4 nights). Stands will be 12 metres long with banners and posters for publicity. A list of participants is required by the end of September and a programme will be sent out shortly.

15. Passport Scheme - Report by Mike Balfour

39. The Passport Scheme is now extended to seven towns - Preveza, Bellagio, Sesimbra, Houffalize, Granville, Kötzing and Sherborne. Details have been given to Altea and Bundoran are making progress. Further information will be forthcoming.

16. Chess Competition - Meerssen

40. As reported earlier this project has been cancelled.

17. Extension of the Douzelage with Finland (Holstebro)

Austria (Kötzing and Bellagio)

Sweden (Holstebro)

41. Finland/Sweden - two towns have been invited in Sweden and Finland and a delegation will be visiting Finland in one month. A decision should be made by the time of the Granville meeting.

Action: Holstebro

42. Austria - Niedranven would make a choice of town and Jeremy Barker as President would liaise in the final decision.

Altea also have contact with a town close to Vienna who have made positive overtures. This is a small town of 5000 people and is famous for its Passion Play.

Niedranven, who also expressed interest in finding a town for Winter Sports, and Altea agreed to co-operate over the final decision.

Action: Altea

**Niedranven
President**

18. Quinteto de Quinteto de Metales - Altea

43. The first visits will be made to Bellagio from the 11th August and to Kötzing on the 14th. Granville hoped the Quintet would make a two day visit and Preveza requested a video.

19. Work Experience Forms

44. Niedranven would return the form to Jeremy Barker once their students have indicated their preferences.

20. BENELUX Meeting

45. It is the turn of Houffalize to arrange the next meeting and the dates for the second Sports Meeting have yet to be confirmed.

21. Tourism Brochure

46. Norman Rawles (Sherborne) had earlier given an excellent presentation explaining the opportunities afforded by the Internet.

Preveza have meanwhile produced their Brochure, Niederanven will produce a German edition and Granville one in English. Sesimbra, Altea and Bellagio all intend to produce their Brochures in 1998.

22. Description of Douzelage Towns - Altea

47. With a June 1st deadline Altea would be contacting the towns for further information

Action: ALL

D. NEW PROJECTS

23. Millennium of the Benedictine Order- Sherborne

48. Much preparatory work still has to be done but it is intended that religious leaders of all denominations from each Douzelage town will be meeting in July next year.

Lists were still required from Altea, Bellagio, Holstebro, Niederanven and Preveza by Bundoran.

**Action: Altea
Bellagio
Holstebro
Niederanven
Preveza
Bundoran**

24. Douzelage Community Play - Sherborne

49. This is an ambitious project which may be difficult to realise. Five to ten pupils from each of the Douzelage towns would be invited and, if more than three towns participate, substantial funding would be available from Brussels. A venue will have to be decided and the likely date is for the year 2000. Organisation is by John Sutherland-Smith and he will contact all the towns with further information in due course. As well as indicating as to whether or not they are interested in participating, towns will be asked if they would be interested in offering a suitable large building, such as a sports hall, for staging the play. **Action: ALL**

25. Sherborne Reflection Sub-Committee

50. Norman Rawles read out a report specially compiled for the Sherborne Committee (copy attached) but which was relevant to the whole of the Douzelage for future considerations. It was proposed that each town should submit their ideas well before Granville so that a document could be drawn up for discussion at that Conference. Sherborne would produce a Guideline for people's thoughts.

Action: Sherborne

51. A discussion as to how many meetings should be held each year came to the general conclusion that there should still be two annual conferences to maintain continuity but on a lower level. The general shortage of money and organisational problems were emphasised.

52. Altea particularly expressed their concern for the future of the Douzelage, in particular to the financial situation of each of the members, and made a generous offer of free secretarial services to the Douzelage. Sherborne and Altea would agree as to the precise manner in which the offer would be put into operation.

**Action: Altea
Sherborne**

Altea stressed the necessity of recognition by the European Union of the Douzelage as part of that movement so that funding might be obtained and that contact should be made with the appropriate MEP's. They felt it was important to undertake new enterprises in order to attract more monies and that future educational projects should be considered.

53. Bellagio would be studying all the written material and discussions and would be making their comments at a later date.

54. Holstebro looked forward to discussions for the future. They also informed the delegates that the trees from the National Douzelage Park had had to be taken inside for protection but that they would soon be returned outside again.

55. Houffalize agreed that all suggestions for the future of the Douzelage are welcome.

56. Bundoran would be giving their comments at a future date.

57. Sherborne considered the Douzelage is an impressive organisation and that inspiration must be given to other groups.

58. Kötzing agreed with the suggestions from Sherborne and that visions and new ideas were needed. Two points were emphasised: firstly, that the work of the Douzelage committees should be backed by their Town Hall and secondly, that the Agenda for the Conference was too long. Kötzing considered that the next Conference should concentrate on five or six main items for discussion and other points should be submitted on paper.

They particularly agreed with the suggestion by Altea to approach the local MEPs. Support for the Douzelage as a unique organisation in Europe must be stressed and new efforts must be made to obtain more funding.

59. Meerssen expressed their confidence in the future and agreed with the suggestion of less items for discussion at future conferences. The Brussels contact is very important and they suggested that the Minutes should be sent to Barbara Lücke at the European Commission in Brussels to remind them of our existence.

60. Niederaanven agreed with Kötzing that finance was fundamental. A Budget for the future should be drawn up and a past Balance produced.

Jeremy Barker noted that in order to compile a Budget travel costs should be included and that for the Granville Conference each town should propose only one or two items.

61. Preveza stated that efforts have been made for a new committee to attract recognition from the town. They supported the suggestions by Altea and would be contact their local MEP to draw attention to their efforts and to finance.

62. Sesimbra drew the attention of the Conference to EXPO 98, a major economic, social and political event to be held in Lisbon and hoped that the Douzelage could make a group visit.

The European Community works within the Preveza Douzelage, this is recognised by the Town Hall who give their support. About 40 people attend their meetings and it is felt that politicians should be involved.

Sesimbra considered that Sherborne had produced a good report and they would produce their own conclusions.

63. Sherborne would produce a Proforma as a guideline for the thoughts of each town on the future evolution of the Douzelage and its organisation.

Action: Sherborne

26. Any Other Business

64. Meerssen reminded the delegates of their Conference for Combatting National Prejudices (see paragraph 21) in November 1997. There is to be a 75% contribution from the EU and Douzelage towns are invited to include five of their citizens and to bring representatives from the schools, churches etc. Those interested should let Meerssen know by the 1st June. **Action: ALL**

27. Report from the Education Committee

65. The Chairman of the Education Committee, Lynne Raddall, made an excellent resumé of the report of the Education Conference (copy attached).

She thanked the other members of the Committee and stated that much had been achieved.

CONCLUSION

66. The President, Jeremy Barker, thanked Lynne Raddall for taking over the Chairmanship of the Education Committee at short notice and gave his congratulations.

He thanked Altea for their kind offer of secretarial assistance and gave special thanks to Regien Boeren for her help in taking the Minutes at previous Conferences.

Especial thanks were given to Joe McNulty for a perfect Conference who replied that Bundoran have a very hard working committee.

Concluding the Bundoran Conference the President said that all the Delegates would now look forward to the Granville Meeting.

Summary of Douzelage Education Meeting

This meeting consisted of reports from different delegations on projects which have been completed or ongoing at present.

1. **The first report on "Comenius One" was given by Holstebro.**

This project consists of two phases with the ultimate aim of the sharing of knowledge about young peoples everyday life in Germany, Great Britain and Denmark.

Phase 1: The world awaits you:

Presentation of young persons life, family, school, town, etc. - different means of communication will be used in this presentation with the Internet eventually playing a very important role. This phase should be completed during Autumn term 1997.

Phase 2: Looking for a job:

Looking at advertisements for jobs in all three countries. Gaining knowledge on the world of work in each of the countries.

Funding for this project 2 - 3,000 ECU per annum

Others could be involved in this in the future

Age groups involved 14 - 15 years

2. **Comenius Two.**

Primary schools in Sherborne, Bundoran, Sesimbra, Holstebro, Kotzting have at various stages produced newsletters. However the need for co-operation in this project was stressed.

Comenius Three.

This report involved four young people from different countries spending ten days this year (August 19th - 30th) in a youth hostel near Kotzting under the guidance of an instruction/teaching team.

It is an advantage if these young people were :-

(a) German or English speakers

(b) Musicians

(c) Play sports, etc.

Each town would pay 125 DM for each participant with each young person contributing 250 DM.

Travelling has presented great financial difficulties for participants - should try for cheapest rates on German train deals.

Details of how to try for funds for this will be distributed.

Action: Kotzting

4. Meerssen History Project.

This has not been so successful. However some lessons can be learned from the lack of success here.

1. Be sure schools will participate.
2. When deciding on projects make sure that the outcome will be useful to the schools.

Preveza were commended for the work they did on this project.
Niederanven - primary school project was given to Meerssen.

5. Mini Parliament

Bellagio reported that this year's "Mini European Parliament" will take place from 8th - 11th May.

The age range of pupils will be 15/16/17 years.

It will involve 300 local children and two children from each Douzelage partner, one teacher and one director (Principal).

The agenda for this year's parliament will be :-

- (1) 40th anniversary of EU.
- (2) The protection of children in Europe (c.f. Paedophilia scandals).
- (3) Direct meetings of schools within Douzelage.
- (4) Internet connections for parliament with schools in Douzelage towns.

There will be a demonstration against Paedophilia (The White Walk).

The participants from the Douzelage partners will stay with families in Bellagio.

Arrangements will have to be made soon for teacher rooming requirements, etc.

6. Workshadowing.

Meerssen reported on some workshadowing exchanges with Sherborne which is now leading to pupil exchanges this year.

The age range involved currently 16.17/18 years.

Funding again can be applied for through national EU agencies.

**Action: Meerssen
Sherborne**

7. Castle Project.

Sherborne and Sesimbra.

Sesimbra would like something on this before September so that work can start in the new school year.

Action: Sherborne

8. Conference in Hull. 17th - 21st May.

November 1997 - conference in Portugal "Understanding each other in Europe".

Funding should be sought for attendance at these conferences.

9. Strip Cartoon Project. (Houffalize report).

Hasn't yet been possible to complete this project since all the entries weren't in. The results of the competition will be announced soon. (c.f. the importance of direct contact with schools).

The schools will produce a Primary School Newsletter next September. Also in September it is hoped that second level schools will be on the Internet. The older Primary School children will be taking part in the Mini Parliament in Bellagio.

Action: Houffalize

10. Combatting National Prejudice. (Meerssen report).

Five towns participated and the results of the survey on prejudice will be distributed. Belgium appears from this study to be the best Europeans. It was mentioned during discussion that some of the questions in the survey might have been off-putting for some people.

Meerssen then presented proposals for a conference about racism, prejudice, etc. next November in Maastricht.

Towns are asked to see what interest might be in this (five representatives - adults from each town) and to let Meerssen know before June 1st.

There seemed to be general support for the idea. **Action: Meerssen**

11. Ecology Project. (Altea report).

There doesn't appear to be much support from the Douzelage towns, however it was decided that Altea will circulate Primary schools in the Douzelage towns with a questionnaire on water conservation before the end of April, to be returned before the end of May.

The directory for schools should be compiled by then which will make direct contact possible.

Action: Altea

12. Fishing Project.

This is probably more appropriate for the general meeting.

Last year's meeting in Altea concerned an adult group and probably the same will apply this year in Sesimbra.

Action: Altea

Sesimbra

13. Architectural Report (Sesimbra).

Nobody joined in this project so Sesimbra may try again next year and look for appropriate funding.

Sherborne should have a video ready next year for this project.

Action: Sesimbra

14. Schools Directory.

The question of making a directory of all schools involved in Douzelage was stressed with minimum details including Telephone/Fax/E-Mail address, contact name and age profile of the various schools.

Sherborne will co-ordinate this.

The chairman Lynne Raddall asked that each school profile be with her by the end of April.

The directory would and should improve the contact on educational matters between the schools.

Action: Sherborne

ALL Delegates

15. New Initiatives.

Various levels of interest were expressed about teacher exchange at Primary level, eg. Niederaanven : Houffalize, Granville : Sherborne, with the possibility of Bellagio and Bundoran.

16. Schools on the Internet.

The idea that an Information Technology Co-ordinator be appointed in each area was discussed.

Action: ALL Delegates

17. Design a Game for the Internet.

It was decided that Sean Walbank be contacted about this and that his idea might be presented to delegates at the general meeting in Granville.

Action: Sherborne

18. Any other business.

Holstebro (Denmark) gave details of a proposed music festival for young people in June 1998. (Tuesday 23rd June - Sunday) Funding will be sought from EU. The age range 15 - 25 years approximately. Groups of varying sizes would be welcome. Only travelling expenses would be required by each group.

Invitations to each of the partner towns will be sent out in a month's time. All details will be on these invitations. Replies should be made within two months of receipt of invitation.

Action: Holstebro

It was proposed that all contacts made on educational matters be acknowledged by recipients.

Action: ALL Delegates

The problems arising from the date of the Educational meeting in Bellagio (14th - 17th May 1998) were discussed.

BRIEF RESUMÉ

Reports were received from the different partners on many and various projects being undertaken at present and new projects planned for the future.

The success or otherwise of projects depended on :-

- (a) Their relevance and usefulness in schools.
- (b) Direct contact being made between participating schools.

A proper directory of schools giving contact persons, numbers, etc., together with a brief profile of the age range, etc., of students in the schools is to be put together immediately, co-ordinated by Sherborne.

Action: Sherborne

Details and deadlines for new projects were decided upon.