

Fourteenth Douzelage Conference

Bellagio

15th - 17th May 1998

PRESENT

ALTEA

Mr. & Mrs. Joaquim Roma
Mr. & Mrs. Jacinto Mule
Mr. Nicola Borja
Mr. Berto Orozco
Mr. & Mrs. Matias
Mrs. Barbel Pacaperios
Mr. Pepe Ripoli

GRANVILLE

Mr. Bernard Husson
Mr. Jean Marc Julienne
*Mrs. Mathilde Prost
Mr. Pierre Audrain
Mr. André Gendre

HOLSTEBRO

Mr. Olaf Sielemann
Mrs. Mette Sorensen
*Mrs. Ulla Hammelev

HOUFFALIZE

Mrs. Nadia Lallemand
Mrs. Dany Dube
Prof. Marcel Hia
*Mrs. Malou Henrard
Mr. Paul Jacob
Mrs. Angelique Maron

KARKKILA

Mr. Kari Korkiakoski
Mr. Erkki Saarinen
Mrs. Mattila Leena
*Mrs. Riitta Houvinen

KÖTZTING

Mr. Wolfgang Ludwig
Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher
*Mr. Günther Pecher
Mr. Hermann Kumpfmüller
Mrs. Evelin Maurer

MEERSSEN

Mr. & Mrs. Karel & Manna Majoor
Mr. Wiepke van de Vliet
*Mr. Jan Swanenvleugel
Mr. & Mrs. Joop & Marlies Hosman
*Mrs. Irene Raedts
Mr. & Mrs. Henk & Silvia Heuberger
Mr. & Mrs. Nico van de Vliet
Mr. & Mrs. Peter & Betsy Gillissen
Mr. Theo Wingbermhühle

NIEDERANVEN	Mr. Jean Schiltz Mr. & Mrs. Raimond Poiré Mr. Jos Mouton Mr. Jeannot Poiré *Mr. Paul Klein Mrs. Regine Kohnen-Reichling Mr. & Mrs. Wagner Mrs. Jacqueline Reiter
OXELÖSUND	Mr. Christer Wargert Mr. Gite Heikson Mrs. Torbritt Bökman
PREVEZA	Mr. Dimitrios Tampouris Mrs. Anna Maria Sardeli Mrs. Barbara Zandraveli *Mrs. Heleny Sinesiou
SESIMBRA	Mr. Fernando Rodrigues Mr. Amadau Penim Mrs. M. Manuiel Gomez *Mrs. Maria Antonieta Vasconselos Mr. Deolinda Penim
SHERBORNE	Mr. Jeremy Barker Mr. Mike Balfour Mr. Norman Rawles *Mrs. Lynne Raddall Mrs. Karin Robson *Mrs. Yvonne Bell *Mr. John Sutherland-Smith *Mrs. Vicky Gough
BELLAGIO	Mr. Bruno Bianchi Mr. Alessandro Nettuno Mrs. Angela Gilardoni Ms. Carla Piccamiglio *Mrs. Eva Luoni *Mr. Pasquale Pesce *Mrs. Cranchi

***Education**

WELCOMING SPEECH

In welcoming the delegates to the Symposium the President expressed his gratitude to Bruno Bianchi and to the town of Bellagio. At the same time he expressed his regret over the absence of Paul Georges, due to ill-health, and that of the delegates from Bundoran, due to other unavoidable commitments.

A particular welcome was extended to Oxelösund, as observers, and to Karkkila, now attending the Symposium for the first time as official delegates.

In reply Oxelösund gave a brief description of their town which lies 110 kms south of Stockholm on the east coast of one of the best known archipelagos in Sweden.

A. To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting in Granville

The Minutes of the Granville Symposium, having previously been circulated, were approved.

B. Funding and Accounts

1. Statement of the Accounts

- a. The Accounts were approved.
- b. It was agreed that the Douzelage financial year should end on March 31st (interim Accounts to be presented at the intervening Symposium).
- c. It was agreed that the contribution from each town for 1998 - 1999 would be reduced from 150 écus (euros) to 100 écus.
- d. It was agreed that a Euro Account should be opened as soon as possible and that, in future, Accounts should be presented in Euros.

2. Honorarium of the Secretary

It was agreed in principle that an Honorarium should be paid annually to the Douzelage Secretary. The Agenda item to increase the sum was withdrawn.

3. Progress on Funding for Delegates attending Douzelage Symposia

The President, in thanking the delegates for their support, said that this was clearly going to be a long term project. An acknowledgement had been received from Mme Nicole Fontaine but it was considered that it would be helpful to translate the Dossier into French for her and into the relevant languages for the MEPs of the partner towns.

With some MEPs already showing a positive reaction all the delegates were urged to maintain the pressure. With elections coming soon now is a good time!

Action: All Towns

- to translate the document into their own language and circulate to appropriate MEPs and keep the pressure on!

C. Survey of Recent Events

1. Téléthon (Granville)

This very successful event collected a huge amount of money and Sherborne was particularly thanked for sending a group who were featured on the television programme. The whole enterprise reflected the concern shown in Europe over medical problems of this nature and it was hoped that other towns would also participate in the future.

2. Sports Exchange (Granville/Niederanven)

Niederanven reported that the proposed exchanges between young football and table-tennis teams had not taken place as Granville had been unable to obtain the necessary funding. There was, however, continued enthusiasm for the project and it was still hoped that it would be possible to stage the proposed events. In the light of the refusal of funding Granville stressed the need to always first ascertain the exact EU stipulations before making any future applications.

3. European Media Meeting in Altea

Having circulated a comprehensive report on their extremely successful Meeting to all the towns, Altea stressed the benefit of exchange of opinions and ideas between the towns who participated. The principal decision was to set up a website attached to the IT Douzelage page which would contain the contact references of all the media in each Douzelage town; a regularly updated newspaper would also be included.

Kötzting informed the delegates that they proposed holding a Second Media Meeting in June 1999 - with further details to follow - and, together with Meerssen, Sesimbra and Bellagio, confirmed the success of a very enjoyable conference.

Action: Kötzting

Prof. Carlo Secchi, MEP

In an address to the delegates Prof. Carlo Secchi, MEP, expressed his appreciation of the Douzelage and its position within the EU. The contacts and friendships formed between the partner towns perfectly reflect the spirit of European citizenship.

He continued by outlining the future economic problems to be faced with the enlargement of the EU and emphasised the vital role to be played by the promotion of tourism with culture, education and employment all encompassed under its banner.

The introduction of the single currency will provide an enormous stimulus to tourism, both inside and outside Europe, with an estimated four to five percent increase in American tourists alone. He further stressed the need to introduce similar taxation and VAT rates within the Union.

Professor Secchi concluded by congratulating the Douzelage on their activities and urged the delegates to maintain pressure on their local MEPs.

D. Projects not yet finished, or in preparation

1. San Felipé (Sesimbra)

Sesimbra would provide further details on their request for funds to provide transport for secondary school children and for health equipment. **Action: Sesimbra**

2. Choir Festival (Preveza)

Although details on the event, to be held between 2nd and 5th July, had already been circulated no replies had been received. Only one choir from Altea had attended on the previous occasion and it was very much hoped that there would be more this time.

3. Music Festival (Holstebro)

The original concept had proved to be too expensive: a smaller version was now being planned with details to follow. **Action: Holstebro**

4. Benedictine Millennium (Sherborne)

The celebrations to mark 1000 years of the order are going very well and ministers of all denominations have been invited. Representatives from Kötzing will be coming and any others would be welcome: free accommodation is available. Don Guiliano Zanotta from Bellagio was welcomed by Jeremy Barker. **Action: Sherborne**

5. A Stay in the Belgian Ardennes (Houffalize)

Details having previously been circulated on this project for 6th and 7th grade children, towns were requested to indicate their intention to participate by June 15th in order to prepare a financial dossier. 150 to 200 participants would be needed but in any event costs for the children would be very reasonable.

**Action: Houffalize
All Towns**

6. Passport Scheme (Sherborne)

Sherborne congratulated Bellagio on encouraging delegates to use their Douzelage passports during their visit. Replies were still awaited from Bundoran and Altea on their participation and it is hoped the scheme will encourage vital tourism.

**Action: Altea
Bundoran**

7. Extension of the Douzelage - Search for an Austrian Town (Kötzting)

Kötzting reported that negotiations with a town in Austria had not come to fruition. Meerssen offered to approach contacts in Klagenfurt and liaise with Sherborne and Kötzting.

**Action: Kötzting
Meerssen
Sherborne**

8. Meerssen Symposium 5th - 8th November 1998

Four official delegates will be invited from each town and it is hoped that other visitors will also come: a choice of hotel or family accommodation will be offered. The official working language will be English but there will be whisper interpreters. A varied programme is envisaged, including ecology and bicycling.

Action: Meerssen

9. Sherborne Symposium 22nd - 25th April 1999

Delegates will be encouraged to stay with families but hotel accommodation will be available for those who prefer it. Towns wishing to bring more than the official four delegates will be welcome and it is particularly hoped that representatives of groups in each town (eg. sports clubs and cultural organisations) will attend and make contact with similar groups in Sherborne. As well as the Education Meeting there will be a Beer Festival and it is hoped that other towns will bring their own brews.

Action: Sherborne

10. Programme of Future Meetings

Autumn 1999 Kötzting
Spring 2000 Altea (to confirm)
Autumn 2000 Preveza (to confirm)
September 2001 Karkkila

11. Community Play/Douzelage Presentation (Sherborne)

John Sutherland-Smith, on behalf of the Colway Theatre Trust, made a presentation on this project.

Action: All Towns

12. Douzelage Pin Badges (Niederanven)

As more badges are required delegates were requested to give precise numbers within two weeks so that costs could be estimated: the total appeared to be in the region of 1000.

Action: All Towns

13. Cultural Exchanges (Sesimbra)

Various exchanges were reported, concerning music groups and art exhibitions, between Altea, Sesimbra, Niederanven, Meerssen and Kötzting. It was hoped that further cultural exchanges would follow.

14. Europartenariat & Interprise (Sherborne/Meerssen)

Despite considerable effort and discussion on the merits of Europartenariat and Interprise it appeared that neither was suitable for Douzelage activities. However Street Fairs, the exchange of craft goods and local produce in Gourmet and Trade Fairs, and the promotion of tourism with special package tours were the best possible ways forward for the expansion of Douzelage economic activity.

It was agreed that the towns should not try to promote anything too ambitious and that dates of suitable enterprises should be circulated. Sherborne was asked to circulate a summary report.

Action: Sherborne

14. Childhood Space (Karkkila)

Comprehensive details on the event to be held between 31st May to 9th August was circulated amongst the towns. The project is funded by Kaleidoscope and is not only for children but also adults, families and teachers with a multitude of varied activities on offer.

E. Community Liaison within the Douzelage Towns

The problem of promoting the Douzelage to its citizens is common to all the towns and the following specific details on organisation and publicity were outlined :-

Holstebro: No committee. A journalist attends meetings to inform the community of all activities.

Sherborne: The newly appointed Community Liaison Officer has organised a new Logo to be put on town signs, etc., Newsletters and Brochures will be distributed to all households and will also be available in shops and information centres. A special Database is being set up and local schools will have Douzelage Noticeboards.

It was hoped that all towns will be on the Website by the time of the Meerssen Symposium.

Action: All Towns

Sesimbra: Monthly meetings are held involving 21 organisations, and which include representatives of the Town Hall. Local radio and newspaper report the Douzelage news. Brochures and stickers are produced.

Preveza: Reorganisation two years ago resulted in a group of some 20 people representing education, culture and tourism but it is still difficult to involve the community. Good support is obtained from the Town Hall and local sponsors. EU funding is also obtained. The local media have monthly information of activities and pupils get newsletters at all the schools.

Houffalize: Good support from Town Hall but difficult to spread the word. Good work in schools and website shortly available. Printed T-shirts for the young will help publicity, there are themed dinners and promotion of honeymoon exchanges. A journalist attends meetings and events and the local paper prints all Douzelage news.

Meerssen: 100 members pay 25 écus each. A special lottery raises funds as well as an annual market. There is a weekly column in the local free paper and five times a year a larger article is published which has to be paid for. A news brochure goes to each household and exchange programmes are publicised. New members are constantly encouraged and more sponsorship to reduce costs.

Altea: The Mayor is the President, and there are five town councillors and five MPs. Each year each group and society elect five representatives for a year: there are regular meetings with varied initiatives. Regular news is received from the other towns and the local radio broadcasts a special half hour programme every fortnight with an invitation to the partner towns to participate in Spanish. Similar organisations to the Douzelage in other towns, such as Madrid and Valencia, also attend.

Kötzting: No specific organisation but a fixed annual budget and grants for student travel can be offered. The Douzelage is really only known to the secondary schools and, with local dislike of the EU, is under pressure. In addition to the school contacts an effort is therefore being made to promote the Douzelage to the community with more activities. The media need to be involved and a journalist is now invited to attend. Following the success of the Media Conference in Altea a similar event will be staged next year.

Karkkila: As new members there is no special organisation but will learn from the experience of the other towns.

Granville: Have a Douzelage organisation that has been established for seven years with 100 members paying 15 écus each: 3000 écus are received from the Town Hall. There will be a review of finance to ensure the support and funding of youth activities to Kötzting and Bellagio, and also enterprises such as the fishing programme. Efforts are made to inform the local people of Douzelage activities: press conferences and media cover mini-parliament, fishing, lectures on Europe, the single currency and promotion of the EU.

Bellagio: Linked with the municipality. The mini-parliament has provided good publicity - families have hosted children - and the press, TV and radio are involved and banners have been erected.. The people are beginning to appreciate the importance of the EU and thus the Douzelage.

Mayor Bruno Bianchi

Addressing the delegates Signor Bianchi expressed his thanks to the Bellagio Douzelage Committee for organising the mini-parliament and Trade Fair and to the delegates for their participation. With the single currency affording greater competition with the US and Asian economies he felt that the Douzelage experience would act as a catalyst for local entrepreneurs.

The Tourist Board and Chamber of Trade will be reorganised in 1999, to include the whole of the Lombardy area so as to provide greater opportunities for contact. He hoped that the Douzelage Chambers of Trade would be interested and that greater economic results could be achieved. The advent of the single currency would facilitate development and he felt that the Douzelage had a role to play.

Above all else Bruno Bianchi emphasised the need to pursue every possible opportunity to promote the economic activities of the Douzelage towns; and he urged that, however sparse past achievements had been, it is something that must remain on the Agenda and must be an important focus for all our endeavours in the future.

F. New Projects

1. Niederanven

A proposal will be put to the Meerssen Symposium to include representatives from sports and social organisations. A local bank and choir leaders would like exchanges and it would be helpful to obtain funding for any such activities.

**Action: Niederanven
Meerssen**

2. Simultaneous Translation Equipment (Sherborne/Meerssen)

Jeremy Barker informed the delegates that to hire equipment in the UK would cost £2000 for each meeting and that the price to buy the equipment outright was prohibitive. Since the equipment originated in the Netherlands Meerssen was therefore asked to take the matter further.

Meerssen reported that they had then contacted Phillips who have offered a discount to provide equipment, installed in 3 suitcases for easy transport, and each delegation would have one microphone and four headsets. Interpreter facilities are part of the equipment, except for the soundproof boxes which should be provided by the host town. The total cost would be 12,500 écus but there are ways of reducing the sum.

It was agreed that Sherborne and Meerssen would produce a report to be sent to each town within a month. It was hoped that a decision could then be made before the Meerssen Symposium. In the event of the equipment being purchased it was agreed that Meerssen should be in charge of it.

As an alternative Bellagio further informed the delegates that they have a specialist who could provide the equipment at travel cost only.

**Action: Sherborne
Meerssen**

3. Exchange between Hotels in Granville/Altea (Altea)

Students from the tourism schools will be in Granville from 22-26th April and a return visit will be made by students from Granville to Altea from 26th April to 15th May.

4. FIRALTEA 98 (Altea)

Having circulated details of the event Altea stressed the enormous effort made by their Town Hall to promote the project. Some 22,000 visitors attended the event in 1997 and it was proposed to set up a 'Europe Street' wherein each Douzelage town would be able to display their goods. Two representatives from each town would be invited to arrive on the 7th October. Preparation day was the 8th and the Street would be open from the 9th to 12th October. The stands and six nights accommodation for the representatives would be free. Deadline 15th July.

Action: All Towns

5. Tennis Club (Altea)

Four members from each town would be invited in the Autumn of 1999. This proposal would be put on the Meerssen Agenda.

Action: Altea

6. Amateur Radio Club (Altea)

The towns were requested to supply Altea with all their local radio frequencies to promote every possible contact and the organisation of a programme.

Action: All Towns

7. Douzelage Conference on Cultural Diversity (Meerssen)

Having been circulated with details on the proposal for a conference in March 1999 the delegates expressed their enthusiasm. Five representatives from each town, mainly young people, would be invited at a cost of 165 ecu per person with travel expenses reimbursed. More information would be sent out by the 1st August.

Action: Meerssen

G. Extra Projects

1. Marathon (Meerssen): 13th September 1998.

Participants from the Douzelage towns would be welcome and would be hosted with families. The opportunity to obtain sponsorship was noted.

Action: All Towns

2. Europoly (Meerssen)

This project, with the potential to earn some money, had been presented to the Education Committee.

Action: All Towns

(Education Committees)

3. Breugel 'The Flemish Proverbs' (Meerssen)

Delegates were asked to submit translations and equivalent versions of the 88 sayings depicted in the painting.

Action: All Towns

4. Poster Exhibition (Granville)

Delegates were enthusiastic about the proposal to display reproductions of the great European works of art as a means of facilitating access to them. Granville were asked to contact the partner towns again.

Action: All Towns

Signora Coppo-Gavazzi, MEP

Signora Coppo-Gavazzi, Co-ordinator of Italian Regional Group, considered the Douzelage initiative to be extremely significant: the regular contact between the countries reflected the fundamental approach to culture and friendship.

From 2000 years of history and in school we learn of our national differences. Nevertheless major historical events, such as the Renaissance, have had wide ranging influence and it is now the turn of the new Europe. The Douzelage contribution to unity is particularly helpful.

FINALE

Oxelösund expressed their interest in the activities of the Douzelage. They would report back to their city and then give their decision on membership.

The President, Jeremy Barker, thanked the interpreters for their work and expressed the gratitude and pleasure of all the delegates to Bellagio for their wonderful welcome and entertainment.

BELLAGIO SYMPOSIUM

Education Meeting

FRIDAY, 15TH MAY

The delegates were firstly taken on a visit to the Scuoli Comuniali where they were given a welcome and subsequently shown around the school: they visited classrooms and also observed activities arranged as part of the Mini Parliament. It was very interesting for the delegates to be able to make comparisons between what they saw in the school and what they experience in their own countries; with a falling Roll situation the classes at the Scuoli Comuniali are now averaging only 15 to 20 pupils.

Item 1 : European Funding

Vicky Gough, head of Professional Development of International Dimension Programme, Central Bureau of Educational Exchanges, addressed the delegates on European Funding, in particular, Comenius. During a very detailed talk, which was of great interest to the delegates, she circulated addresses and contacts of each national agency which was very helpful. Examples of funded programmes already in existence, or completed, were given and suggestions were made of practice which would, or would not, attract funding: of particular interest was her suggestion that funding could be sought for teachers wishing to meet to discuss specific projects in detail. Problems were expressed over the deadlines imposed by the Central Bureau and a video was shown briefly of two projects.

Item 2 : Review of activities since Bundoran

With some delegates unable to attend on Sunday, and shortage of time, the Chairman decided that this Item would be omitted.

SATURDAY 16TH MAY

Item 3 : Community Play

John Sutherland-Smith, Sherborne, gave details on this project - to be known as the Douzelage Presentation. This major proposal, which was enthusiastically received by the delegates, is fully reported in the Minutes of the Main Meeting.

Item 4 : Schools on the Internet

Norman Rawles, Sherborne, informed the delegates that the internet will solve many of the communication difficulties presently encountered between the partner towns. A Douzelage page will be set up by each town which will contain two sets of information; firstly, permanent information with names, addresses, etc. and, secondly, a Noticeboard with news of forthcoming events, projects, etc. Preveza has already set up appropriate pages and the other towns should follow their example. Copies were distributed to delegates.

With the internet set to dominate computer technology it is hoped that all the schools will shortly have access and be able to create their own web-site. The Noticeboard would be maintained by different age groups.

Item 5 : New Proposals

Preveza Database: this should be set up to contain details of all school projects in order to facilitate co-operation between the towns - Preveza are prepared to co-ordinate. **Action: ALL**

to send details of projects

School projects: for pupils aged 12 - 15, speaking English, French or German -

Environmental Project - with particular emphasis on the marine environment and pollution. Bellagio expressed interest.

Health Project - a request for information on local diet, recipes and traditions, also to include accidents and First Aid.

Drama & Music - Preveza has much drama in school and would like to exchange ideas and perhaps performances. A youth group is visiting Sherborne in July 98.

Historical Monuments - a project on local sites of interest which would lead to an exchange of information.

Cultures - information on different cultures existing in towns around the Douzelage.

Action: ALL

if any of these projects are of interest please contact Preveza before 15th September 1998

Kötzting European Week of the Young: details already circulated. To run from 11th - 22nd August, aged between 16 - 23 years and able to speak English or German. Many workshops on offer. Cost: 275 DM each plus travel (German railways are offering reduced prices during the weekend). 16 applications have already been received from around the Douzelage.

Karkkila Christian Heritage: a project for students aged between 16 - 18 years. Partner towns with Christian religion differing to that of Finland are sought to further wider knowledge.

Action: Karkkila

further details to be sent

Sherborne Pre-School Education: Lin Ashby will send out a questionnaire on education for 3 - 5 year olds to exchange ideas, and teachers or parents who work with young children. She will co-ordinate a list of countries where a programme exists and would like photos and information.

Action: Sherborne
to send out questionnaire
and co-ordinate list
Action: ALL
to send photos and information

Bursary Travel Fund: this Fund has been set up to assist young people to travel abroad when they do not have sufficient monies of their own. A small Committee decides from written applications. Meerssen Douzelage receives a small grant from the Municipal Council to assist young people going on Douzelage projects.

Sesimbra Fairy Tales: a primary school project using English and the native language for pupils aged 10 - 12. Local stories are requested from the partner towns.

Action: Sesimbra
to send details

Niederanven School Reading Wall: A primary school project - stories on school life, and in any language, are requested from the partner towns before Christmas and the Easter holidays. This could be done via the internet.

Action: ALL

Item 6 : Any Other Business

Meerssen *Europoli*: a European Youth Travel game to be played in the same way as Monopoly but will feature the Douzelage towns and their capitals, the game to be launched in 2000 on the European market. Committees and sub-contractors are to be appointed by each town wishing to participate and relevant information sent to Meerssen. **The sheet from the back of the booklet to be returned to Meerssen to register interest and to help them gain funding. Also page 2 of the booklet to be returned** with names.

Action: ALL

A seminar on racism is proposed for March 1999; five young people, aged between 16 - 25 years would be invited from each town.

Houffalize Pupils aged 11 years, plus one teacher and one other adult, are invited to participate in lessons and sports activities. Proposed dates are 3rd-12th June 1999 and 3rd-10th June 2000. Cost

will depend on number of participants. Meerssen and Karkkila expressed interest.

Action: Houffalize

to send further details on cost

Bellagio Funding from Socrates will be sought for the Mini-Parliament. Request for partner towns to consider hosting the Mini-Parliament: help from Bellagio would be available.

Meerssen will probably start teaching in both Dutch and English at secondary level; pupils will choose in which language they wish to be taught.

Each partner town was given a parcel of books.

Sherborne presented each town with a book containing poems by pupils of The Gryphon School.

Item 7 : Sherborne Symposium

22nd to 25th April 1999

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

A report was made to the General Meeting on the Education Meeting.

ADDENDUM

Please consider the following suggestion from Sherborne:

Subject to obtaining EU funding, a meeting for teachers wishing to discuss projects could be set up to coincide with the Meerssen Symposium in November. Unlike Bellagio this would just be a working meeting with the Agenda drawn up by the project hosts. To obtain appropriate funding, projects would have to be between more than two countries and a central meeting place, such as Meerssen, would seem convenient.

Vicky Gough, from the Central Bureau of Educational Exchanges, has also offered to attend to help with further funding requests.

Would delegates please register their interest, by FRIDAY JULY 10TH, to see if this suggestion is worth pursuing.