

**TWENTY-SECOND  
DOUZELAGE  
CONFERENCE**

**OXELÖSUND**

**16th - 19th May 2002**

## PRESENT

**Altea** Mr Tomás Gonzalez-Albo Serrano  
Mrs Feli Navarro  
Mrs Ma Pepa Rostoll  
Mrs Josefa Perles  
Mrs Ma Carmen Borrego  
Mr Frederico Candela López  
Mr Frederico Candela Durá  
Mrs Inma Cortes  
M Manuel Delgado Jordan

**Bellagio** Mrs Maria Angela Gilardoni  
Mr Alessandro Nettuno  
Mr Paolo Nociforo  
Mr Simone Cattaneo  
Mrs Piera Nociforo

**Bundoran** Mr Joe McNulty  
Mr Declan Gillespie  
Mrs Elizabeth McIntyre  
Mrs Denise Connolly  
Mr John Campbell

**Granville** Mr Bernard Husson  
Mr André Gendre  
Mrs Pascale Vallee  
Mrs Edith Poullain  
Mr Pierre Audrain

**Holstebro** Mrs Mette Grith Sørensen  
Mrs Jette Hingebjerg  
Mr Mogens Beck  
Mr Peter Högsberg

**Houffalize** Mrs Manuela de Pinto  
Mr José Lutgen  
Mrs Malou Henrard  
Mr Paul Georges  
Mrs Nadia Lellemand

**Judenburg** Mrs Margit Ergert  
Mr Wilhelm Schnedl  
Mr Gerhard Cresnar  
Mr Franz Bachmann  
Mr Manfred Hoffellner  
Miss Viktoria Ergert

<b>Karkkila</b>	Mrs Riitta Huovinen Mrs Minna Saukko Mrs Eeva-Kaisa Nikkilä Mr Kari Korkiakoski Mrs Helena Palm Mr Håkan Palm Mr Pekka Lintonen Mrs Nina Saikanmäki Mrs Seija Laine
<b>Kötzting</b>	Mr Hermann Kumpfmüller Mr Wolfgang Kerscher Mr Günther Pecher Mrs Evi Maurer Mrs Elke Pecher Mrs Agathe Kerscher
<b>Meerssen</b>	Mr Jan Swanenvleugel Mrs Irene Raedts Mr Ger Kockelkorn Mrs Wiepke van de Vliet Mr Nico van de Vliet Mr Rob Waltmans Mrs Marjo Waltmans Mrs Anneka Swanenvleugel Mr Cees Rullens Mrs Marienne Rullens
<b>Niederanven</b>	Mr Stuart Atkinson Mr John Bauler Mrs Reine Kohnen-Reichling Mrs Patricia Moes Mrs Jos Mouton Mr Albert Paquet Mrs Marie-Antoinette Paquet-Tondt Mr Jeannot Poiré Mr Ed Weber Mr Oege Weis Mrs Lydia Weis-Camila
<b>Oxelösund</b>	Mrs Benita Vikström Mr Göte Eriksson Mrs Torbritt Bökman Mr Sören Carlsson Mr Rolf Adolfsson Mr Christer Wargert Mr John Pettersson

<b>Preveza</b>	Mr Konstantinos Papageorgiou Mr Georgios Alisandratos Mrs Barbara Zandraveli Mr Konstantinos Sofianos Mr Evangelos Ingidis
<b>Sesimbra</b>	Mr Amadeu Penim Mrs Felicia da Costa Mrs Cristina Gaboleiro Mrs Ana Teresa Martins Mrs Deolinda Penim
<b>Sherborne</b>	Mrs Lin Ashby Mr Chris Macadie Mrs Karin Robson Mr Michael Balfour Mrs Margaret Balfour Mr Jeremy Barker Mr Ian Wright
<b>Chojna</b>	Mr Janusz Salamonezyk Mr Jan Dradrach Mr Wojciech Konarski Mr Leszek Siatka Mr Andrzej Bedzak
<b>Türi</b>	
<b>Sigulda</b>	Mrs Inta Mikanovska-Mikalovska Mrs Dagnija Mezavilka Mr Jaris Civics Mr Valters Macs

The President welcomed everyone to the Symposium, extending a particular welcome both to those from the candidate towns, Chojna and Sigulda, and to those attending for the first time. He also thanked the people of Oxelösund (in Swedish) for their welcome and for all the hard work that had gone into organising the meeting. He further expressed appreciation for their providing the opportunity for delegates to stay in families which gave them occasion to make much closer contact with people in Oxelösund.

Benita Vikström, Mayor of Oxelösund, also welcomed all the delegates to Oxelösund and told them something about the town.

## **A. Business Matters**

**1. The Minutes** of the meeting held in Karkkila, 4th - 7th October 2001, were approved.

**2.a. The Accounts** for the period 1st April 2001 - 31st March 2002 were proposed from the Chair, seconded by Bernard Husson and approved. **Towns were requested to ensure that their banks indicated where the subventions had come** so that the Treasurer would know whence the money had come from for receipts to be issued. It was also agreed to ask the Treasurer whether in future it would be possible to keep the Account in Euros and also that more detail be given in the presentation of the Accounts.  
**Action: The President**

**2.b.** With the Presidency being run with minimal expenses it was agreed that the annual subvention could remain at €300.

## **3. Simultaneous Translation Equipment**

Following the purchase of additional equipment the balance sheet showed a deficit of €300 and it was therefore agreed that each town should pay annually €50 for maintenance of the equipment. Nico van de Vliet undertook to issue invoices for the sums to be paid directly to Meerssen.  
**Action: Nico van de Vliet**

As one of the translation units had been seriously damaged in Karkkila Nico van de Vliet would approach Phillips for a replacement.

**Action: Nico van de Vliet**

## **4/5. Organisation of Meetings & Communication in the Douzelage**

It was noted that the email contact between the towns was very successful but the intention was to make the website the primary communication link. The parallel IT workshop would continue to instigate improvements and to develop the education website. The President expressed his appreciation that Oxelösund had taken on the website challenge so effectively.  
**Action: Oxelösund**

## **6. Refunding of Delegates' Travel Costs**

Monies would be forward by Preveza, following the Symposium in October 2000, whilst Niederanven indicated that the following sums would be paid to the towns :-

Altea €520	Bellagio €280
Bundoran €680	Granville €721.92
Holstebro €962	Judenburg €400
Karkkila €836	Kötzting €248
Oxelösund €680	Preveza €1048
Sesimbra €840	Sherborne €502

Neither Houffalize nor Meerssen had submitted funding requests due to their proximity to Niederaanven.

A copy of the letter received from the European Commission on travel subsidies for the Karkkila Symposium in October 2002 was circulated to the towns. It was noted that towns received different percentages for the totals claimed but the reasons for this had not been explained and that Meerssen would receive nothing. The President undertook to contact Brussels to clarify the position for Meerssen.

**Action: The President.**

The President noted the progress made in travel funding and informed the delegates of recent changes. The 250km rule had been abolished, so that all would be entitled to some assistance, the distances were calculated as a straight distance and on a return basis with the new rate at €0.025 per km. Although receipts were not needed for the current year the President advised their retention.

#### **6. Triennial Election of the President: Houffalize October 2002**

The duties of the President had evolved over time and guidelines were circulated to the towns (Appendix F). It had been agreed in Kötzting that the triennial elections would be held by the host town and Houffalize would therefore inform towns of the deadlines for the nominations in due course.

**Action: Houffalize**

Jeremy Barker informed the delegates that he had found the two Vice-Presidents to be very helpful and supportive but that specific delegation of duties had been difficult. It was proposed that definition of the roles of the Vice-Presidents should be discussed at a workshop in Houffalize (see **C.1.**) in the context of discussion on enlargement. The suggested duties that could be delegated to the Vice-Presidents were special liaison with Brussels and with the candidate towns, responsibility for new projects, education and culture. Towns were invited to send any suggestions to either Jeremy Barker or to José Lutgen.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

#### **7. Application to the EU for Funding**

New Guidelines were presented to the towns by the President (Appendix G) with special attention drawn to the hotline telephone and fax numbers. Two websites also contain much helpful information :-

jumelage@cec.eu.int  
towntwinning@cec.eu.int

The President urged the towns to telephone Brussels to check if the theme would be acceptable but noted that the Douzelage was in a strong position for grants with priority given to multi-polar organisations and the inclusion of candidate countries. He further noted that the grant would never be more than 50% but that smaller budgets attracted greater percentages.

The Guidelines remain in draft form. Suggestions for their finalisation are welcomed, as are all subsequent improvements that come to light after other applications have been made for funding.

### **Address by MEP Göram Färm**

MEP Göram Färm introduced himself as the MEP, local politician as well as Commissioner from Nyköping and stressed the importance of the links from local to EU level in which the Douzelage has a role.

When 2,400 jobs were lost in the 1990s with the closure of Ericsson a crisis had loomed and it had been vital to develop a strategy to provide a viable future for the young. Four areas were targetted, these being IT, services and lifelong learning, ecology and the environment and finally internationalisation and globalisation. Mr. Färm emphasised that these solutions were not just applicable to Nyköping but also to the enlargement of the EU: however much the institutions of the EU are improved they will only be acceptable if seen to work at a local level.

In the summer a summit would be held in Johannesburg to discuss the sustainable development of the world. Despite the summit in Rio the exploitation of resources had worsened with the warning that 25% of all mammals may soon become extinct and that 70% of fish stocks are no longer viable for commercial fishing. Local development and strategy plays a vital part and Oxelösund may have a role to play as a centre for transport between East and West Europe thus forming an essential part of the trans Europe network. Mr. Färm concluded by stressing the need to recognise the significance of the links between global, regional and local policies.

The partner and candidate towns agreed on the necessity not only of international co-operation and communication but also of local involvement and to this end the proposal by Meerssen and the other Benelux countries to include at least one or two young people with the delegations was welcomed. It was suggested that a youth workshop should be considered to concentrate on Douzelage youth activities and that in this respect the Altea Douzelage Orchestra was an important initiative.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

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

#### **- Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux: Houffalize**

This year's event will take place between 10th - 14th June with young people from Austria, France, Italy and Luxembourg expected: the importance of promoting

opportunities for young people to meet was stressed and this successful undertaking affords an ideal opportunity for different nationalities to come together.

**- Mini-Parliament: Bellagio**

The 7th Mini-Parliament took place in May with young people attending from Chojna and ten of the partner towns, the Douzelage President also attended. With a theme of 'Young people and Education' many interesting views were put forward and it was also a good opportunity for teachers to come together.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**- San Felipé computers**

The towns were informed by Sesimbra that computers and software had been purchased and that arrangements were in hand to arrange transport. A final account would be given at Houffalize.

**Action: Sesimbra**

**- Sherborne/Preveza youth**

Twenty-two students, aged 9 - 12 years, from Sherborne Preparatory School would participate in the Choir Festival in Preveza with the Preveza choir invited back to Sherborne at a later date. Before departure some Greek lessons would be held at the Sherborne school.

**- Preveza/Karkkila student exchange**

The visit by Karkkila students to Preveza in May had provided a tremendous experience. Many cultural differences had been observed and it was hoped that another exchange could be arranged.

**- Kötzing European Youth Week**

Application forms are on the website and more details will shortly be available.

**Action: Kötzing**

**- National Press Conference: Houffalize**

This successful event was attended by many, including the Douzelage President, and acted as a launch pad for the forthcoming Symposium in October.

**- Art Exhibition: Judenburg**

Exhibitions from Niederranven were put on in different parts of the town with visitors from the partner towns as well as the Douzelage President.

Twenty people from Kötzing, including the Mayor, visited Judenburg from 30th April/ 1st May. Amongst the activities were a medieval banquet and visits to Volkswagen and the Formula 1 racing circuit: the importance of guides to help the visitors was noted.



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

#### **1. Houffalize Symposium: 10th - 13th October 2002**

Detailed information on preparations were circulated. The theme will be on the integration of young people into the business environment through work placements for which a specific youth committee has already been set up in Houffalize to develop ideas and draw up future plans. Meetings have been held with personnel managers, some of whom will address the Symposium. The partner towns are requested to contact their local businesses for work placements and to ascertain the amount of interest amongst their young people over European travel and work. The partner towns should then include a delegate to the Symposium for the parallel workshop discussions, and it was suggested that the youth representatives could be present at these discussions. The intention would then be to compile a list of all available placements to include any available information on possible host families and lodgings.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

A request was made by the President for a workshop on the enlargement of the Douzelage which should take the following form :-

- The workshop will be entitled Reorganisation of the Douzelage and the Challenge of Enlargement
- There will be one delegate from each town
- Each delegate to submit beforehand to the President one side of A4 paper containing the towns suggestions on how better to organise the Douzelage in meeting the challenge of enlargement

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

A European Market is proposed and towns were requested to signal their involvement to Manuela di Pinto on the appropriate form.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

Having created the largest park in Belgium, Houffalize made a request for co-operation by other towns with a suitable contact name for the project. Further details were requested.

**Action: Houffalize**

**ALL TOWNS**

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

Spring 2003	Sesimbra
Autumn 2003	Holstebro
Spring 2004	Judenburg
Autumn 2004	Granville
Spring 2005	Bundoran
Autumn 2005	Meerssen
Spring 2006	Bellagio
Autumn 2006	Sherborne

Meerssen may exchange with Granville. Teachers would be asked if they would prefer the Education Meeting to be held in the Autumn.

**2.b. Kötzing Anniversary Event**

Celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Kötzing becoming a town in 1953 will be held over a weekend in late June or early July 2003. Events will include a market for regional and organic foods, musicians and the Judenburg medieval knights. A substantial part of the costs will be subsidised by the city council.

**3. Tennis during Symposia**

With no indoor facilities available Houffalize will be unable to promote a Douzelage tournament.

**4. Primary Health Care and Social Care**

Following the successful workshop in Karkkila a visit from Finland to Bellagio is planned in the summer. A follow-up paper from Lillemor Öhman was circulated with the suggestion of another workshop proposed by Holstebro in Autumn 2003. Most towns expressed enthusiasm and were reminded to maintain personal contact through email, etc.

**Action: Bellagio**

**Bundoran  
Granville  
Holstebro  
Houffalize  
Judenburg  
Karkkila  
Kötzing  
Meerssen  
Niederanven  
Sesimbra  
Sherborne**

**All those towns who have not done so must inform Lillemor Öhman immediately who their contact person is for this project .**

**5. Douzelage Band/Choir: Altea**

A comprehensive booklet containing all information and relevant questionnaires was circulated to the towns, including details of the meeting to take place in September in Altea for directors to discuss plans and feasibility. Musicians would be invited to join the local orchestra for a concert.

All towns expressed support, other than Holstebro, and would be in contact with their choirs and/or musicians. The President noted the support that was likely to come from Brussels and reminded Altea to contact the hotline to seek funding for the initial meeting in September.

**Action: Altea**

**ALL TOWNS - please  
inform Altea who their  
contact person is**

**7. Douzelage Flag**

The completed flag had been brought to Oxelösund for display during the conference with all towns agreeing that it was an outstanding achievement. The flag would be presented to Houffalize at the conclusion of events. Towns were reminded to pay promptly any outstanding monies to Bellagio.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**8. 'Douze Villes pour connaître l'Europe'**

Much work and research was still required for the updating of this significant document by Jean Pochet. Towns were requested to provide all new information.

**Action: Houffalize**

**9. Douzelage Towns CD-Rom**

As not all the towns had sent the required information, and the person who had offered to produce the CD-Rom was no longer in Sesimbra, there could be no further action. It was agreed however that this worthwhile project should be taken up by another town if possible.

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**10. Culture 2003: Preveza**

Towns were requested to invite young people aged between 15 - 20 years to submit items in their own language and English, with photographs of their towns, to be incorporated into a Douzelage book which would be exhibited in the partner towns starting in Preveza in May 2003. Further details would be circulated in about one month with the funding deadline 1st July.

**Action: Preveza**

**11. National Press Conference: Houffalize**

Details of the next planned Press Conference would be made available.

**Action: Houffalize**

**12. Student Exchange: Altea**

Details of this proposal had already been circulated and it was agreed that the proposal should be put to education committees. The August date had been chosen as students would be on holiday but could be changed. **Altea need to be informed of contact names as soon as possible.**

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**13. Preparation for the enlargement of the Douzelage**

A request had been made by the President for this to be discussed at Houffalize in a parallel workshop. Karkkila already has contact with the Hungarian town Tab, 160 kms from Budapest, which has 5,000 inhabitants and produces wine.

The criteria for a suitable town remain the size - 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, schools (especially secondary) and ease of access. If there is an existing connection with one of the partner towns so much the better. Any suggestions would be further investigated by the President.

**14. Visit by President to Mme Anne-Marie Bruggink**

The President informed the delegates that Mme Bruggink had been very supportive and helpful during his discussions with her in Brussels. Topics included enlargement (although no funding would be available for finding the new towns) and the Orchestra/Choir and Play for which funding would be provided.

**D. New Projects**

**1. Promotion of Youth Activities: Sherborne/La Manche Twinning Seminar**

Towns were reminded that all were invited to the Dorset/La Manche seminars with the invitations particularly extended to young people. Judenburg have held competitions for two winners to attend, firstly in Granville in 2001 and recently in Brussels. Houffalize undertook to sponsor one young visitor if the visiting town were to undertake similar for another. It was emphasised that young people are happier to travel as a pair rather than singularly and could stay with families.

**2. Environmental Protection**

Patrik Holmer, Senior Environmental Health Inspector in the municipality of Oxelösund, began by describing the Baltic Sea and the influence of man on its present state. With the low rate of turnover for water, human activities can have a catastrophic affect on the balance of the ecosystem.

Since 1960 all Swedish cities and villages, and even private houses, have built sewage treatment plants as no unpurified water is allowed into the water systems. The wetland area of Oxelösund represents an innovative and original response to the vital need to reduce the emissions of nitrogen to prevent further eutrophication of the Baltic.

Following a comprehensive description by Patrik Holmer of the wetlands system and their structure, the delegates were then transported to the area for an interesting and fascinating firsthand look at the undertaking. This was much enjoyed and promoted a greater appreciation of the work involved and its success.

**3. Music Exchanges: Oxelösund**

Following Altea's ambitious and exciting project to create a Douzelage Orchestra/Choir it was minuted at the Karkkila meeting that Kenneth Roddrick would undertake to organise a music group of young people for the Oxelösund conference to see if such an undertaking were viable.

In the event fourteen young musicians came from five Douzelage towns to join in with students from Oxelösund. They gave rousing performances both at the tree planting in the main square and more especially at the final banquet where their performance took the conference by storm.

**4. Friends of the Douzelage/6. Promotion of the Douzelage**

Sherborne informed the delegates of their new initiative in which citizens are able to support the Douzelage in a small way by joining the 'Friends of the Douzelage'. Members receive a newsletter and receive invitations to attend events and activities. The cost of becoming a 'Friend' is €8 per annum.

**5. Anvers Twinning Conference: Altea**

Altea reported that they had been invited to represent Spain at the conference to give details of twinning and especially of the Douzelage. Details are to be put on the website by Chris MacAdie and John Pettersson.

**7. Douzelage Play (Appendix E)**

Cees Rullens informed the delegates that the Karkkila experience was the springboard for the new play in Holstebro. In Karkkila seven individual groups produced 20 minute items, which came together as a whole, but it was now proposed that all should work together as a single company under a professional production team. The directors meetings for the Karkkila team had proved rather costly so all preparation will now be based in Holstebro starting ten weeks before production. Six weeks before the production the professional theatre people will arrive and the remainder two weeks before the opening night on the Saturday of the Holstebro Symposium. The European cast will have the opportunity to learn many new skills, for example in workshops to be held by professional dancers, etc.

A timetable for the project was circulated to the towns with Annie Taylor, producer of the Edinburgh Festival, assisting - initially with the funding application. It is hoped that half the funding will come from Europe, one quarter from the participants and one quarter from Holstebro: the participants will pay for their travel plus £180 (€270). The funding deadline is 1st November 2002 and towns must signal their **interest** in participating as soon as possible. Sherborne, Preveza, Oxelösund, Niederaanven, Meerssen, Kötzting, Karkkila, Judenburg, Granville and Altea all hoped to support the project. Sesimbra considered the costs likely to prohibit their participation although Cees Rullens maintained that those who had to travel the furthest should be supported the most. Bundoran also thought that they were unlikely to participate whilst Houffalize and Bellagio would make further local enquiries.

**8. Dorset Opera (Appendix C)**

Two people from the Douzelage came in 2001 to assist as stage crew. This year's performance will be Norma by Belini and would afford a great opportunity for those interested in working with professionals. The cost would be €400 inclusive and, if enough towns participate, it is hoped that funding would eventually be available. Interested towns were requested to send **contact names to the President immediately.**

**Action: ALL TOWNS**

**9. Historical Societies exchange**

Meerssen and Sherborne Historical Societies are now planning exchanges. Thereafter there is much interest in including Preveza and other towns in their programme.

**Action: Meerssen  
Sherborne**

**E. Reports**

- 1. Education Meeting**
- 2. Website Workshop**