

European Forum of Heritage Associations

Minutes of XVII General Assembly

The 17th General Assembly of the European Forum of Heritage Associations was held from May 24th to May 27th 2007 in Moissac, hosted by the French Association Ensemble.

Quorum Evaluation, presences and new memberships

The General Secretary opened the meeting counting the present members and the delegations. There were representatives from the Associations:

Belgium

JWC, represented by the honorary Vice-President Tony Waegeman

Archeolo-J, represented by the Treasurer Catherine Breyer

Bulgaria

Bulgarian Association of National Heritage, represented by Stefan Radev

France

Ensemble, represented by Anne-Marie Boureux

Italy

CPSSAE, represented by Forum President Adriana Martini

Gruppi Archeologici del Veneto, represented by Forum General Secretary

Giorgio Mastella

CIRA, represented by Raffaella Gerola

Archeoclub d'Italia, represented by Pasquale Tucci

Gruppi Archeologici d'Italia, represented by Ilario di Nardo

Delegation:

Municipality of Smolyan, Bulgaria: delegation to Adriana Martini

ANGO, Finland: delegation to Adriana Martini

CESMAP, Italy: delegation to Adriana Martini

Aurelia, Italy: delegation to Raffaella Gerola

CERP, Italy: delegation to Pasquale Tucci

Absent associations:

AVEC, France (a declaration of interest was produced after the Assembly, because of the absence of the representative)

Arbeitskreis Denkmalpflege, Germany

KulturForschungsZentrum, Germany

NJBG, The Netherlands (a declaration of interest in the Assembly was expressed, by their offer for a Delegation arrived after the works were closed)

Centro de Arqueologia de Almada, ArqueoJovem, Museu de Maçao, Câmara Municipal de Loures: the Associations were contacted and there was a strict information exchange during the works: Sara Cura of the Museum of Maçao participated to the Assembly via tele-conference and was able also to declare her availability and give her advice on some of the points discussed.

The Brodsworth Community Project (avevano annunciato la loro presenza, ma non sono arrivati)

The quorum was officially met and the General Secretary opened officially the Assembly. As stated above, some of the Associations were officially counted among the “absent” because there were no representative at the Assembly and because they were not able to produce a letter of delegation in time. It is well described, nevertheless, that their absence does not mean a lack of interest in Forum matters. Some other absent Associations were on the contrary effectively “absent” and did not give any sign of participation: their situation was officially discussed during the Assembly.

Concerning the new memberships, the contacts between Forum President Adriana Martini and Peter Princen of Politechnic of Limburg for the participation of this Institution into Forum as an Associated member were not considered completed. In fact there was only an informal letter of intent, but the process must be completed by an official letter, the presentation of the statute and the payment of the fee. Honorary Vice-President Tony Waegeman will contact Mr. Princen and will act for the process to be completed, in order for the Politechnic to be a member from 2008.

Hellenic Rock Art, represented by Giorgio Dimitriadis, was officially welcomed in the Forum. The documents presented were accepted by the President (official request, statute) and the Assembly voted unanimously for the acceptance of the first Greek member.

A letter from Radost Ivanova, of the Ancient Plovdiv Municipal Institute was read to the Assembly by the President Adriana Martini. The delegate had no possibility of being present in Moissac, but asked officially the President to present the Association to the Assembly and to vote for its admission in Forum. Since all the presented documents were correct, the Ancient Plovdiv Municipal Institute was accepted as a associate member.

Arbeitskreis Denkmalpflege sends all years a message with summer activities and proposals, but the Association never participates into Forum meetings e Forum initiatives and has not paid the fee for years. The General Secretary will write to Arbeitskreis Denkmalpflege in order to clear this situation.

The Association KulturForschungsZentrum, after the resignation of Daniel Caleb Thompson as webmaster, never had any other contact with Forum. Since there was not even the payment of the first fee, Forum will not consider the Association in the members list any more.

Minutes of 2006 GA in Hasselt, minutes of Hasselt Board meeting of March 2007

The General Assembly read the minutes of the last General Assembly and noted that there was no mention of President election, which took place before the Board election. A revised version of the minutes was edited and will be joined to these minutes as well.

The minutes of Hasselt Board meeting were completed with the indication of Rempart resignation: the news was diffused in December 2006 and this modification of Members List was actually discussed in the Board, even if not present in the working schedule.

Board elections

The German Association KulturForschungsZentrum did not show any sign of interest in Forum after Hasselt meeting. There was no official communication, the mail returned to

sender and the only effective contact dated September 2006: Daniel Caleb Thompson declares that he cannot follow any more the Association's matters, nor the Forum web site, nor Forum Board where he was elected in Hasselt and had a role of webmaster.

After this resignation, Magali Boureux was temporarily chosen for the Board, during the meeting held in Maçao. Magali Boureux contributed to the collection of French volunteers for the Congress of Lisbon and gave her contribution for the organisation of the 17th General Assembly, hosted by the Association she is President of. Asked for candidature, Magali Boureux communicated her intention not to continue to be a member of the Board, for personal reasons.

The candidates for the Board were then:

Tony Waegeman, as honorary Vice-President
Giorgio Mastella
Catherine Breyer
Raffaella Gerola
Sara Cura
Maya Vatsparova

Having six candidates for six places, the Board was elected unanimously. Before the elections Catherine Breyer communicated to the Assembly her impossibility of being Treasurer of Forum any more: the Assembly invited her to present the candidature anyway and to remain simple Board member if elected.

Concerning the different charges among the Board members, after Catherine Breyer impossibility of being the Treasurer, no decision was taken, waiting to contact also Sara Cura who was not present at the moment.

In the meanwhile, for technical reasons, the Board – in absence of the Treasurer – agreed on moving the bank account of Forum to Italy, in order to be in an Italian bank in the same way the Statute is registered in an Italian court. The General Secretary will follow financial matters until a new Treasurer will be found.

This decision allows the Treasurer to control the bank account anyway using an internet connection, but the official documents can be all issued by the same National authority. For the last project presented last December, in fact, the official registration of the Statute and of the Budget were issued by Italian "Agenzia delle Entrate" (the tax office which also deals with official registrations) whereas the bank certification were issued by the Belgian Post Bank (the official bank of Forum): the original had to be sent by mail from the Treasurer in Belgium to the General Secretary in Italy to be joined to the other documents of the dossier. A delay in the delivery or – worse – a lost letter may have had as a consequence the exclusion of Forum dossier. This decision, then, is taken in order to allow Forum to choose the Treasurer anywhere in Europe and to keep the bank account in the same country were Forum has the official seat.

William Klinger, member of Gruppi Archjeologici del Veneto, was asked to be the webmaster.

Support for bodies active at European level in the field of culture

The Assembly discussed the project presented in December 2006 and had the possibility of seeing the preliminary results published by European Community. At the time of the Assembly the only evidence of EU official documents was the absence of Forum among the list of European Networks which presented eligible projects and which were to receive the requested grant.

It was not known at the moment of the Assembly whether Forum sent a “wrong” request, i.e. a request containing formal mistakes, or if Forum despite the correct request was not in the list of financed Networks.

The Assembly agreed on the lack of contacts from Forum side with the European Community officers. Only once Ginevra Rossignolo, a member of Gruppi Archeologici del Veneto, was in Brussels to ask some operational details about the request to be presented. All the delegates agreed on the necessity of increasing the contacts and to investigate in a deeper way the reason of Forum exclusion.

Forum should establish contacts with the Council Of Europe in order to be officially recognised by this Institution. This status should help for further grant requests.

Budget 2006

The Assembly agreed on the definition of new guidelines for the production of the Budget, which has to be a lot more detailed than nowadays. First of all it must include all the expenses related to the General Assembly and the Board meetings. These expenses are only virtually touching Forum budget, because they are paid directly by the participants to the organisers: this has to be reported anyway in the statute, obviously with zero balance (same in – same out). The same thing was decided for the activities considered “Forum activities”, like the camp in Smolyan of last year or the activities in Martinsicuro. These activities, in the same way, contribute with a zero income and zero expense for Forum, but contribute to increase the budget. The grants to be required, in fact, are a percentage of the budget and it is not possible for Forum to access to the grants presenting a budget around 5.000 € only. Including all the expenses of “Forum” summer camps and of the General Assembly the budget may increase to around 20.000€.

2006 budget, therefore, has to be integrated following the above mentioned criteria and will therefore be re-presented to the Assembly after the first Board meeting when the new Treasurer will be chosen.

In the meanwhile the General Assembly decided to increase the annual fee to 60€ from 2008 and the fee will be temporarily collected by the General Secretariat in the new Forum bank account that should be opened in Italy.

Another aspect of Forum financing was discussed in the occasion of European projects presentation and is mentioned below.

Forum website

Each Association should have an English page in its own website, so the Forum website can contain a link to the English version of the site of each Association. It is not correct, in fact, to link from the English pages of Forum website the home pages of the Associations in a language different than English.

European Projects

The President Adriana Martini proudly informed Forum that for the first time the network was officially recognised for its support and for its partnership research activity in the framework of a project. "To touch or not to touch", carried on with the University of Ferrara (Department of Natural and Cultural Resources), Municipality of Ostellato, Prehistory Museum of Gorges du Verdon (F), Museo dei Grandi Fiumi of Rovigo (I), Municipality of Amoljan (BG), Polytechnic of Tomar (P), Tra Kart Foundation (BG), European Center of Prehistoric Research (I), was accepted by the EU and received funding for its realisation. It was then possible to assign a part of its budget to Forum as a reimbursement for its international support. The 1.000 € is a significant step towards the possibility of using Forum as an active tool for support of working teams dealing with heritage at an European level.

The project "Park of Poetry" was presented by Stefan Radev. The Vaptzarov's Faith Foundation, founder of the Bulgarian Association for National Heritage, is the promoter of the idea. The Forum has decided - in the Hasselt General Assembly - to support this project and promote the realization of the initiative "Parks of poetry" in at least five European countries. The Forum will establish the necessary contacts in the members' countries, looking for partners interested to participate in the initiative of an international project, EU funded, called "Parks of poetry". The initiative of Vaptzarov's Faith Foundation for creating "Parks of poetry" in five European territories at least is patronized by the participants in the 8th World Writers Conference "The Strength and the Weakness of the Words in the Dialog of the Globalizing World". The initiative is developing under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr. Georgi Parvanov.

In the parks - both virtual and geographically defined - will be represented poets, awarded with the World Peace Award, as well as contemporary poets, and poets, that have contributed to the world cultural heritage. Poetry, theatre, music and all kinds of classical and contemporary art will be represented in the "Parks of Poetry".

Forum General Assembly in 2008

Forum General Assembly of 2008 will take place in Bulgaria hosted by the City Council of Smolyan. The second or the third week end of March.