

European Forum of Heritage Associations

Minutes of the XVIII General Assembly

The 18th General Assembly of the European Forum of Heritage Associations was held from May 1st to May 2nd 2008 in Tolfa, hosted by the Italian Association Gruppi Archeologici d'Italia (G.A.I.).

MAY 1st, 10 o' clock

Quorum evaluation

After the official opening by the President, the General Secretary stated the quorum: see attached file with the list of participating associations, present by delegates or by delegation.

Quorum 50% + 1 = 13

Present by delegates or by delegation: 19

Absents: 5

Counted the delegates and the delegations the General Secretary declared the validity of the Forum XVIII General Assembly:

First session: new members

FORUM President Adriana Martini presents the two new associations which asked for membership in the last months:

- Municipality of Edirne (Turkey), ancient Adrianopolis, presented by Adriana Martini. As written in the presentation letter sent by the Municipality, the town is involved from many years in cultural projects focusing on its archaeological heritage and it has already participated in Culture 2000 projects with some other Forum members. Edirne is really interested in becoming an active Forum member with its archaeological museum. Moreover the Municipality is considering the Forum partnership as an important added value for their request to insert the Selimiye Mosque in UNESCO World Cultural Heritage List;
- City of Rijeka Museum (Muzej Grada Rijeke, Croatia), presented by its delegate William Klinger. The museum is a civic public institution which is involved in educational sectors dealing with conservation and valorisation of historical heritage and is already networking at European level so it is willing to give a positive contribute in the growth of Forum network activities.

Before the vote, President Adriana Martini gives a short analysis of the composition of FORUM Members, pointing out that 40% of our members is now composed by local museums, strictly involved in educational and experimental activities or camps as most FORUM historical associations do and most of the time they act together with local volunteers.

VOTATION: both associations are approved and welcomed in FORUM with one abstention by Ilario Di Nardo, proxi for Archeolo-J, which had declared its doubts in accepting these bodies.

The General Secretary updated the G:A Quorum:

Quorum 50% + 1 = 14

Present by delegates or by delegation: 21

Absents: 5

First Session: Discussion on the Statutes

The General Assembly starts discussing on the Statutes. Most changes are made to correct obvious mistakes in grammar and syntax in the English text, to simplify sentences which were too specific and therefore restrictive of FORUM activities, and to delete sentences that are obsolete because refer to laws which have been cancelled.

The most important update/change is that museums and other similar public bodies will be considered full members and not only associated members as it was up to now.

See the attached document with the new approved Statutes

VOTATION: the new Statutes has been voted and approved unanimously

MAY 1st, 15 o' clock

Third Session: Election of the Board

As already formalized in the 2007 General Assembly, Catherine Breyer (Archeolo-J, Belgium) confirmed her decision to withdraw her candidature as Board Member. The other Members presented the intention to represent their candidature. Other candidatures were presented during the GA by the delegates. The candidates were reached on the phone and gave their agreement to be voted. The candidature were discussed and analyzed individually and the following list was voted unanimously.

VOTATION: the new Board is now composed by:

1. Tony Waegeman – Honorary Vice President
2. Raffaella Gerola (CIRA-Italy)
3. Ilija Godev (Smolyan-Bulgaria)
4. William Klinger (Rijeka- Croatia)
5. Giorgio Mastella (Gruppi Archeologici del Veneto-Italy)
6. Maya Vatzparova (Bulgarian Heritage Forum- Bulgaria)

After the election the GA is suspended for 30 minute to permit the Board Members to meet and select the tasks among them. They announced the following decision: for the next year the General Secretary will be Raffaella Gerola and the Treasurer will be Giorgio Mastella.

Fourth Session: Treasury

The new Treasurer Giorgio Mastella proposes to cancel the situation of the fees which have not been paid, as the effort is not worth the sum, and to stop the payment of fees for at least two years, in order to understand if fees are necessary. As a matter of fact, once fees were necessary because of secretariat costs (mailing and telephone), now, internet and e-mail have overcome all this. In the meanwhile, FORUM will work on EU projects and will check if the sums FORUM takes for them can be a substitute for fees.

VOTATION: the proposal is approved unanimously.

The new Treasurer will contact immediately Catherine Breyer to transfer the FORUM remaining funds in the new bank account, opened in Italy during the period of Treasury vacancy to be able to receive the amount of 1.000,00 € for the FORUM involvement in the Culture 2000 project "To Touch or not to touch".

Following the decision of the fees, the GA approved also to stop the reimbursement for the participation to the FORUM GA and to try to find some “sponsors” for it, linking the GA with some cultural event, helping the hosting member to realize it.

Fifth Session: 1) working group on the theme “How to improve the promotion of FORUM summer camps”

This working group is coordinated by Raffaella Gerola, who presents the draft of the file to be fulfilled by the members to promote their summer camps on the FORUM website.

Adriana Martini proposes to offer a better communication service, with press releases and documents on the camps activities to be published on the website, with photos and a more scientific report. The members are kindly invited to send more info about their activities all year around.

The FORUM webmaster and new Board member William Klinger is confirmed as webmaster, the General Secretary Raffaella Gerola will continue to be the collector of camps activities. The members are invited to send her all the info they want to be publishes on the website, using the form she has prepared for the camps and using a Word format with some photos for the other activities. Everything should be written in English.

After the discussion on the new proposals, G.A.I., Archeoclub of Venice, C.I.R.A. and Smolyan camps are presented, as well as a selection of old and new photos of activities during the first 18 years of FORUM. The FORUM camp of Martinsicuro, organised by Archeoclub of Martinsicuro and Gruppi Archeologici del Veneto has been presented, too.

MAY 1st, 21 o’ clock

Fifth Session : 2) working group on the theme “How to improve the promotion of FORUM Members in the field of European Projects”

After dinner, the other working group takes place, held by Adriana Martini. The discussion focuses on the projects of the new programmes 2007-20013, on the importance of being linked to territories, in order to have local bodies which can support FORUM proposals.

MAY 2nd, 10 o’ clock

Closing Session

The following morning delegates visit the Tolfa Museum, where many findings from G.A.I. excavations are exhibited. After the visit, the President officially closes the works, thanks all participants and invites them to Smolyan, Bulgaria, for the XIX General Assembly in 2009, probably during the Month of May, during some cultural events which will take place in Smolyan

The President
Adriana Martini

The General Secretary
Raffaella Gerola

Padova, May 31st, 2008