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HOLSTEBRO (DK)
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Niederanven, 19 September 2004

26th Douzelage Conference

JUDENBURG

13-16th May 2004

MINUTES

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALTEA		Juan Domingo Berenguer PEREZ Paco Ribes RIPOLL Pepa Rostoll ZARAGOZI
Isabel Selles BARBER Maria Angeles Berenguer MORALES Josefa Perles MUNOZ		
BELLAGIO		Alessandro NETTUNO Paolo NOCIFORO Piera Rossi NOCIFORO
Donatella GANDOLA Maria Angela GILARDONI Daniela FIORONI		
BUNDORAN		Joe MCNULTY Evelyn SHARPE
Tiernan BRADY John CAMPBELL Denise CONNOLLY		
CHOJNA		Barbara RAWECKA Janusz Cezary SALAMOCZYK
Andrzej BEDZAK Jadwiga GUNTHER Maciej KOTOWICZ		
GRANVILLE		Bernard HUSSON Jean-Marc JULIENNE Sylvie JULIENNE Annette MICHEL Marcel MICHEL
Jacqueline AUDRAIN Pierre AUDRAIN Christelle BARBIER Adeline BRESSOLLES André GENDRE		
HOLSTEBRO		Mette Grith SØRENSEN
Jette HINGEBJERG		
HOUFFALIZE		Ghislain KECH Luc NOLLOMONT
Paul GEORGES Alphonse HENRARD Malou HENRARD		
JUDENBURG		Johann REITER Johann SCHAFFER Peter SCHLACHER Heinz SCHÜTZENHÖFER, LR Wilhelm SCHNEDL Wolfgang TOPERCZER Gerfried WANKER
Franz BACHMANN Josef BÄRNTHALER Gerald DOBNIGG Margit ERGERT Margarete GRUBER Manfred HOFFELNER Andrea KOBER Franz VOVES, LHStv		
KARKKILA		Erkki SAARINEN
Kimmo MIKKOLA		
KÖSZEG		Katalin MERSICH Kristián SCHLÖGL
Orsolya BÁSTHY Ferenc KUNTNER, Bgm István MATRÁI		

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Petra HOHAUS
 Agathe KERSCHER
 Johannes KERSCHER

Odiel DEKKERS
 Peter GILLESSEN
 Martijn HOSMAN
 Ger KOCKELKORN

Stuart ATKINSON
 John BAULER
 Claude BRAUN
 Reine KOHNEN
 Marie-Antoinette PAQUET-TONDT

Brita BERGSTROM
 John PETTERSSON

John GIAMAS
 Sotiris GIAMAS
 Vaya PANI

Christina CONCEIÇÃO
 Felicia DA COSTA

Alan ASHBY
 Lin ASHBY
 Margaret BALFOUR
 Mike BALFOUR
 Jeremy BARKER
 Lin BYGRAVE
 Mike Petit DEMANGE

Aija PETROVSKA
 Valters MACS

Libuse REBSTÖCKOVÁ
 Jirina RIPPELOVÁ, Dr., Bgm
 Miroslava RYSAVÁ

Kaia IVA
 Karen KIIK

Patricia SALVATORE-MOES, secretary

KÖTZTING

Wolfgang KERSCHER
 Evi MAURER
 Günther PECHER

MEERSSEN

Irene RAEDTS
 Jan SWANENVLEUGEL
 Nico VAN De VLIET

NIEDERANVEN

Jeannot POIRÉ
 Liliane MOUTON
 Jos MOUTON
 Modesto SALVATORE

OXELÖSUND

Niklas THELIN
 Christer WARGERT

PREVEZA

Sarri VASILIKI
 Barbara ZANDRAVELI

SESIMBRA

Maria DO CARMO SERROTE
 Francisco FIRMINO

SHERBORNE

Chris MACADIE
 Michael MORRELL
 Pat MORRELL
 Karin ROBSON
 Bob WALDEN
 Teresa WALDEN

SIGULDA

Astrida PUKITE
 Talis PUKITIS, Bgm

SUSICE

Vera SVOBODA
 Miroslav VRZAL

TÛRI

Elbe METSATALU

PRESIDENCY

Ed WEBER, chairman

I) General Meeting

1) Speech of Welcome by the President

Ed Weber, acting as new Douzelage President, welcomed all Delegates, making special reference to the representatives of the new towns who officially accessed the Douzelage the day before.

He thanked Judenburg and the Douzelage Committee for the warm welcome and the excellent work they have fulfilled while preparing the organisation of this first conference in their nice town.

A) Business Matters

1) Approval of the Minutes of the HOLSTEBRO GM, 4th - 7th SEP 2003

The president proposed that the sentence in the HOLSTEBRO Minutes E2. "...two meetings will be held ..." should be changed in "...two meetings could be held..." according to the regulations laid down in the EC document DG EAC No 64/03. It was again repeated that before submitting any call for proposal it is essential to read this document attentively. The choice of the formula used depends on the kind of actions planned and the number of participants that can be invited. All delegates were invited to study once more the EC document DG EAC No 64/03 and in case of question to address to the Douzelage Secretary's office.

BUNDORAN, SHERBORNE and CHOJNA thought that this matter needs more discussion. Meerssen thought that this proposed option could save money and have logistic facilities.

[a] Workshop on Social Care and Disabled

On behalf of all the delegates the president thanked Mette and Jette for the extraordinary professional "Social Care and Disabled Workshop" held in HOLSTEBRO. He highlighted the particularly good report and the professional way the workshop was organized and led. The document produced about this workshop shows in a unique way the skills and the depth of the Douzelage workshops.

[b] Establishing a Social Care Committee

The conclusions of the Workshop on Social Care and Disabled held in HOLSTEBRO during the last meeting stated that there should be more time to discuss Social Care and Disabled matters inside the Douzelage organization, in order to go deeper into the different subjects. The group proposed that a Social Care committee should be established within the organization of the Douzelage and that this committee should have the same status as the education committee.

The president asked the opinion of the delegates about setting up a special committee for social care matters.

Most delegation agreed that this could be a good idea. BUNDORAN and KÖSZEG thought that they may have a problem on their local level.

NIEDERANVEN, SUSICE and OXELÖSUND noted that this fact would implement an increase of the delegations, which raises once more the question financing the meetings. The existing education committee confirms this fact.

The president asked the HOLSTEBRO delegates to prepare a document with all details how this Social Care Committee could work. The arguments to create such a committee could be discussed then at a further meeting. HOLSTEBRO agreed to do their best but this could be a little difficult as they had to withdraw from the Douzelage as an official member town.

ACTION: Pres, Webadmin, HOLSTEBRO

2) HOLSTEBRO – Withdrawal

As the Mayor of HOLSTEBRO Mr Arne Laegaard and the Chief Executive Mrs Estrid Oxlund did address a letter of withdrawal to the Douzelage association, the president expressed his sorrow for that decision of the town council of HOLSTEBRO. However the delegates declared that they would like to stay as a "private" committee with actually six persons in the association, because they believe in the idea of the Douzelage and they do not want to miss this enriching experience.

SHERBORNE answered that they are nearly in the same position and that SHERBORNE shows that it can work perfectly well.

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MEERSSEN wanted to know where the financial means of this private committee will come from. They suggested to add the status of all participants to the "Douzelage - Who we are" document in process so that it can be clear for everyone to see where the different financial means are coming from. It was agreed that a questionnaire on this could be proposed next.

ACTION: Secr. office

HOUFFALIZE confirmed the importance of the municipality authorities being involved in the Douzelage. Only in that ideal case the financing of the Douzelage activities can be resolved without major problems. In order to maintain this status, promotion on the local level is a very important matter.

GRANVILLE underlined that only if a good publicity on the Douzelage and its activities is made in order to include a maximum of local authorities, the Douzelage participation can survive every local election.

All other towns agreed to this important matter and promised to do their best on their local level.

The president said that these proposals are all very constructive and that every town should work out a strategy to promote the Douzelage in their municipalities. Every suggestions and comments in this matter are welcome and the presidency office is available for every question or help.

Once again it has become clear that a good publicity is absolutely necessary to strengthen the importance of the Douzelage position on the EU-level.

3) Welcome to the new Douzelage Secretary and Treasurer

The new Douzelage presidency crew has been presented:

Mrs. Patricia SALVATORE-MOES is now the new Douzelage Secretary. She may be contacted from Monday to Friday between 08.00 and 12.00 am at our Douzelage Office (NIEDERANVEN Tourist office). All the delegations were encouraged to contact her if help is needed. She is fluent in Luxemburgish, French, German, English and Spanish.

Post address:

Douzelage - European Town

Twinning Association

6, rue Principale

L-6990 HOSTERT

Phone/fax: +352 / 26.34.07.42

e-Mail: douzelag@pt.lu

URL: <http://www.douzelage.org>

Mr. Claude Braun, was accepted as the new Treasurer of the Douzelage. In order to make the accounting transparent and easy, a new bank account has been opened for the Douzelage.

Account holder:

THE DOUZELAGE

c/o M. Claude Braun

54, rue Wiltheim

L-6962 SENNINGEN

e-Mail: clbraun@pt.lu

Account N°: LU48 0090 0000 1457 2515

Bic (Bank Identification Code): CCRALULL

Caisse Rurale Raiffeisen NIEDERANVEN

4) Actions to approve

[a] Creation of an e-Mail address for the Douzelage

The new Douzelage e-mail address douzelag@pt.lu has been established. Later on, as soon as the Douzelage Website will be modified, it will be changed into the complete and correct name.

[b] Elaboration of a letter-head

The letterhead changed into "European Town Twinning Association" was agreed. GRANVILLE suggested that the separating line between the "new" and the old member towns should now be removed. It was agreed that the member towns should be listed in alphabetical order. This is also applicable to the Member Town menu on the Douzelage Website.

ACTION: Secr. office; Webadmin

5) Nomination of two Honorary Auditors

In order to give to the Douzelage accounts a maximum of transparency it had been proposed to nominate two Honorary Auditors among the delegations. Mr. Christer Wargert from OXELÖSUND and Mr. Bernard Husson from GRANVILLE were unanimously nominated. Both accepted their new duty with pleasure.

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6) Approval of the Interim Balance Sheet

An Interim Balance Sheet covering the period 1st April 2003 to 3rd February 2004 presented by the former treasurer Mr John Thompson was approved.

The new balance from 3rd February 2004 to 30 April 2004 established by the new treasurer and controlled and confirmed by the two Honorary Auditors Christer Wargert and Bernard Husson was unanimously agreed.

GRANVILLE underlined that for years already they had asked to the former president a more detailed balance. They would like to know where the 2308.36 €, that had been transferred to the new Douzelage account have come from. As vice-mayor of GRANVILLE Jean Marc Julienne stressed out that it would be more as normal that if towns are asked to transfer money to the Douzelage account they have the right to know in detail what this money is used for.

The president assured to send these details as soon as possible to their attention and asked if they make the payment of their subscription dependent on this matter. GRANVILLE asserted but wanted to precise that they are very willing to help the Douzelage Association or any other town having financial problems by depositing money on an account. However the subscription fees will not be deposited definitely until they have got the missing details.

The president regretted that a solution to such a misunderstanding could not be found in the past few years and said that he wants to make a new start as a new president hoping that GRANVILLE and Mr Jeremy Barker will finally find an agreement on this matter.

7) Annual Douzelage membership

[a] Annual fee

As for the moment it is difficult to evaluate the costs of the new presidency, it has been unanimously agreed to discuss the annual membership at the next spring meeting and to maintain the annual fee for 2005 at the actual 300 € as decided in SESIMBRA (para 2, 15/05/2003).

In February 2004 an invoice for the payment of the annual fee for the current year 2004/2005 has been issued to each town. The president apologised for the delay caused to Altea by the retransmission of the bill for the 2003 fee. Transmission problems were probably the reason on non receipt of the first retransmission. All towns that haven't paid their contribution yet were asked to transfer their contribution amount as soon as possible. **ACTION: Towns not yet paid**

It was agreed that if the presidency account should show a real surplus after a first year of running, this surplus money could be used to cover other expenses, as for instance, the transportation costs of the translation equipment or any other decision could be taken at that moment.

[b] Annual fee for the accessing towns

It was unanimously agreed that the annual levies for the new towns will only be invoiced next year, just as it has been the case at the former Douzelage enlargements. (Except the OXELÖSUND accession).

HOLSTEBRO asked for an additional copy of their annual fee invoice to be sent to Mette personally in order to forward it to their local authorities. **ACTION: Secr. office**

The proposal of Vice-president Günther Pecher that OXELÖSUND should be exempted to pay its annual fee for one year because all members should be treated equally was accepted unanimously.

8) Simultaneous Translation equipment

[a] Presentation of Balance Sheet.

MEERSSEN distributed a balance sheet concerning the translation equipment account established since 1999. It shows that there are actually in all 21 units in the whole translation equipment. Three new delegate units have been purchased. The account balance, presented by MEERSSEN, shows a debit of 737.06 € (price of the new units).

MEERSSEN did advance the money to purchase the new equipments and has actually a minus account of 737.06 €. It is evidently unanimously agreed to pay from the presidency account this amount to MEERSSEN in order to bring their account to zero again.

KARKKILA underlined that the equipment damaged during their last meeting has been reimbursed by their insurance. The 823 € have been transferred to MEERSSEN in October last year. The president thanked KARKKILA for their effort in this matter.

[b] Annual contribution to the service and transportation costs

The contribution to the service and transportation costs for 2005 will be maintained at 50 € per annum.

[c] Purchase of additional units

New equipments have been purchased in view of to the accession of the new towns. According to the agreement taken when purchasing the Douzelage Translation equipment some years ago, each town has to cover this expense.

It is proposed to find the best way of payment with the new towns in discussing the payment details.

ACTION: President; new towns

MEERSSEN proposed to buy a new mobile microphone, allowing walking around during a presentation. This will cost about 400 to 500 €.

9) Publication of the Minutes of the Meetings and Workshops

It has been agreed that the publication of the Minutes of our General Meetings and Workshops on a regular basis is a very important necessity, also on publicity purposes. In fact the EU-Commission will accept more easily the importance of the Douzelage as a town-twinning association when they see what we do and what our procedures are. It is also important to add all local Douzelage activities of our member towns to these publication in order to complete as much as possible the circulating information about our association.

Action: Secr. office

10) Description of occupation of the participants at the Workshops

A further important point why also the minutes and the list of participants attending our workshops should be published is that, as it has been the case for the last meeting in HOLSTEBRO, the Douzelage has the chance to have very high qualified people, attending their conferences and workshops. In order to document the quality and the high skills of these participants, it is proposed to include a brief description of the occupation of each participant into the presence list of our Workshops. For data protection reasons the sheet circulated should clearly indicate the purpose for the usage and to whom this list will be communicated.

Action: Secr. office

11) Programme for further meetings

The actual schedule of the General meetings has already been fixed some years ago. The schedule ends with the last meeting in SHERBORNE, planned for the year 2006.

The next meeting will be held in GRANVILLE from the 30.9. until the 10.04.2004

BUNDORAN informed that their meeting will be from 14.04. until 17.04.2005. BUNDORAN was asked to send their program and ideas for the meeting as soon as they have been fixed.

Action: BUNDORAN

MEERSSEN is already preparing his meeting in September 15 – 20 2005.

The mayor of MEERSSEN explained that the main theme of this meeting will be "The European Citizenship" and the "European Charta" and what it means for the European citizens. Like JUDENBURG who invited young students to the meeting, they also would like to add a special "Young people delegation", which will initiate specific site activities with focus on communication.

Further it is planned to organise a dance festival with the subject "Body language" where they have foreseen to invite two or three young people of every town. Further they would like to ask from every town a sort of poem in their own language and maybe drawings too. This information will be circulated as soon as available. All this can be integrated in the frame of the most important subject of European citizenship notably the "languages", indispensable to promote every form of communication. With this meeting MEERSSEN wants to lead every citizen and especially the young people to ask themselves what their position is towards the unified Europe, what place they do hold as an active member of this community, and how they can change experiences and opinions with the help of the communication tools.

The president thanked MEERSSEN for their effort to plan their meeting already so long in advance. They were asked to send all details they gather on the way of their preparation as soon as possible to the Douzelage secretary address. The president also thanked the mayor of MEERSSEN for his commitment and his personnel engagement in promoting the Douzelage Idea in MEERSSEN.

Action: MEERSSEN

In spring 2006 the meeting will take place in BELLAGIO. BELLAGIO will have the elections of the new town counsellors in a few weeks. The actual mayor, who is not candidate for a new mandate, has a very positive opinion of the Douzelage Association and hopefully after the elections, this good collaboration can be continued.

For the SHERBORNE meeting in autumn 2006 dates are not yet fixed but it will probably be in October.

Action: SHERBORNE

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After 2006 it is foreseen to continue with only one General Meeting per year, as agreed in SESIMBRA last year. The president said that the most important question is in fact how we will continue after 2006 and asked who will be a voluntary candidate for the next meeting after SHERBORNE in 2006. No town did propose itself at that moment.

In order to give to the Douzelage a better public image and a more informational PR, BUNDORAN proposed to link up from 2006 the venues of the Douzelage meetings to wherever the European presidency is. If it is agreed that publicity and money are two of the greatest challenges that face the Douzelage and its continued success, by tying the venues of the meetings to wherever the European presidency is, would perhaps give us an opportunity that local, national and even international media would suddenly be much more interested in the Douzelage as all the international media would be present in the member state at the time when Douzelage would be holding its conference. By this mean access to ministers, commissioners, MEP's and many local politicians would also be much easier. It was agreed to examine if this proposal could be realized and what influence this would have on the actual schedule.

Action: Secr. office

The president said that this could be discussed in GRANVILLE while discussing especially the character we should give in the future to the autumn meetings. The idea of holding one major meeting in spring for discussing general Douzelage matters and one autumn meeting or more regional meetings focussing on special projects is a good concept and should be realised if only possible.

The president strengthened that the continuation of the meetings will also be depending from the steps that are going to be taken in order to make the EU institutions more sensible to the exceptional situation of the Douzelage Association and to have a better recognition of the efforts and activities the different Douzelage member towns are accomplishing.

NIEDERANVEN insisted on the decision taken in SESIMBRA to have one General Meeting a year and to have one or more smaller Project Conferences in autumn.

HOUFFALIZE confirmed and underlined that the realisation of projects is the most important activity of the Douzelage and therefore this kind of autumn meeting would be really a necessity.

KÖTZTING said that they think that every town will do as much publicity as they can, the moment they have to organise a meeting and that it does not seem very realistic to do a "small" meeting without all the publicity a town would want to have. For example the Gourmet market has become something very important in the schedule of a meeting and nobody would like to miss this occasion to involve the local citizens in this popular Douzelage activity. GRANVILLE will also do a whole program in autumn. KÖTZTING thinks that it will probably continue the same way as it was until now.

Based on the experience JUDENBURG gained now while organizing their gourmet market, they propose to establish a logistic support with freight forwarders in order to make it possible to organize a gourmet market without the whole delegations coming to the organizing town. All towns should check their possibilities and confirm if this would be feasible for them.

Action: All towns

GRANVILLE answered that every town should decide for itself and according to its financial means and possibilities. It should be up to the organising town to decide about the dimension of the autumn meeting they are planning to organize depending on their financial possibilities, the support of their town council, or the department and of course their technical means or if they have a sufficient number of voluntary workers. It is not because a meeting will be smaller that it will be less warm-hearted. GRANVILLE thinks that it will be necessary to keep the idea of two meetings, a normal meeting in spring and a meeting at the convenience of the organizing town in autumn.

Mr. Kockelkorn, Mayor of **MEERSSEN**, made some general remarks on that issue:

"Since a lot of comments that have been given indicate that we are in the very heart of what the Douzelage is, we can discuss the matter of two general meetings a year and major or minor general meetings as a sort of organisational aspect, but it's related to the central mission of the Douzelage, since it means to have a sort of visibility in the several member states of the European Union of an attempt of citizens to make with it the European citizenship from below. So it should not be regarded as an organisational aspect but related to other aspects like "What is our mission?"; "What are we aiming at?"; "What is the future regarding the commission of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing" – "What does it mean?"

We are now entering in a new area of the European Union since until now the EU was in fact an organisation of states, but now, if there is the Charter of Giscard d'Estaing, we have direct relation as a citizen to a law which goes in some aspects above the national laws regarding the citizens themselves. If we discuss these items, also, of course, related to practical aspects like financing, etc, then we have the issue in its essence.

The question at the end would be to put all the remarks that have been given in a sort of document for the next meeting so that we can come to a very good decision and a decision that is not related to the experiences we have made up until now, but directed towards a new development and a new status of European citizenship. In my view the public opinion is not aware of the importance of what the Commission of Valéry Giscard d'Estaing means for European citizens. This would be a very good instrument to document what from the very beginning Douzelage meant to be for Europe".

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HOLSTEBRO thought that it would in a certain way be unfair towards the towns that have to do the "big" general meeting in spring as it will demand them more financial means and much more efforts to realise than a small regional project meeting. Everybody would be finishing up in wanting to organize only a smaller project meeting.

Finally it has been agreed to analyse the possibilities the different towns have and to continue the discussion latest during next sprint meeting in BUNDORAN.

Action: Secr. office

KÖSZEG underlined that the new cities have to be introduced now and the new cities have to introduce themselves, so probably after 2006 or beginning with 2007, KÖSZEG will have the chance to organize such a meeting. They well know that it's not only a chance but that there is a lot of money needed. As they have a couple of year's time now, they start to collect the money and they hope, as newly entered country, that they will get the financial support. KÖSZEG already organized meetings of around 300 people, so that there might be no problem to host a Douzelage GM in spring 2007, probably around the 25th of April, because there is one of their major festivities, the St. George's Day or at the end of September which is around the harvest festival.

The president thanked KÖSZEG for this generous and friendly invitation and underlined once more the important role of the new European towns in the Douzelage. This attitude will only fix and promote the position of "newcomers" in the European Union, what is a very important step to be taken.

JUDENBURG underlined the extremely generous invitation from KÖSZEG that invited Pupils from HOLSTEBRO. It is well known that money is not flowing in streams there and HOLSTEBRO should in any case take this great chance because KÖSZEG is really worth seen and it is worth visiting. The youth exchange programmes should be one of the main ideas of the Douzelage and as JUDENBURG thinks, there should be more activities in this domain.

As one of the main proposals for the future JUDENBURG would like to initiate in the Douzelage that all towns should develop a basic program for exchange. This should not only limit to exchanges, because this means that one town sends children to another town and has to accept children from the partner town, but to develop a kind of fixed program, and whoever wants to come to a town has the logistic system available. In JUDENBURG, for example, every child in his school time goes to a foreign country for a language stay. These are not towns from the Douzelage, because all these programs are fixed and it is very easy to go to a place where you know how to go there and to be accepted. For the first time this will be difficult for each teacher to change the habits, but Douzelage towns should help each other to introduce a new sort of community between children and scholars. In the view of JUDENBURG this could be an aim that could easily be reached.

In the view of **MEERSSEN** there should be a kind of concept program so that money for transportation costs for the translation equipment can be saved because it is much easier to go to a direct neighbour country. This would also show that we are not wasting money.

Concerning the remark of **MEERSSEN**, **KÖSZEG** underlined that if there would be a town closer to SHERBORNE that would like to apply for the next meeting after SHERBORNE; they also would welcome a meeting later in the schedule, for instance in autumn 2007 or even later. Further KÖSZEG made some proposals how to decrease costs of the meeting with presenting for example less food or using more effective transportation means. Some towns could perhaps drive together with the same bus. There are several ideas that seem worth to be discussed next.

HOLSTEBRO suggests encouraging people to stay in private lodging as this is a great way to meet people from the different towns. This is also part of the idea of the Douzelage to go out and meet people.

BUNDORAN suggested remedying to the difficult financial situation can also be done by looking for new sources and trying to find new ways of attracting members and new money. If the Douzelage wants to be an organization that succeeds, all towns have to think positively. A mentality tends to go the wrong way when the first time you see an obstacle you run for recoverance and say let's caught back. Douzelage towns should think in the opposite way and should say "Let's grow and let's do more".

SHERBORNE underlined that staying with families is a very important point. For some people hotels are not what they want to do. Part of being in the Douzelage is meeting the people of the towns and to build up the friendship and relationship. We shouldn't forget that this furthers the aim of the Douzelage on the ground.

TÜRİ said that in their opinion maybe they have better chance to find money from different EU funds which are just now opening for the new towns. To organize a meeting for the Douzelage represents for TÜRİ a very responsible challenge but they would like to propose to welcome the Douzelage in spring 2008. During the spring TÜRİ is the Spring Capital of Estonia and they have many great events and their town is very beautiful at that time.

12) Douzelage enlargement

Referring to paragraphs 1-3 of the Workshop report in the Minutes of the HOUFFALIZE GM from 10th - 13th October 2002, para F., the moment to take a decision on the further extension of the Douzelage should be defined. It is agreed to wait and see what the development of the Douzelage will be after its extension to 20 members. The discussion and the fixing of

a starting date to find new candidate towns has been postponed to the next spring meeting to be held in BUNDORAN in 2005. This in order to see if their will be an increased support by the EC for twinning associations with more than 15 member towns.

GRANVILLE confirms that we should take time but would like to inform that they have planned to receive a delegation from the Slovak Republic as "observer" to their Douzelage GM. This is a contact established by a local high school of GRANVILLE.

13) Douzelage Banner

Until now BELLAGIO has looked after the Douzelage Banner. As new towns have joined the Douzelage, their coat of arms should be included on this banner. BELLAGIO was in contact with the producer of the banner but said that, as new coats of arms have to be added on the horizontal, they could not come to a solution. **Action: Pres; BELLAGIO**

The president asked them to ask for an estimate of cost of the work to be done. For that they have to get the coat of arms from every new town, take the banner and transport it to the producer.

For better transportation reasons a special suitcase should be bought. This proposal had already been made some meetings before and it had been agreed to buy such a suitcase on the Douzelage account in order to facilitate the transportation of the banner.

As Jean-Marc Julienne of GRANVILLE goes on holiday to BELLAGIO in August, he proposed to transport the banner to GRANVILLE for the September meeting at the same occasion.

The new towns had been asked to bring along their coat of arms on a CD or on a photograph. Those towns, which did not bring along their coat of arms, should send it to the Douzelage office as soon as possible. If they have it as a computer file, they should pay attention to have it in a good resolution as his is obvious for a good copy print.

Action: CHOJNA, KÖSZEG, SIGULDA, SUSICE

14) Douzelage-sign

Years ago a sign had been manufactured representing the flags of the different Douzelage towns. This sign, put into the main entrance of several of the Douzelage towns in order to promote the Douzelage and also in order to attract the attention of the tourists, is no longer up to date as the Douzelage has been enlarged. The question is whether this sign should be replaced or not (high financial means demanded) or whether only stickers, to be put into the gift shops, should be produced.

HOUFFALIZE proposed to prepare a financial and technical document in order to be discussed in GRANVILLE.

HOLSTEBRO has a very strict policy regarding placing of signs and they will never be allowed to put up an official Douzelage sign anywhere in their town. They asked if it wouldn't be possible to make as a poster.

GRANVILLE will develop a special sign for their General Meeting in autumn with "GRANVILLE partenaire européen" inside. Maybe in GRANVILLE this item could be discussed further when HOUFFALIZE has got the exact details.

KÖTZTING said that they prefer to have the mention "European town twinning association" on the sign and could place the sign on their market place, as a sort of cultural sign. Stickers might also be a good idea for them to promote the Douzelage.

KÖTZTING asked what the real size of one flag will be and what will be the chance of a car driver passing by to recognize the flag of his country. They asked if it wouldn't be more effective to have something like "Douzelage European Town Twinning" along with it and nothing else and than to try to have little stickers, papers or posters in the town. When this tourist has seen that there is an international town twinning, he will find interest and when he walks around he will surely take the time to look at the flag and to look at the name of the town of his country. For the car driver, KÖTZTING is afraid, it will be too complicated to read 20 towns and find his own one.

PREVEZA thinks that apart from stickers there must be a sign at the entrance of every town or in the central park. They think that every town should show it, as a kind of privilege that they are member of this European town's network.

For SHERBORNE it will be practically impossible to put a sign at the entrance of their town preferred the idea of stickers and posters and possibly a sign to be fixed inside of the town or in the town hall.

NIEDERANVEN thought that stickers would anyway be a good and cheap idea and that maybe every town could produce signs from that sticker if they want. NIEDERANVEN is developing a project of a sign indicating the distances to the different Douzelage towns.

The president asked for well-prepared and not too expensive proposals for the next meeting in GRANVILLE and he thanked HOUFFALIZE for their will to prepare an official document in this matter. All towns will be asked to respond to some questionnaire asking if they have the actual signs installed, if they are interested to install new ones, etc.

Action Secr. office, HOUFFALIZE

15) Douzelage in the World Wide Web

[a] Douzelage Website

Now as the official member towns have come to the Douzelage, they will have to be fully included on the Web-site. The map has also been changed in accordance. The Web-site is a very important communication and publicity tool. For that reason the site should be divided into two major areas, notably a public one presenting our projects and activities in a best improved way and a private restricted one, necessary for the communication between the active Douzelage members (forums, opinions, workshops...).

In order to be best effective on the public basis, every member town should be able to put their activity, projects, photos...easily on the site. This is very important in the way interested visitors will have the opportunity to observe and discover the Douzelage as a very active and worthwhile association. This can also be fruitful for our financial steps on the official side.

For that purpose a special "help-desk" will be created in order to encourage the users to use the Web-site as an important publicity tool. It is also very important that the young generation of the Douzelage members should be included on this level. As for them the IT-tools have become a normal communication tool, they should be fully integrated in the Web-site planning and even become a creative part of the configuration. Only with a well organised and especially easy access to the Web-site the Douzelage can promote its idea among the European citizens.

[b] Link to our Douzelage on the EU-Town Twinning Website

The delegates were once more encouraged to use the Site without any hesitation as a practical tool to communicate among the members as well as to take every necessary information they need out of the Douzelage Website, which in deed is a very complete site.

Delegates were informed that the EU did put under "Useful Links" a direct link to our Douzelage on their official EU-Website for Town Twinning.

MEERSSEN raised the question of the responsibility of the information published on the Douzelage Website. This question will find an answer when developing the new site.

Action: Webadmin

[c] Douzelage Chat

It has been proposed to develop on the new site a Douzelage chat in order to facilitate direct communication.

[d] Douzelage Contact addresses

Towns were reminded that the Douzelage contact addresses, as well as the Education contact addresses, can only be helpful if they are updated on a regular basis and they were encouraged to update their addresses if necessary. A short presentation of how to update the e-Mail list on the Website was shown. Towns that have problems to update this e-Mail list themselves should address changes to the Douzelage secretary's office.

Action: All towns

[e] *.PDF File format

As no town did encounter problems to open the .pdf File format documents on the web, this way of transmitting files will be maintained.

[f] Social Care and Disabled Forum

It was unanimously agreed to create the Social Care and Disabled forum proposed in HOLSTEBRO last Meeting. The Web specialists will be asked to install this forum.

Action: Webadmin

HOLSTEBRO welcomed this decision and confirmed that there is absolutely no problem in updating this "Social Care and Disabled Forum" on a regular basis. Besides they will put the information about the proceeding in this matter on this mentioned forum.

Action: HOLSTEBRO

MEERSSEN thought that it is a really good idea and very important on the European level too, as it concerns everybody.

16) Presenting the Douzelage

[a] Douzelage – Who we are

The president explained that the new Codicil and the extended Douzelage situation should absolutely be included in the revised document "Douzelage-Who we are" that should have been circulated before the meeting. But as one town, in the last minute, asked to delay its signature to a later date, it was decided to postpone the finalising of the document until next spring meeting. The delay has been agreed.

[b] Douzelage – What we do

This document is a second way to present our Douzelage.

The new vice-president Günther Pecher has set up during the last few months a file with all the running and former projects. He sent out a mail, asking to all the towns to send him their past activity lists, but he got only 4 answers from 15 until then.

The president thanked both of the vice-presidents for their helping assistance in completing this document and preparing this meeting. He underlined once more the importance and the facility of the Web-tools and encouraged all the delegates to look at their mails on a regular basis and to answer to the requests in time.

Günther Pecher announced a further step in this matter and asked all delegates to respond in due time to the mails.

[c] General Meetings – Decisions and Discussion points 1997-2003

In January 2004 a very important document has been published on the Douzelage Web-Site. It is only a draft until now resuming all decisions taken at any meeting, classified by subjects and by date. There are also helpful links in this document in order to make it really complete. This internal computerized list of projects represents an important management tool in the managing of our Douzelage. This is also determining document for our publicity on the EU-administration basis. (Some minutes are still missing, towns are asked to send them if available). **Action: Different towns**

[d] Participants to the Douzelage Meetings

Only if a complete list of all the meetings is available to the secretary's office, a list of all the participants to the former meetings can be established. This list could show for example how many times one person participated to a meeting and up from these data some very interesting internal statistics can be set up. For these statistics the secretary needs all the former meeting reports. A short demonstration of the information available at the moment was given.

Action: Different towns

[e] Documentation on the application forms sent to the EC

It is also very important that all the application forms of the former meetings are collected in one file in order to establish a reliable documentation on the demands for subvention addressed to the EC. Every delegate was asked to support this action and all the towns which have already organized a meeting were kindly asked to bring a copy of their application forms as well as the answer of the EC or the arguments, so available, or the refusal. Those towns that have one of the missing minutes available are kindly asked to send it to the Secretary's office.

Action: Different towns

17) Survey of recent events

[a] Paper copy

All towns were requested to bring along 20 copies of their Douzelage activities, both internal and external, since the last meeting in HOLSTEBRO, together with their plans for the future. Those towns who missed this are kindly asked to send their report by mail to the Secretary's office.

Action: Different towns

[b] Computer file

As the lists of the recent events are anyway done in a computerized form the delegates should in the future send them to the secretary so that the files can be completed accordingly.

[c] Douzelage news

A draft version of a newspaper "Douzelage Magazine" has been presented. Photographs or all other kinds of event reports could easily be put together in a kind of newspaper called "Douzelage Magazine", a very entertaining and interesting way of Douzelage publicity, which could be published every 6 months and should also be sent to Brussels together with the meeting information. Of course this objective is only reachable if all the member towns are willing to contribute by sending in reports on their activities with photos, if available.

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SHERBORNE reported that they have a sort of local Douzelage newspaper and that they would be happy to include their information into the official Douzelage news and vice versa. **MEERSSEN** and **GRANVILLE** said that they would do the same. The French edition will of course be translated in English by our secretary.

MEERSSEN and **SHERBORNE** insisted once more on the importance of these publicity actions. They underlined once more that only steps like this could proof the high quality of the Douzelage association.

18) Action points of the last meeting in HOLSTEBRO

[a] Action points for the presidency

EU Funding

Prior to all EU funding discussions a declaration and a resolution was presented and unanimously approved by all the member towns. These important documents give to the presidency a mandate to ask the EC for getting more support.

Financing will be one of the major issues in the Douzelage Future. The Douzelage association with its actual 20 member towns should differ from smaller town twinning associations and get a kind of special status (Town twinning of more than 15 member towns).

These discussions will be developed during the next session in Brussels (end 2004) in preparation of the budget 2005 of the town twinning. The correspondence with Mrs Viviane Reding, EU commissioner of education and culture, had been included in the annexes.

KÖTZTING proposed to investigate how many town twinning associations with more than 15 member towns already exist EU wide.

THE PRESIDENT agreed and underlined that effective documentation; statistical or any other, about this subject are the best arguments to ask for a categorization of the twinning associations by size before judging on the requests or applications is so very important for the Douzelage, as only this could improve the likelihood and increase chances to receive appropriate grants.

Each town was invited to contact their own national members of parliament (MEP's) or all other national representative that could be helpful in town twinning matters, in order to make them aware of the Douzelage problem. A complete list of the official addresses will be put on the Web as soon as the new parliament will be in place.

MEERSSEN asked if an application for a meeting (i.e. **JUDENBURG**) is considered as a fund request from **JUDENBURG** or from the Douzelage association. The president explained that according to the Document DG EAC N° 64/03 it is always the organising town or the local committee that has to apply for funding in Brussels. The Douzelage never applied as an association.

B) Activities reports

CHOJNA:

- Promotion tour to CHOJNA: President, Martijn and Jeroen Hosman NOV 2003

CHOJNA reported that they were very pleased to host the President of the Douzelage, Mr. Ed Weber, who visited CHOJNA in November 2003 together with Martijn and Jeroen Hosman from MEERSSEN Douzelage Committee. The Visit included a tour of CHOJNA and vicinity, visiting CHOJNA schools and the most important part of the program had been the meeting with town councillors and the mayor of CHOJNA. A speech about the Douzelage and its enlargement and a PowerPoint presentation had been an interesting highlight of this meeting. At the town council of CHOJNA formal had expressed the willingness of joining Douzelage. That was the first time they had voted unanimously.

Another enjoyable part of the visit had been the shooting competition, won by the president.

- Other CHOJNA activities:

One of the CHOJNA secondary schools was coordinating the Comenius Project "Be tolerant - be different" together with MEERSSEN school "Stella Maris College" and Gryphon School from England. There had been a partner meeting in MEERSSEN and the project had been very successful. E-mails are still exchanged between the participants a kind of brochure as a product of this exchange of the emails will be published, showing the topics of the project connected with tolerance.

They also had one big Socrates project to report on, which could have been taken into consideration in the discussions about how to get money from Brussels. The whole budget for Lingua Project "Language and culture to community

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networks" had been coordinated by the Weymouth College from England, is about 300.000 € and the subsidy from EU is about 160.000 €. The project had been programmed for 2 years and they said they have a Secondary School from KARKKILA and one of the Secondary Schools from CHOJNA participating.

A partner's meeting in CHOJNA in April with participation of about 40 guests from Finland, France and England had also been organised. This had been a very successful project, the first one, organised by the CHOJNA Douzelage Committee. All the students had stayed with families or private accommodation and a lot of friendships had been set up.

The former president of Douzelage Jeremy Barker also visited CHOJNA in October 2003 and he took part in Polish-German business conference talking about Douzelage.

In the end of April, due to the accession to the EU they did have some other cultural events with the German town of Angermünde, a town close to the frontier.

The president thanked CHOJNA for the kind invitation and his pleasant stay there.

MEERSSEN:

- MEERSSEN Douzelage team in Television show

Nico van de Vliet reported that the result of this show was quite disappointing. They tried to get some money for their Douzelage committee by this way but failed rather soon in the quiz game. The positive aspect of the whole action was that some publicity for the Douzelage could have been made.

SHERBORNE:

- Historical Exchanges (SHERBORNE/MEERSSEN) in September 2003

SHERBORNE highlighted the visit of the historical society in MEERSSEN. Some friends of the Douzelage went in September to MEERSSEN and also visited Maastricht, Antwerp and Liège. There is a return visit planned for the 30th of August until the 14th of September 2004. This action confirmed the ongoing success of such activities, based on the historical theme of the towns.

SHERBORNE informed about their project to welcome delegates of the 5 new towns of the Douzelage in June. Only SIGULDA will be unable to be with the party. There will be a delegation of teachers and other interested people, who will be welcomed in Sherborne.

NIEDERANVEN:

- NIEDERANVEN Art exhibitions

Jeannot Poiré told the assembly that there had been two art exhibitions in the last six months in NIEDERANVEN. The one was with Paulo Lobo, a native of the region of SESIMBRA showing photographs of portraits of fishermen around SESIMBRA. This exhibition had a big success in NIEDERANVEN. The Portuguese Embassy was represented at the first day opening of this exhibition.

The other exhibition took place from the 2nd April to the 3rd of May with JUDENBURG artists. This exhibition has been the result of a fruitful collaboration between JUDENBURG and NIEDERANVEN Douzelage Committees. This exhibition was highly appreciated as well by the artists as by the local town representatives. The Austrian Embassy was represented at the first day opening of this exhibition.

They also thanked MEERSSEN for the Benelux Meeting that took place in April.

- NIEDERANVEN Douzelage-Friends visit to GRANVILLE

Since the beginning of the Douzelage there exists a group of tourists in NIEDERANVEN called "Les Amis du Douzelage". This group has visited GRANVILLE this year and that they have been welcomed in a very kind and friendly way by the GRANVILLE Douzelage Committee.

The President thanked GRANVILLE for their hospitality as he was for some days with that group of tourists from NIEDERANVEN. He really enjoyed his trip to GRANVILLE.

- Other NIEDERANVEN activities:

A lot of activity has also been brought up to prepare the General Meeting in JUDENBURG, in order to discuss the different agenda items and define NIEDERANVEN's position to one or the other purpose.

It's the first time that NIEDERANVEN participated to the BELLAGIO Mini Parliament in BELLAGIO. As it had been a very good experience for them, they thanked BELLAGIO for this extraordinary event. They will do their best to participate again next year.

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The local NIEDERANVEN firemen are involved in a project taking place in Luxembourg City 15-18th July 2004 in the frame of a project for road cyclists. If there would be some interest of the firemen of our Douzelage partner towns, the delegates were asked to get in contact with the local fire brigade.

HOLSTEBRO wanted to know if the "Bicycling Firemen" is an event that takes place every year or if it is only this year?

Jeannot Poiré explained that this year only it takes place in Luxembourg. Because our firemen participate in the organisation of this event, there has been the question if there is somebody interested from other towns to participate.

All the delegations were informed that the exhibition on the Fishermen of SESIMBRA is at their disposal to be shown in their towns. So if there would be any interest they can get in contact with NIEDERANVEN, because the artist, Paulo Lobo is living in Luxembourg.

OXELÖSUND:

- OXELÖSUND music school exchange with BELLAGIO

Christer Wargert reported that the Music School had been to BELLAGIO and made some sort of success as they had been invited for a fortnight next year. This school had found a successful way to carry out the activities. Mr. Hodrikos, the head of the school, started by visiting the Douzelage town on a preparatory tour. After that, close contacts were established with OXELÖSUND and other Douzelage Towns. The pupils were accommodated in private families and the low fair flight company Ryan Air, established just 20 kilometres from OXELÖSUND provided the tickets, which means that the travel costs had been minimized. And no EU funding is required. The school visited so far SHERBORNE, MEERSSEN and BELLAGIO. 44 Pupils from MEERSSEN will come to OXELÖSUND in the beginning of June.

Then Mister Wargert took the opportunity to invite the Douzelage town delegates to OXELÖSUND for next summer when the one week Music Festival will take place.

- Socrates Comenius project "Environment and health theme involving nursery schools" held in OXELÖSUND 1st week of November 2003

Mr Wargert coordinated the meeting in OXELÖSUND. It concerned children aged from 3 to 9 years and the aim of the program was to teach children the importance of being healthy in accordance with nature and being a part of the eco-system.

PREVEZA was the main coordinator of this project and NIEDERANVEN and OXELÖSUND had been partners. They had now been waiting for decisions on EU-funding this summer.

- the Football project of OXELÖSUND

Tickets had been reserved for a trip between OXELÖSUND and GRANVILLE. 12 boys and 4 team leaders will go to GRANVILLE. But it had not been an easy way to promote contacts between Douzelage towns .

The project idea to promote youth exchange with the help of a football team had been presented by OXELÖSUND during the HOUFFALIZE meeting in 2001. Modifications in the project plans according to discussions on General Meetings and efforts to find contact persons had been going on in three consecutive meetings and finally they could leave the HOLSTEBRO meeting with seven contact persons. After that the issue had been handed over to the football club again to establish the contacts and then OXELÖSUND and GRANVILLE could meet each other during the winter season.

They did send applications for EU-funding to their national boards in Sweden and France. The Swedish application had been approved and the French application not due to an unbalance between boys and girls. As the parents had to pay a sum up to 200-225 € the number of participating boys dropped from 22 in the beginning to 12 because due to the time the project took to be developed (2001 - 2004), the boys had in the meanwhile grown up from 14 years up to 15 and 16 years. Their interests had then been other than football, but the project could however be a success as the boys of OXELÖSUND will not only play football but they did also write down answers and questions on social and cultural life in GRANVILLE that they want to compare with their life in OXELÖSUND.

MEERSSEN:

- Benelux Meeting 17 April 2004

Nico van de Vliet reported about the Benelux Meeting that had taken place in MEERSSEN in April.

The main purpose that had been discussed was of course the agenda items for the general meeting in JUDENBURG. As always it had been a very nice meeting and of course half of the time had been spent on things like getting to know each other a little bit more and getting to know the city. Concerning the subjects, they did have a quite large list of subjects to discuss. A detailed report will be sent out to be published for those who are interested.

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Ger Kockelkorn, Mayor of MEERSSEN, wanted to make an additional remark to the Benelux-Douzelage Meeting. In fact he thought that this kind of meetings as the Benelux Meeting is a very good opportunity to act within the Douzelage without having to spend too much money for transportation costs.

BELLAGIO

- Mini Parliament in BELLAGIO (CD 4 - Piste 7 – 01:07)

The President thanked BELLAGIO for their extraordinary hospitality they offered as he had the opportunity to visit Bellagio during the Mini-Parliament. He confirmed once more the high activity of the Mini-Parliament event and the precious opportunity an event like this can represent for the young Douzelage friends.

Alessandro reported in detail on the last Mini-Parliament which was held in Bellagio and which developed to a very concrete and successful activity. The Mini-Parliament of this year took place from the 5th to the 9th of May and the participants had been 9 Douzelage towns: ALTEA, BUNDORAN, GRANVILLE, HOUFFALIZE, KÖTZTING, MEERSSEN, NIEDERANVEN, PREVEZA, SHERBORNE and, of course, BELLAGIO.

In particular the impressive number of young people, who circulated in the city, all in especially created Douzelage Mini-Parliament Tee-shirts, strongly impressed the citizens of Bellagio. In the name of the committee it thanked the participating towns and especially the teachers who were present. The main theme this year was "Education through sport" just as the Romans used to say "*mens sana in corpore sano*".

Jean-Marc Julienne from GRANVILLE confirmed that BELLAGIO is a wonderful town, with wonderful people who really have a heart for the youngsters, which is an extraordinary quality. They congratulated the town of BELLAGIO and HOUFFALIZE once more for the fantastic work they do in organising their annual youth events.

- 'Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux': 7-11 June 2004 (HOUFFALIZE)

The president confirmed that the Adeps activity is really a proof of high quality youth activity and that the "Gazette des Ardennes" reflects that fact very well in a very interesting and entertaining publication. (on the Douzelage Website)

Alphonse Henrard started to give details about this 6th Adeps sports week, to be held from the 6 until the 12th of June 2004. He said that the towns of BELLAGIO, GRANVILLE and NIEDERANVEN enrolled already and that normally some 100 to 120 students will take part to this event. Together with the local people involved this participation rate will even rise to 200 participants.

This year the main theme of the meeting would be the "multi-linguism", presented by a social specialist, who wants to make the young people aware of the language problem within the frame of social and international relationships. The theme for 2005 (10th anniversary of the event) had also already been fixed: the position of young handicapped people in the society. They hoped that this theme will find agreement among the EU-authorities and welcomed every delegation to participate to this great event next year. They repeated they have enough lodging possibilities, as the military barracks are very close to the Adeps centre and very fit for such events.

All present delegates as well as the president spent a lot of applause to this interesting explanations and invitation.

- Comenius reports from PREVEZA and JUDENBURG

The Comenius project with PREVEZA and JUDENBURG will be presented by the Education-President Barbara Zandraveli in the Education Minutes. In the view of JUDENBURG this project ended very successfully.

Judenburg reported that last autumn a large group of tourists from KÖTZTING stayed in JUDENBURG and visited the Spanish Riding School and the breeding of their horses.

Another event for JUDENBURG in the near future will be that 2 groups of 30 people are going up to the Baltic States. On their way they are passing SIGULDA.

- Information about the Lingua 1 project "Language and Culture through Community Networks".

For CHOJNA it has been a new experience to manage the coordination of such a project including partners from Weymouth College (England) - coordinator, Karkkila Upper Secondary School (Finland), Dorset Twinning Association, Chojna Vocational and Technical School (Poland), Applied Language Centre, Cherbourg (France) and Sherborne Douzelage. The topics had been the Indo-European differences on the level of the religions, politics, cultures,... The participating students felt themselves very involved and tried to publish a newspaper during their meeting in MEERSSEN. An important point for CHOJNA had been that 80 percent of the EU-funding came before the start of the project, a fact that had been very helpful for them to work care free. They could organise workshops in drama, theatre, music and languages. A special lingua Website shows more details.

C) Projects

1) Projects not yet finished or in preparation

[a] Douzelage Play

SHERBORNE said that there was nothing very definite to report about this project as they did not yet speak with the coordinator Mr John Smith, but there would be ongoing discussions about this project.

[b] 2005 Centenary of the SHERBORNE Pageant and the Douzelage Cavalcade

30 minute PowerPoint presentation by SHERBORNE (Chris Macadie)

By this occasion the SHERBORNE delegation presented one of the oldest films ever done showing the pageant's festival in the early 20th century. They invited everybody for free to their Festival in summer; including a "polish Day", music festival and contests... including also the Douzelage GRANVILLE said that they do their best to join this great event.

ALTEA asked what should be the character of the people to be sent to SHERBORNE for participating at this event.

SHERBORNE said that they want every town to send 2 musicians being able to play an instrument, and 2 persons to participate at the "Polish Day". They will take part in drama activities and all other sorts of cultural expression. Furthermore they need 2 persons participating to the Youth Forum being able to discuss things, have a European opinion and to be socially open-minded. So it is up to every member town to do their best to help SHERBORNE in making their festival a highly important European event.

Action: Different towns

[c] Waldmünchen, 15.8 – 26.8 2004

Günther Pecher said that most of the delegates, who attended the last meetings probably know that the youth week in Waldmünchen has become a kind of tradition for the Douzelage members. Unfortunately this event could not take place last year because the organiser had problems with personnel. This year again, 2004, they are trying to come back to this idea, so we are going to have another Youth week as shows the agenda from the 15th of August to the 26th of August 2004. Leaflets with all the necessary information had been distributed. Even if the deadline for registration is a little bit short the organizers in Waldmünchen will not stick very rigidly to the deadline. The participation of late comers will always be possible. KÖTZTING would be very glad to see this event come to life again. Günther Pecher suggested to all the participants that these meeting of young people, wherever they are, are so important because, due to the average age discussed already. He proposed to think about the years to come and about what is going to happen in 10 or 20 years time with the Douzelage needing to survive, and that it would be the role of the young people to guarantee this survival. For that reason it is very important to send the young people to these meetings. He was very hopeful that they will succeed this year again.

HOUFFALIZE confirmed their participation to this event for this year and Mr Henrard was very positive about the high quality of this activity. In fact two of their pupils, who participated in 2002 to this event organised two months after this event a meeting in HOUFFALIZE with youngsters from Czechia, Italy and France, friends they made during their stay in Waldmünchen, what is a very important incitement to develop the youth exchange projects in the frame of the Douzelage activities.

GRANVILLE said that they have got a new professor in one of their secondary schools and that she will probably be happy to find some youngsters to participate to the extraordinary activity that is the "Youth week in Waldmünchen".

[d] Student and Trainee Youth Exchanges (HOUFFALIZE)

Alphonse Henrard reported that, at the occasion of the September meeting in 2002, they did organize a special workshop on the student and trainee exchange project. HOUFFALIZE had been in charge to dispatch every information about incoming demands or outgoing offers. Unfortunately this project had become a sort of failure, as the echoes of the local enterprises and the demands of the students concerned were not very numerous. No coordination had been possible in that way. The question had been raised if this project should be continued and just be put on stand-by.

KÖTZTING said that even if the project was said to be a failure, the failure was not so much in the project itself but in the fact that the committee did not succeed in really informing the general public and the young people often enough. For the general public they did depend practically on the newspapers and it would be impossible to realise such a publication every two weeks.

Mr Pecher continued in saying that as far as the pupils are concerned, there can be so many other possibilities to go away to school trips and that, as this student and trainee exchange is more aimed at young people who no longer go to school, or are maybe into an apprenticeship, he is afraid we do not succeed getting in contact with these people.

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JUDENBURG does not agree in this because in **JUDENBURG** many pupils got job exchange possibilities abroad in order to absolve a kind of traineeship. This was very successful. They went to **BUNDORAN**, to **SHERBORNE** and to Italy and Margit Ergert thought that it should start by organizing the pupil exchanges by the teachers. This item had been an important discussion subject in the education workshop too.

The president suggested that the idea, developed by Mr Alphonse Henrard should be continued and supported. This represents such a great opportunity to realise the integration of the young people into the Douzelage and even if the proceeding methods need to be changed, the Douzelage should hold on to this project. The European Commission did establish a special website where they manage the student and trainee exchanges. Maybe the Douzelage Association could stick to this page and take part in this general exchange program offered. The necessary information about this project will be on the Douzelage Website and everybody was invited to transfer all information they will get to the secretary's office.

[e] Centenary Scout Camp: SHERBORNE 2007

This project is still in development in the Scouts association. **SHERBORNE** had a talk with the local leader in order to outline the activities that they will be doing. This will become a very big event but they did not have anymore detail at the moment. **SHERBORNE** will bring them to **GRANVILLE**.

The president remembered the delegates that a reminder with all the action points had been sent out and that they should please have a look at it Every town that had not yet answered were kindly asked to do so as soon as possible. He said that there will also be new action points after this meeting.

SHERBORNE said they need more time to develop this project. They said they wanted to find a way to explain the project to the different school representatives. Insurance, health and safety problems are only one of the problems that still have to be discussed and worked out.

[f] Douzelage Orchestra/Choir (ALTEA)

The project has been stopped but the good idea not. **ALTEA** will inform the Douzelage as soon as they had been able to make a further step in the direction of this project. In the frame of this project **ALTEA** received a group of guests from **GRANVILLE** last year and **GRANVILLE** thanked them for the very friendly hospitality they got at this occasion.

2) OTHER ACTIVITIES

SUSICE was sorry that they didn't send in their report on the running activities and that they had not done much this year, but they would like to report on one Comenius project they have been involved this year. The project is called "my home my Europe" and 5 other towns had been involved together with them. Months ago 16 pupils participated in such a project in **SUSICE** and the following week they are going to Kanalli (Greece) next to **PREVEZA**. This project reveals itself as very positive and successful.

Another future project that **SUSICE** will present in **GRANVILLE** will be the invitation to the special days of **SUSICE** in may 2005. Representatives of every town are invited to take part to this event.

An annual music festival in **SUSICE** or a festival of children choirs are other future projects on their list.

The football club in **SUSICE** arranges a football youth cup every may where the invited players, aged between 10 and 18, are fighting in 4 teams. Further details can be discussed together with **OXELÖSUND** and everybody had been invited to come **SUSICE** to this event.

BUNDORAN reported that since the last meeting they had ongoing activities in the education sector and. They also had a group of students from **JUDENBURG** in **BUNDORAN** where hotel reservations had been arranged.

They did send three pupils and a teacher to the Mini-Parliament in **BELLAGIO** and had started in organizing the meeting in spring 2005. The dates had been fixed and the themes discussed with their national organizing body, the Institute of public administration. A topical theme, acceptable to the EU Commission and EU funding has to be worked out. As they are facing the elections on 11th of June they will publish the number of changes until the next meeting.

HOLSTEBRO underlined once more their difficult situation face to their local administration.

The president, together with all other delegates assured them support and help from their side. They should not hesitate to ask for it time given.

KARKKILA had very little activities. In April they received a group of pupils from **GRANVILLE**. A group of students from **KARKKILA** visited England in January.

CHOJNA had reported before already. Just one further activity was enounced: the participation of Poland in a Lingua project starting in April 2005.

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PREVEZA had been involved in the Comenius project but Barbara Zandraveli would give further details later on in the Education Report."

About the Mayor's meeting they once decided to organize, they did not yet receive the necessary details, so that this project was on hold at that moment. They did not give up the idea, because they think it could be an important step to a better support of the Douzelage. Especially as their local administration seems to have a little problem with the purpose of the Douzelage they thought that a Mayor's meeting could be helpful on that level. So they asked every delegation to discuss it with their mayor's and town councils in order to be able to set up a program, discussion themes and a date for such a meeting.

The president underlined that if such a meeting is going to take place a Commissioner should be asked as a speaker to speak on an appropriately chosen subject around European integration to address the mayor's. He further asked Preveza to publish the date as soon as possible and confirmed that discussions about that project should be undertaken soon after the meeting in JUDENBURG. He further asked every town who had not yet sent their mayor's contact addresses to PREVEZA to do so in order to proceed in this matter.

SESIMBRA reported a visit of some students and three teachers of their secondary school to the town of GRANVILLE. They had a project of the D-Day in the Normandy to discuss. They thanked GRANVILLE for the best support they received there and confirmed that the students reported of a really good time in GRANVILLE.

SIGULDA said that they had already, as a new EU-member, a lot of relationships with other European towns and for them it would be a great honour to be part of the Douzelage association. In June 120 people will visit the town of Stuhl in Germany, in order to organize a big feast, where they will dance and sing. There will also be two groups from Austria coming to SIGULDA. At this occasion discussions about their new situation in the EU and future relationships with JUDENBURG will be discussed. As they have a famous sleigh track and other winter sport infrastructures they invited all other towns to come to SIGULDA and visit their leisure facilities in this domain. They insisted on the fact that an international ski slalom competition is held on a regular basis in their surroundings and this event is very interesting to see for every sports fan.

TÜRI welcomed at the end of May contractors from KARKKILA in order to find some investors for their enterprises. In next July they will organise a project between their students and all other Douzelage towns. They will do publicity on their local level hoping to support the Douzelage Association by that action. They asked the delegates to send them a lot of information of their towns, so that the students can set up their work. A delegation from TÜRI will also go to SHERBORNE this summer.

JUDENBURG reminded everybody that they have a high-quality youth hostel in town and as nice ski areas are very close, also to the Hungarian border, everybody is invited to come and have fun with their whole family. They also confirmed once more their participation in the GRANVILLE-Sailing project which connects water sports with a sort of language stay, which is a very suitable combination for youngsters. They said that they also have decided to take part at the Sherborn's Pageant Festival. Another excellent youth exchange took place between JUDENBURG students and Dorset's famous agricultural school.

The president insisted once more on the importance of putting all this information into a written form, otherwise this precious projects risk not to be added to the general Douzelage project list which would be a pity and a big loss to historical records and up-to-date statistics. This advice went to every town, invited to send short mails to the secretary explaining their projects, as small as they may be. Another argument for this step is that everybody should be informed by time of a project in order to be able to involve the local associations or citizens to participate case given. Only then a serious project database can be established and only then we can be able to support in union with every interested town a project or activity.

Alessandro Nettuno from **BELLAGIO** remarked that by this way everybody could immediately be informed about the oncoming costs and decide more easily about their participation.

The president answered that this is an important point and that one gets more easily aware of when a project idea lasts too long before it comes to a realisation. Reminding the former ABC-method (that has been aborted as being too complicated to apply), a prompt and detailed information can lead to recognize by time if a project should be executed or taken on or filed.

KÖSZEG wanted to give additional information about their projects. Their city has been involved in many projects which are not in the frame of the Douzelage association. So they first want to finish those ones before they start the new ones with the Douzelage.

However they are already involved in the Kindergarten project, managed by Preveza, including OXELÖSUND and NIEDERANVEN.

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They had been sure that the application would be a great success. In the future they want to organise a Comenius project about science and mathematics and they will send out the leaflets and e-mails to all schools of the member towns. All the cities would be invited because a large collection of exercises in the field of mathematics and science in frame of the Douzelage partner towns could be set up as for example, scientific comparisons between buildings (churches), architectural differences... Their idea was to prepare that activity in GRANVILLE during the same time of the General Meeting in autumn, which could facilitate a lot of aspects (on a financial basis for example).

Another youth project they wanted to carry out with HOLSTEBRO and maybe with other cities too, is an activity with the title "politeens" which means that young people have the opportunity to study the politics through their action fields (decisions on education, health care, architecture). This was planned to be a one week visit but as for the details they will only be sent out later on.

They said that they are also in a discussion with a finish dance group from KARKKILA, but that they are still waiting to get some more details before proceeding on this action.

It has also been repeated that a group of the delegates will visit KÖSZEG immediately after the meeting. Details had been made out.

MEERSSEN thanked the Douzelage Presidency office for all the work they did in setting up the data base of the Douzelage. They suggested to add a lot of more pictures to this data base, because this form of presenting the Douzelage could make it easier for the young people or anybody else who has not the time to read all the present documents on the Web, to discover the Douzelage and its activities.

The president agreed and encouraged this attitude. He asked every town to send their pictures of the different activities to the secretary in order to be published on the Web or in the Douzelage news.

At this moment followed the Education report from Barbara Zandraveli.

The president thanked Barbara Zandraveli, the president of the Education meeting for the excellent work she did and assured her his support for the election of a new Education president, taking place in 2005. The written report will be sent to every town as soon as possible.

3) New projects

[a] Historical Revocation of the "Lario Circuit" - 2° edition - 17/21 June 2004

The invitation had been annexed to the agenda [ANNEX K]. The president approved the very nice presentation of this activity on the Douzelage Web site directly linked to the Web site of the Lario Circuit.

Nobody of a member town had done an enrolment at that time but Alessandro Nettuno from BELLAGIO underlined once more the interesting activity organised by the province of the Lake of Como on this historical motorcycle circuit. If anybody is interested in participating they promised that there is still a possibility to arrange the lodging.

[b] Douzelage who is who

Proposal of Martijn Hosman attached [ANNEX L]

Nico van de Vliet confirmed once more the importance of the fact to know each other within the family of the Douzelage in order to support a good cooperation. Pictures could also be very helpful on this level. A kind of booklet could also be a helpful instrument on this basis.

The president said that there are already a lot of people to be honoured for their activities in the Douzelage and that this instrument could be used to do that in a proper way. A proposal will be presented during the next meeting. It has once more been said that the publication of the data only happens on a voluntary basis. The protection of the privacy however is one important point that should be discussed. The president proposed to work out way of proceeding in the Web site group and present it to the committee next time. He thought that maybe the information about the former presidents or foundation members could be a good example to start with.

[c] English Song Festival

Janusz Cezary Salamończyk wanted to inform the members of the Douzelage about a new project proposal. It's called: "English Song Festival" and had already existed for ten years as an annual local event in CHOJNA (Poland). [See annex N]

He pointed out that they want the "English Sound Festival" to become a regular event just as the Mini-Parliament in BELLAGIO or the Adepts sports week in HOUFFALIZE. This festival had until then always been a great attraction, especially for young people. CHOJNA asked once more to distribute the information and details of this festival in the schools, as he is sure that a lot of students are willing to take part. Free accommodation, meals and transport from Berlin will be provided. This annual event happens every year in the second part of April and they would also have a lot of polish participants aged from

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16 to 26. The participants can choose the songs they want to perform. This could be someone's own composition or just someone else's song. Everybody coming to CHOJNA could have a good time, assured Mr Salamonczyk.

[d] Pupil's Douzelage Club

Presentation of the project by SHERBORNE

This item had been discussed in the education meeting said Lynn Ashby from SHERBORNE. The action consists in the fact that the pupils of all schools of the Douzelage towns can go online at a particular time in order to chat and exchange their ideas. The difficulty is in fact to find the right time to get most of the children together at the same time. But apparently until now the idea found a lot of interest and enthusiasm among the pupils and their teachers.

D) Provisional Agenda for the GRANVILLE GM

The president gave the word to Jean-Marc Julienne from GRANVILLE in order to present their agenda for the next General Meeting in GRANVILLE, town where the Douzelage had been founded in 1991.

The vice-mayor of **GRANVILLE** Mr Jean-Marc Julienne started by thanking Mr André Gendre, who is the webmaster on their side, for his efforts in organising the "Sailing and Environment" event, taking place in August this year. He congratulated the participating towns for their commitment and welcomed every other town to participate in this activity next year.

He gave a short but detailed picture of the town of GRANVILLE, birthplace of the Douzelage association, baptized by a former president of the town Mr Karl Majoor. He invited everybody to come with at least 5 official delegates to the General Meeting and promised an interesting sightseeing tour to the delegates (as for example the visit of the museum of Christian Dior, who was born in GRANVILLE).

During this General Meeting they want to organize a very big Gourmet Market, first because they want to proof the well known French "cuisine" and second because the main theme of the meeting will be "The different food habits within the European union." They will also organise special work shops around this theme, where specialists will present interesting reports. For this purpose a sound out will be prepared and sent to every town, in order to establish a statistic about the food habits. This meeting will also welcome and promote the young section of the Douzelage. As the theme is very present for this generation, the official delegation should include at least 2 young participants. Their work shops will be organised in a very playful way and surely interest everybody. The importance of the youth participation in the Douzelage had once more been underlined.

Before ending his report Mr Julienne specified that every town should inform them by time about their lodging preferences. He also remarked that still the financial identification documents from SUSICE, SHERBORNE, SIGULDA and TÜRI are missing.

The president thanked GRANVILLE for their interesting report and he expressed his pleasure to meet them in their wonderful town next September. He suggested depositing flowers at the tomb of the Douzelage initiator, Mr André Poirier. By the occasion of this Granville Meeting, Henry Haffray, who did the brilliant good job of building the institutional basis of the Douzelage should be honoured as Honorary Foundation Member of the Douzelage. Both suggestions were unanimously agreed.

1) End of meeting

The president thanked everybody for their attention and also for their patience, as this meeting has been the first meeting for him as a president.

Special thanks were also pronounced to the town of Judenburg and their Douzelage Committee for the excellent hospitality, the brilliant preparation of the meeting and also for all the other pleasant goodies they offered (food, wine, music...).

JUDENBURG also thanked everybody for their presence and assured that it has been a real pleasure to host the Douzelage members in their town.