

**TWENTY-FOURTH
DOUZELAGE
CONFERENCE**

SESIMBRA

15th - 18th May 2003

PRESENT

* Education Meeting ^{IT} IT Workshop ^N Non-official

Altea	Tomas Gonzalez Inma Cortes Josefa Perles* Barbara Alvado* M ^a Carmen Borrego*
Bellagio	Maria Angela Gilardoni Donatella Gandola Alessandro Nettuno Daniela Fioroni * Paolo Nociforo* Daniela Fioroni
Bundoran	Joe McNulty Elizabeth McIntyre Denise Connolly Tiernan Brady Maria McSharry * Grainne Jones *
Granville	Bernard Husson Pierre Audrain * André Gendre ^{IT} Frédérique Heurguier * Anne-Maria Lecorfec
Holstebro	Morgens Beck * Peter Hoegsberg ^{IT} Mette Grith Sorensen Mette Moerk Andersen Jette Hingebjerg
Houffalize	Alphonse Henrard Manuela Di Pinto Luc Nollomont *
Judenburg	Wilhelm Schnedl Manfred Hoffelner ^{IT} Margarete Gruber Andrea Kober Peter Rafalt *

Karkkila	Kari Korkiakoski Riitta Huovinen Erkki Saarinen ^{IT} Saukkola Minna *
Kötzting	Günther Pecher Petra Hohaus * Evi Maurer ^{IT}
Meerssen	Nico van de Vliet Joep Mertens * Irene Raedts * Joop Hosman Martijn Hosman ^{IT}
Niederanven	Stuart Atkinson * John Bauler Claude Braun Kirsten Elmquist ^N Reine Kohnen * Patricia Moes ^{IT} Jos Mouton Liliane Mouton Modesto Salvatore ^N Josée Santilly ^N Ed Weber Oege Weys ^N Lydia Weys-Camila ^N Jeannot Poiré * Christiane Poiré ^N
Oxelösund	Benita Vikström Christer Wargert Torbritt Bokman Brita Bergstrom * Matts Anmarken * John Pettersson ^{IT} Gudrun Lundquist * Margareta Friberg * Gunilla Wargert ^N Karlinge Lindberg ^N Peter Bokman ^N Arne Bergstrom ^N Eva Andmarken ^N

Preveza Georgios Alisandratos
Apostolos Hatzopoulos
Anastasia Hatzopoulos
Barbara Zandraveli *
Konstantinos Sofianos ^{tr}

Sherborne Lin Ashby
Chris MacAdie ^{tr}
Lin Bygrave *
Paul Carling *
Jeremy Barker
Karin Robson

Sesimbra Amadeu Penim
Felicia da Costa *
Luisa Cagica
Anabela Santos
Susana Sousa *
Cristina Gaboleiro *
Francisco Jesus *
Ana Baeta *
Carmo Serrote *
Rui do Bem *
Hugo Lavaredas *
João Farinha *
Ursula Caser *
Eduardo Santos *
Graciele Silva *
Ana Teresa Martins ^{tr}
Judite Coelho ^{tr}

OBSERVER TOWNS

Chojna Janusz Cezary Salamoczyk
Barbara Oleksy *
Mariusz Hadrznski ^{tr}

Sigulda Dagniza Mezavilka
Valters Macs *

Susice Pavel Kahle *
Vera Svobodova *

Türi Kaia Iva
Aet Sarv

Welcoming Address

Jeremy Barker, President of the Douzelage, thanked the Mayor of Sesimbra for his hospitality. He requested Bernard Husson to take the best wishes of the delegates to Jean-Marc Julienne, who was unable to attend the Conference due to ill-health, and also to Alphonse Henrard to take back condolences to M & Mme José Lutgen for their recent sad loss.

He added that the Douzelage enjoys an increasing reputation and much discussion had taken place on reorganisation since the meeting in Houffalize. Firm decisions would be needed for the meeting in Holstebro in September 2003 and the President especially thanked Ed Weber for all that he and others had done to put matters down on paper.

A. Business Matters

1. The Minutes of the meeting held in Houffalize, 10th - 13th October 2002, were approved.

2. The Accounts for the period 1st April 2002 - 31st March 2003 were approved subject to audit. Although the Accounts showed a slight drop, that should over the year go into surplus upon receipt of the four outstanding subventions for 2002-2003. The Treasurer had therefore recommended that the annual subvention should remain as at present. It was also noted that Holstebro and Meerssen had in fact paid the full amount due in 1999 and 2002 respectively.

It was proposed from the Chair and seconded by Bundoran that the annual subvention should remain at €300.

Subventions are now due.

Action: ALL TOWNS

3. Simultaneous Translation Equipment

Problems over money transfers, which had resulted in the annual subvention not being received from two towns, and repair costs of €820 had produced a deficit of €470 for the current year. This had been met by Meerssen who recommended that insurance cover should continue to be taken out for the period of the Symposia by the host towns. Annual insurance would be very expensive, the damage incurred at Karkkila was unusual and had been inadvertently caused by an interpreter. This was agreed.

**Action: Holstebro to liaise with
Meerssen for 09/2003**

It was Proposed by Meerssen and Seconded by Oxelösund that an extra €50 would be paid by the towns, other than Niederranven, to cover the extra repair costs.

**Action: Meerssen
ALL TOWNS**

The President reminded the delegates that Niederanven had generously contributed to the initial cost of the equipment despite already having their own.

4. Website

The homepage has been slightly modified and now includes access in more languages. A breakthrough on the education website was still needed and it was imperative that teachers should be made aware of its potential. To this end Sherborne would be holding a seminar for local teachers in the town to promote the facility and it is hoped that other towns might do the same.

Action: Sherborne

5. Refunding of travel costs

Refunds from Karkkila and Niederanven had been made and those from Houffalize would be sent out on the 12th June. **All delegates wishing to be reimbursed for their travel to Sesimbra should send their receipts to Anabela Santos without delay.**

Action: ALL TOWNS

B. Survey of recent events

Comenius

Following the final teachers meeting in Preveza 'six.towns@one.europa' would shortly conclude and has proved to be one of the most beneficial and successful programmes. Friendships and contacts will continue and the teachers have learned much from the different systems used in the schools. Comenius is easy to fit into the school curriculum with generous funding available from the EU.

Chojna has embarked on a programme with The Gryphon School in Sherborne and Stella Maris in Meerssen on the theme 'be tolerant - be different' and hopes other partners will join for a start date in September 2003. Judenburg also confirmed that a new programme would be announced in Holstebro.

Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux

The fourth meeting is to be held 2nd - 6th June when over 200 young people are expected and will hopefully include some from Susice. Part of the travel expenses will be refunded by the EU and this year's theme will be education.

Mini-Parliament

In its eighth year this well established and popular event has proved to be a benefit to the local community as well as to the reputation of the Douzelage. The Bellagio host families are always most hospitable and special plans are to be made for the tenth anniversary festivities.

During this year's meeting Helen Roche from Sherborne was asked to play the organ in Bellagio and has been invited to return and play again. She may also be invited to play in Meerssen.

European Youth Week

This event cannot take place in Waldmünchen in 2003 but details of a similar programme in Bremen and Goslar, to be held from 21st July - 1st August, have been posted on the website.

Your way to the Douzelage

The proposal to put up a traffic sign with the names of the partner towns was presented by Niederanven in Oxelösund, following the longstanding precedent set by Kötzing. It is now hoped to add the names of the candidate towns during the Summer.

Granville was also publishing a sign with the flags of the present 15 member towns.

Dorset/La Manche

During the recent meeting in Dorset plans were set in place for a report on how to promote twinned towns working together.

The President noted that projects such as the ADEPS and Mini-Parliament, for example, were now flagship events for the Douzelage. He and Ed Weber were of the opinion that a detailed Annual Report should be compiled to bring the success of the Douzelage enterprise to the notice of the general public. It was suggested that each town in charge of a project should submit a short description, to include one or two pictures if possible, to the Secretary. The collation of these reports, published as a document to be named 'Douzelage – What We Do', should go together with the document 'Douzelage – Who We Are' to Town Councils, Candidate Towns, Brussels and to any organisation that provides funding, or that is interested in Douzelage matters or activities.

Action: ALL TOWNS
Karin Robson

A special page on the website should be devoted to projects and would include the long standing events such as the Mini-Parliament and ADEPS as well as the new ones.

Action: Christer Wargert

C. Projects not yet finished or in preparation

1. Holstebro Symposium - September 4th – 7th 2003

The programme will include a Social Care workshop and a Saturday Market with each town having a stand. On the Saturday afternoon there will be a tour of the town and museums with an opportunity to go shopping.

Following the workshop in Karkkila there has been much continued interest in Social Care. The first day of the workshop will show what is offered in Holstebro, this will include visits to Day and Activity Centres and Nursing Homes, and the second day will concentrate on discussion and follow-ups. Two or three specialist representatives will be invited from each town.

The President suggested that there would be an advantage in the host town organising

a time for delegates from towns involved in a particular project to discuss this, eg the Lingua programme led by Weymouth College in Dorset.

2.a. Programme of future meetings

Spring 2004	Judenburg
Autumn 2004	Granville
Spring 2005	Bundoran
Autumn 2005	Meerssen
Spring 2006	Bellagio
Autumn 2006	Sherborne

The meeting in Judenburg will include workshops on renewal energy and adult education with the focus on the learning of new skills. Note that these workshops require the participation of experts in these fields and they should therefore be invited to the meeting as soon as possible.

Future dates for meetings will accommodate the new towns when they join the EU, Accession Day being May 2004.

2.b. Kötzing Festivities : 3rd - 6th July 2003

The celebrations for the 50th anniversary of Kötzing becoming a town will include visits to the brewery and an organic farm, a Saturday market and dancing and music. Visitors include mediaeval knights, horn players, Morris Men and organists. Accommodation will be in the Klinik and with host families for the younger people.

Houffalize, Judenburg, Meerssen, Niederranven, Sherborne, Susice and possibly Bundoran will attend. Those towns not represented are urgently requested to send products and posters for the Market.

Actions: ALL TOWNS

The Judenburg Festivities, 20th - 22nd June 2003, celebrate 900 years since the town became a trading post between Venice and Northern Europe and are to be marked by the award of the European Flag of Honour.

3. Tennis during Symposia

Tennis will not be possible during the Holstebro meeting in September 2003 but a competition will be arranged in Judenburg and possibly in Granville.

**Action: Judenburg
Granville**

4. Primary Care and Social Care

Following the initiative from Karkkila, which demonstrated the successful outcome of involving people with similar interests from different countries, Holstebro will be holding a workshop, as already detailed in their programme, and Judenburg intend to do similar.

**Action: Holstebro
Judenburg**

5. Oxelösund Football : APPENDIX F

Several of the towns had expressed interest in the proposal by Oxelösund for young footballers to visit other Douzelage towns. With modifications to the original format Preveza, Altea, Houffalize, Holstebro, Granville, Chojna and Sherborne would all endeavour to participate.

Action: Oxelösund

Preveza

Altea

Houffalize

Holstebro

Granville

Chojna

Sherborne

6. Historical Exchanges

A party of nineteen people from Sherborne will visit Meerssen and Maastricht in September and the return visit is scheduled for 2004. The Sherborne Historical Society would like to visit other Douzelage towns.

Action: Sherborne

Preveza

7. Language & Culture through Community Networks : APPENDIX A

Full details of this project were sent to all the towns in December 2002 and a summary made in Appendix A. The courses will provide basic language tuition - especially those less widely spoken - with some culture and history. 75% funding will be available from the EU and is aimed especially at older people who have had less opportunities and at young people, who will get bursaries, and who will be asked to give presentations on their Douzelage experiences. The start date is October 2003 with a progress report to be made in Holstebro.

8. Student & Trainee Youth Exchanges : APPENDIX G

This project from Houffalize lies at the heart of Douzelage principles and gives the opportunity to young people to travel and gain work experience in the partner towns. Kötzing, Niederaanven, Bundoran, Meerssen, Granville and Sherborne have compiled lists to add to that of Houffalize. Altea, Bellagio, Sesimbra, Judenburg and Holstebro will also try to find Summer work in hotels. All towns are requested to provide Manuela Di Pinto with a contact name for her to circulate the towns. The placements should indicate if a salary would be paid and what accommodation may be available (private, B&B, etc).

Deadline 31/05/03

Action: ALL TOWNS

9. Douzelage Projects : APPENDIX E

The list attempts to indicate which towns have participated in the many Douzelage projects over the past eight years. Delegates were requested to inform the Secretary of any amendments or omissions.

Action: ALL TOWNS

10. Centenary Scout Camp

All partner towns are invited to send representatives to the centenary celebrations in Sherborne in 2007. More information will be given when available but each town is requested to give Sherborne a contact name for their scouts.

Action: ALL TOWNS

Contact name to Sherborne

D. New Projects

1. Douzelage Play

It is now hoped to organise the next Play with one town acting as host plus additional visiting actors. It would be a complete entity rather than made up of individual sections as previously.

2. Granville Sailing : APPENDIX B

This would be organised in 2004 through the sailing centre in Granville and is aimed at 13-16 year olds plus one adult, provision will also be made for beginners. There would be daily sailing excursions plus environmental and historical visits. In order to attract EU funding at least six towns need to participate. Sherborne, Bellagio, Holstebro, Houffalize, Altea, Sigulda, Karkkila, Preveza, Bundoran, Niederranven and Oxelösund all expressed interest and would give André Gendre contact names. The likely dates are the last week of the French summer holidays in August.

**Action: Granville
ALL TOWNS to give
contact name to André Gendre**

3. Website Cookery

Each town is requested to submit three traditional recipes to go onto the website. All towns expressed their support.

Action: ALL TOWNS

4. Altea Music (Douzelage Orchestra)

Following discussion outside the meeting Altea generously offered to host an annual event to be held for a maximum of a week and to which musicians from the towns would be invited. This could promote future possibilities such as a Douzelage orchestra, which would perform at the General Meetings, and which would be particularly attractive to young people. It was further proposed to have a preliminary meeting of music directors to discuss which form the event should take.

**Action: ALL TOWNS to give
contact name to Altea
immediately**

5. Douzelage streets in Altea

Sherborne and Houffalize are now honoured with streets in Altea bearing their names and the other towns will eventually have the same. This is a very attractive move by the Altea Town Council.

6. PowerPoint presentation on the Douzelage

Martijn Hosman from Meerssen gave a short and instructive presentation which he has successfully shown to schools in Meerssen. It would be most beneficial to the Douzelage if other towns would do similar.

Action: ALL TOWNS

Address by Mr João Vale de Almeida

Mr Vale de Almeida introduced himself as the minister responsible to the European Commission for town twinning and other organisations promoting European affairs such as Trade Unions. Appointed now for the past three years his office has been

considering the impact of enlargement and ways of simplifying management. The merits of town-twinning cannot be overstressed and the Douzelage has moved a step beyond the normal scope of such activities.

The early history of the European Union saw the founding of a single market with economy as its fundamental basis. Common policies to maximise benefits in agriculture and fishing evolved followed by the establishment of a single currency. Wider problems such as asylum and immigration, formerly reserved for national strategies, have now been encompassed by the Union. This leads to the necessity of ensuring that grass root organisations are involved and consulted, to avoid the creation of a gap between the leaders and the citizens of Europe, and it is here that town-twinning has such an important role to play.

Requests for funding from Brussels for twinning projects involving candidate countries are constantly increasing and once again the Douzelage leads the way. Much effort will be required to assist the candidate countries to enjoy the same levels of prosperity as those of Western Europe.

The future of Europe is now under debate with the redrafting of treaties and the consideration of a constitution and these are likely to have a direct impact on town twinning in respect of finance and support. The rules and procedures for funding, including Comenius projects, need to be simplified with clear guides on presentation and start times.

Mr Vale de Almeida particularly recognised the results achieved by the Douzelage in its regular close contacts and networking between the partner towns and now with candidate countries. Its promotion of educational and youth projects lie at the heart of the European Union ideals.

The future now must lie with a new treaty to assist the European Union in supporting active citizenship from the grass roots of town-twinning through local, regional and up to national levels.

In thanking Mr Vale de Almeida the President noted that much of which the Douzelage had asked for had been granted from his department. An annual report would be sent to him but greater financial support would be needed for the candidate countries.

It was also noted that it would be helpful if more support could be given to young people, particularly the disadvantaged, to promote mobility other than through schools.

E. Discussion on the future organisation of the Douzelage

1. Enlargement of the Douzelage

Following the presentations by Chojna, Susice, Türi and Sigulda, the unanimous decision was taken to invite Kőszeg in Hungary to apply for membership of the Douzelage.

It was agreed that the President should write to the other candidate Hungarian town of Tab to invite them to join in educational projects and exchanges. It was further agreed that future candidate towns should be chosen by the partner towns before any approach was made to them.

2. Number of Douzelage conferences to be held per annum

It was agreed, following the meeting in Autumn 2006 in Sherborne, that General Meetings should be held only once a year in Spring - as is the case with the Education Meetings - and that there should be second smaller meetings, or Conferences, in the Autumn to include workshops. European funding would require at least five delegates from each town to attend the General Meetings, with a possible budget of up to €50,000, and which would include funding for travel and accommodation. The Conferences would attract funding for travel only and a budget of up to €20,000 but there would be no minimum number of delegates.

Altea, Bundoran and Sherborne all expressed strong reservations on only holding one meeting in a year, it is during the meetings that contact and continuity is maintained. Meerssen also expressed their concern that this reduction of meetings would result in a loss of impetus.

It was also noted that costs of General Meetings could be reduced by using host families for accommodation and less expense on entertainment and meals. However many towns had little possibility of finding host families and it was agreed that the budget for the meetings would be up to the individual towns.

Topics for discussion in workshops needed at least six months advance notice, preferably twelve, in order to ensure that delegates with the right expertise and know-how would attend. It was also vital for the host town to check beforehand with Brussels if funding would be available for the project.

3. Reorganisation of the Douzelage

The rules of procedure were accepted in principle but it was also understood that amendments might be necessary. To this end the Committees of each town are asked to consider the proposed rules and to submit any amendments they feel necessary to Niederaanven by the **1st July**. Niederaanven then undertook to collate these amendments which will then be circulated for evaluation one by one during the Symposium in Holstebro.

Action: ALL TOWNS

F. Reports

Education meeting
IT workshop