

# **Nineteenth Douzelage Conference**

**PREVEZA**

**14th - 17th September 2000**

## **PRESENT**

### **ALTEA**

Mr. Luis Morote Barbera  
Mr. Federico Candela Lopez  
Mr. Juan Perez Montaner  
Mr. Jose Luis Afan de Rivera Galan  
Mr. Tomas Gonzalez Albo Serrano  
Mr. Gregorio Cortes Catala  
Mr. Jose Juan Lanuza Linares  
Mrs. Pepa Perles  
Mrs. Inma Cortes Catala

### **BELLAGIO**

Mr. Alessandro Nettuno  
Mrs. Angela Gilardoni  
Mr. Simone Cattaneo

### **BUNDORAN**

Mr. Joe McNulty  
Mr. Tiernan Brady

### **GRANVILLE**

Mr. Jean-Marc Julienne  
Mr. Bernard Husson  
Mr. Pierre Audrain  
Mr. Marcel Michel  
Mr. Herman Montreuil

### **HOLSTEBRO**

Mrs. Mette Grith Sørensen  
Mrs. Ulla Hammelev  
Mr. Morgens Bech

### **HOUFFALIZE**

Mr. Paul Georges  
Mr. Alphonse Henrard  
Mr. Francis Collin

### **JUDENBURG**

Mr. Gerald Dobnigg  
Mrs. Monika Haider  
Mrs. Margit Ergert  
Mrs. Andrea Kober  
Mrs. Monika Fuchs  
Mr. Martin Szilagyi  
Mr. Manfred Hoffelner  
Mrs. Gabriela Vana  
Mrs. Claudia Tieber

### **KARKKILA**

Mr. Kari Korkiakoski  
Mrs. Helena Palm  
Mr. Hakan Palm  
Mrs. Riitta Huovinen

<b>KÖTZTING</b>	Mr. Günther Pecher Mr. Hermann Kumpfmüller Mrs. Evi Maurer Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher Mr. Alexander Tononi Mr. Dietrich Stefan
<b>MEERSSEN</b>	Mr. Nico van de Vliet Mrs. Regien Smeets-Boeren Mr. Peter Smeets Mr. Rob Waltmans
<b>NIEDERANVEN</b>	Mr. Nico Hilbert Mr. John Bauler Mr. Jos Mouton Mrs. Mari-Antoinette Paquet Mr. Paul Klein Mr. Ed Weber
<b>OXELÖSUND</b>	Mr. John Pettersson Mr. Göte Eriksson Mrs. Torbritt Bökman Mr. Christer Wargert
<b>PREVEZA</b>	Mr. Konstantinos Papageorgiou Mrs. Vaja Pani Mr. Spyros Anemozalis Mr. Pavlos Alexandrou Mr. Georgios Patrozos Mr. Spyros Karabitianhs Mr. Alekos Saliarhs Mr. Athanasios Perdikh Mr. Evaggelos Benetatos Mr. Georgios Alisandratos Mr. Panagiotis Merkouris Mrs. Panagiota Efthimiou
<b>SESIMBRA</b>	Mrs. Cristina Conceição Miss Ana Teresa Martins
<b>SHERBORNE</b>	Mr. Jeremy Barker Mr. Mike Balfour Mrs. Margaret Balfour Mr. John Sutherland-Smith Mr. Chris MacAdie Mrs. Karin Robson Miss Natalie House

In his speech of welcome to all the Delegates the President expressed his particular pleasure that amongst them was the youngest Town Mayor from Bundoran, Tiernan Brady, the youngest Councillor from Bellagio, Simone Cattaneo, and the youngest delegate from Sherborne, Natalie House.

Mr. Konstantinos Papageorgiou, Mayor of Preveza, spoke of Preveza's involvement with the Douzelage from its beginning and the success of the exchanges, particularly those involving young people. Mr. Tisekouras, MEP for Preveza, stressed the importance of respecting diversity and the need for all to strive for common goals. Mr. Trifonidis, MP, reminded the delegates that the ancient Greek civilisation was the product of economic development and the European Union should now follow.

Tribute was paid to the memory of Wim Raedts, Meerssen, and Olaf Sielemann, Holstebro, both stalwart supporters of the Douzelage and whose sudden loss was keenly felt by all the delegates.

The President reflected on an exceptional year for the Douzelage, with the accent very much on youth through events such as the Bellagio Mini-Parliament, Kötztig Week of the Young, Houffalize Stay in the Belgian Ardennes, Altea Football, the Sherborne Youth Exchange with Karkkila, the Niederanven Scout Camp and the Meerssen 'Youth Conference on a United Europe'. The outstanding success of the Douzelage Play owed much to Karkkila for their efforts and hospitality, to Jon Oram of the Colway Theatre Trust, to John Sutherland-Smith of Sherborne, to Cees Rullens of Meerssen and to the directors and actors.

Representatives from the Douzelage towns are invited to the next La Manche/Dorset Twinning Symposium to be held in Granville, 27th - 29th April 2001, and the President further informed the partner towns that the Mayor of Chojna, Poland, would like to invite delegates for discussion on multi-polar twinning and the enlargement of the European Union from 17th -19th August 2001. He concluded by expressing his gratitude for the support received from the two Douzelage Vice-Presidents, Riitta Huovinen from Karkkila and Bernard Husson from Granville.

#### **A. Business Matters**

- 1. The Minutes** of the meeting held in Altea, 4th - 7th May 2000, were approved.
- 2. The Interim Statement of Accounts** for the period 1st April - 3rd September 2000 was approved.
- 3. Simultaneous Translation Equipment**  
The cost of transport of the equipment from Altea to Preveza had been met from the funds held by Meerssen: the equipment would next be required by Karkkila in September 2001.

#### **4. Guidelines for Applications to the EU for Funding of the Symposia**

Information sheets with detailed guidelines were drawn up by Jeremy Barker and circulated to all the towns. Acknowledging the help of Mme. Anne-Blanche Haritos and Mme. Sibyl Webber, he particularly stressed the importance of making applications under the correct title, of checking whether the topics and visits met the appropriate criteria required by Brussels, and he also noted that the Agenda could be spread over two days.

Mr. Nicolas van der Pas, in charge of the allocation of grants, has informed Jeremy Barker that there will be changes by January 2001 to reduce delays.

Nico Hilbert suggested that Mme. Haritos and Mr. van der Pas be invited to the forthcoming Douzelage Symposium in Niederanven.

**Action: Nico Hilbert  
Jeremy Barker**

#### **B. Survey of recent events**

All towns circulated written details of their many recent Douzelage activities with verbal reports on long established programmes.

##### **- 5th Mini-Parliament (Bellagio)**

This event continues to prosper with students and teachers from Houffalize, Meerssen, Kötzing, Sherborne and Preveza participating this year: an excellent and comprehensive report was compiled by Bellagio. Despite the enormous success of this project, with the accent so firmly on youth and Europe, no subvention has yet been received from Brussels in five years of application.

Next year's Mini-Parliament will be held during the last two weeks in May following the Niederanven Conference; full details will be circulated by the 15th December.

**Action: Bellagio  
15/12/00**

##### **- 6th European Week of the Young (Kötzing)**

Another very successful event with young people from Bellagio, Granville, Kötzing, Preveza and Sherborne participating with many others from the European countries, many of whom continue to maintain contact by email. The dates for 2001 will be posted on the Douzelage website as soon as possible.

**Action: Kötzing**

##### **- Millennium Scout Camp (Niederanven)**

Under the slogan 'Together to a new Millennium' 650 young people, with a further 150 leaders, participated from ten countries and included scouts from the Douzelage town of Meerssen. The Millennium Euro official campsite currency was a hugely successful concept.

**- Football (Altea)**

Teams from Sherborne and Sesimbra were among the large number of participants in this enjoyable and successful event. A special trophy exclusively for the Douzelage towns is being planned for the next event, details of which will be circulated by 31st December.

**Action: Altea**  
**31/12/00**

**- Douzelage Play (Sherborne/Karkkila)**

The outstanding success of this enterprising project owes much to the town of Karkkila as well as to many individuals, particularly Laura Rätty and Riitta Huovinen. 180 actors from Meerssen, Niederaanven, Karkkila, Bellagio, Preveza, Sherborne, Holstebro and Kötzing took part in many themes of triumph over adversity under the title of 'Bridges'. Many of the audience of over 1,500 returned several times and there was good coverage in the press and national television. A short video with excerpts from the production gave delegates from the partner towns a flavour of what took place. The complete video (60 minutes) will be available for sale soon.

With many deep friendships formed, and plans for another venture under discussion, probably in three years time, John Sutherland-Smith invited those towns who were not previously involved to let him know by the end of the year if they would now be interested in future participation.

**Action: Bundoran**  
**Granville**  
**Houffalize**  
**Oxelösund**  
**Judenburg**  
**31/12/00**

**- Comenius Primary Schools project**  
**six.towns@one.europe (Judenburg)**

Funding has now been obtained from Brussels and the programme under the title of 'six.towns@one.europe' can get under way, in which children would be asked to compare school programmes, activities, etc. The importance of access to computers for schoolchildren was emphasised.

**- A Stay in the Belgian Ardennes (Houffalize)**

Young people from Granville (a whole primary school class!) and Bellagio joined Houffalize in Engreux for a much appreciated and well organised occasion. Following this success a questionnaire was circulated to all the towns for participation in June 2001.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**  
**30/10/00**

## **C. Projects not yet finished or in preparation**

### **1. Niederanven Symposium 10th - 13th May 2001**

#### **- Programme**

A detailed provisional programme under the theme 'Culture and Education', to be finalised by mid January 2001, was circulated to the towns. Visits include a reception at the European Commission when Viviane Reding, European Commissioner responsible for Education & Culture, has been invited to give a presentation.

#### **- Tenth Anniversary Celebrations**

The making of one or two CD-ROMs was discussed and it was agreed that each town would endeavour to send between two and five songs to Preveza by the end of 2000. Choice of songs would rest with the towns but light, easy listening music was envisaged; it was also hoped to include the Douzelage anthem. Full details on how to send the songs to Preveza, together with any other relevant information, was requested.

**Action: Preveza**

**ALL TOWNS**

It was agreed that Henri Haffray, who was instrumental in finding the Douzelage towns, President of the European Parliament Nicole Fontaine and Karel Majoor, first President of the Douzelage, should be invited to Niederanven.

#### **- Accommodation**

Comprehensive details are included in the provisional programme.

#### **- Workshops**

Following discussions in Sherborne and their workshop on 'Communication within the Douzelage' further analysis of the Douzelage over the ten years, including activities, local structure and communication, would be considered.

### **2. Programme of future meetings**

4th - 7th October 2001	Karkkila
30th May - 2nd June 2002	Oxelösund
Autumn 2002	Houffalize
Spring 2003	Sesimbra
Autumn 2003	Holstebro
Spring 2004	Judenburg
Autumn 2004	Granville
Spring 2005	Bundoran

**3. Holstebro Music Festival**

With funding obtained, contact names were requested from each participating town so that details could be circulated.

**Action: Holstebro  
Karkkila  
Meerssen  
Oxelösund  
Preveza**

**4. Tennis during Symposia**

Niederanven agreed to contact their tennis club and all information would be included in the programme details to be circulated in January 2001. A delegates' tennis competition was suggested to include LADIES and other Douzelage members.

**Action: Niederanven**

A tennis competition would not be easy in Karkkila but Oxelösund would discuss the possibilities with their club.

**Action: Oxelösund**

**5. Firaltea**

A new site is still required to accommodate the Douzelage towns, information will be circulated at Niederanven.

**Action: Altea**

**6. Exchange of Town Councillors**

Contact names were requested by Sherborne from those towns who are interested in this project in which Councillors would be hosted in other towns and attend their council meetings. Meerssen would make enquiries after the appointment of their new mayor.

**Action: Sherborne  
Karkkila  
Judenburg  
Oxelösund  
Bundoran  
Bellagio  
Holstebro**

**7. Exchange of Town Librarians**

Sherborne has completed a successful exchange with Karkkila and is now exchanging with Chojna, Poland. Contact names were requested from the interested towns; Kötzing informed delegates that their librarian is seeking an English or French speaking contact.

**Action: Sherborne  
Altea  
Houffalize  
Holstebro  
Kötzing  
Sherborne**



**8. Exchange of Primary Health Care and Social Care Personnel**

Information having been given at Kötzing, the e-mail contact in Karkkila is tuula.hakala@karkkila.fi. Sherborne has a person who is very eager to visit Karkkila. Other towns interested are Bundoran, Kötzing, Holstebro, Judenburg, Meerssen, Niederranven and Sesimbra.

**Action: Karkkila**

**9. Honeymoon Exchanges**

Bellagio, which has exchanged with Houffalize and Granville, expressed their willingness to provide accommodation. Judenburg informed the delegates that the first prize in their lottery next Spring will be a week in the best hotel.

**10. Douzelage Millennium Tree**

Karkkila, Oxelösund, Granville and Holstebro have already planted trees; all the other towns intend to do so in the next few months.

**11. Douze villes pour connaître l'Europe**

The new towns, Karkkila, Oxelösund and Judenburg, have copies of the book, meanwhile the decision on finance will be decided following the election of a new Houffalize town council in October. A second volume in English is under consideration.

**Action: Houffalize**

**12. Painting Challenge**

A new project, to be discussed in Niederranven, and involving an artist from each of the Douzelage towns will be proposed by Altea.

**Action: Altea**

**13. Judenburg International Slides Festival - 20th/21st October**

The slides will feature world travel with many prizes such as for best picture and best story. Principal guest for this event 'El Mundo 2000' will be Tony Wheeler of the Lonely Planet Guides.

**14. Virtual Electronics**

Details on this exceptional service, which includes free access to the internet for the citizens of Judenburg, were circulated.

**D. New Projects**

**1. Douzelage Banner (Sherborne)**

It was agreed that a Douzelage banner, to be displayed by each host town during their Symposium as a symbol of continuity, would be made to include the name and crest of each town, the gold stars of the EU and the word DOUZELAGE. Holstebro and Meerssen undertook to enquire about the cost of manufacture in local factories.

**Action: Sherborne**

**Holstebro**

**Meerssen**

## 2. **Proposals for organisation of meetings**

### a. **THE CHALLENGE**

Although more than ever has been achieved in the current year by the Douzelage, there is nonetheless an urgent need

- to find ways of communicating more efficiently details of new projects at General Meetings
- to follow up the implementation of proposals more effectively
- to structure the Workshops that have now become a regular part of our practice

### b. **DOCUMENTATION**

1. A summary of the existing method of putting into practice new projects
2. Proposals by Niederanven based on the bureaucratic procedures employed by the European Union

### c. **CONCLUSIONS**

1. A pro forma to be prepared for the presentation of new projects

**Action: Niederanven  
The President**

2. The completed pro forma to be sent to all towns in good time before all General Meetings so that committees have the opportunity to consider the proposal in depth and brief their delegates accordingly.

3. The subject of each Workshop should likewise be circulated as far ahead as possible before the meeting with details of its aims and agenda so that the appropriate delegates can be found.

Post Symposium thought: A second pro forma should be written for this also.

**Action: Niederanven  
The President**

4. The agenda of General Meetings should be sent out as soon as practical.

5. No clear views were expressed on the implementation of the Niederanven proposals, but this should remain on the table pending the outcome of the above.

6. The President was again insistent on the urgent need for the appointment of contact people by all towns committed to a particular project. Please note the exemplary information circulated by Meerssen.

**Action: Sherborne**

7. The President undertook to be more insistent in reminding people, as diplomatically as he knows how, what people have undertaken to do at the General Meetings.

The presentation by Judenburg to the Workshop on Racism and Xenophobia does highlight the advantages of ALL new projects being presented to General Meetings in like manner - using PowerPoint, OHPs, slides, etc.

**3. Creative conservation (Sherborne)**

Details of an environmental project were circulated and well received. It was suggested that reports should be put on the website and prizes awarded to the best efforts.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**4. European Sports Link Project (Judenburg)**

Comprehensive details on this event which includes inline hockey, skating and a free-style and half-pipe competition, 5th - 7th July 2001 in Judenburg, were circulated to the delegates. Registration deadline is 31st December and towns were requested to give Judenburg a contact name if interested.

**Action: ALL TOWNS  
31/12/00**

**5. Youth Street Theatre (Karkkila)**

Details were circulated of a group of young people, aged 18 - 23 years, who would like to tour the Douzelage towns during the Summer of 2002. They will make their own arrangements but contacts names in the towns are needed. Contact Pekka Laamanen : foggyman82@hotmail.com

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**SIGNING OF THE DOUZELAGE CHARTER**

As some towns were unable to sign during the Preveza meeting, it was agreed that this event would now take place during the Niederaanven Symposium in May 2001.