



17th EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting, Academy of Science, Vienna, Austria, 14:00 – 18:00, Thursday 7th May 2009 Draft Minutes*

*These minutes are approved by the EBLIDA Executive Committee and wait to be approved by the 18th Council.

- **Chair (except items 11 and 12):** Gerald Leitner, President of EBLIDA.
- **Chair for items 11 and 12:** Barbara Lison, Vice President of EBLIDA.
- **Minutes:** Joanne Yeomans, Director of EBLIDA from May 2009.
- **Present:** 65 representatives of Council including 9 members of the 2007-2009 Executive Committee, and all Expert Group Chairs.
- **Invited guests:** NAPLE Board, Andrew Cranfield (Director of EBLIDA to May 2009), Paul Ayris (LIBER representative).

1. Opening and Announcements

The President of EBLIDA, Gerald Leitner, opened the meeting and welcomed all delegates to his home city, Vienna, for the 17th meeting of the EBLIDA Council. He thanked the outgoing Director, Andrew Cranfield for his hard work and commitment, and introduced Joanne Yeomans who takes over as Director from May 2009 for a three-year term. The new Director gave a few words about her background as a science librarian in the UK and in Geneva at an international organisation and invited EBLIDA members to introduce themselves to her whenever an opportunity arose.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Ms. Karin Åström Iko, DIK (Sweden)
Mr. Osvaldo Avallone, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma (Italy)
Ms Michele Battisti, ADBS (France)
Mr. Berndt Fredriksson, Swedish Association of Archivists (Sweden)
Mr. Hans Geleijnse, LIBER (Netherlands)
Mr. Serdar Katipoglu, Bilgi University Library (Turkey)
Ms. Barbara Kräuchi, Swiss Library Association (Switzerland)
Ms. Jennefer Nicholson, IFLA
Ms. Sinnikka Sipila, Finnish Library Association (Finland)
Mr. Ben White, British Library (UK)

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes from the 16th Council Meeting, The Hague

The minutes from the 16th EBLIDA Council Meeting held in The Hague were approved with no amendments.

5. EBLIDA Annual Report 2008-09

The outgoing Director, Andrew Cranfield, presented the annual report for 2008-2009. He highlighted that the continuing focus of EBLIDA remained the lobbying for an improved situation for libraries concerning copyright and information law. However, there was now a broader range of activities reflected by the three newly formed Expert Groups on library education, digitization and culture.

Particularly successful had been the two seminars organised to coincide with meetings of the Expert Group on Information Law (EGIL) in Venice and in Helsinki. These had been much bigger than previous meetings with around seventy participants at each event and had resulted in the opportunity to spread information, to meet colleagues and discuss topics, and to really set a European agenda for particular items.

EGIL had been responsible for writing EBLIDA's response to the European Community's Green Paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy which had subsequently been taken as a blueprint by other organisations. EBLIDA had followed this up by meeting with the Head of the EC Copyright Unit. The message received from this meeting was that the arguments were now understood and that libraries should focus on demonstrating, with practical examples, what they would like to do but can't because of the restrictions currently in place.

EBLIDA had also taken a role in the discussion of Term Extension where the music industry is a strong lobbyist. The new proposals to extend rights to seventy years will go to the Council of Ministers and EBLIDA will continue to fight for no extension.

Through the Joint Expert Group on Digitization and Online Access (JEGDO), EBLIDA had tried to encourage European funding for digitization projects because some countries are still struggling to find resources of their own. A conference is organized for October 2009 which will look at some of the private-public partnerships that work on digitization projects.

In education the Information and Library Education Group (ILEG) is considering whether existing training courses are in line with what Library Associations want and need. The newly formed Expert Group on Culture and the Information Society (EGCIS) is starting to investigate the EU's aims for culture and how libraries fit into this, and to hence form a work plan.

The format of the EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting had been changed at the last meeting in 2008 when it was successfully combined with an associated conference and thereby attracted increased registrants compared to the forty to forty-five people present at the previous two meetings. The successful conference held alongside last year's Council Meeting in the Amsterdam Public Library with support from the Dutch Library Association had prompted the President to suggest a similar event for this meeting and has resulted in a record number of Council participants.

Co-operation with similar organisations had continued and resulted in a joint conference with IFLA and eIFL in Moldova. This was particularly successful as it resulted in Moldova bidding for, and winning, a grant from the Soros Foundation for an advocacy programme for more fair copyright legislation in the country. It was a clear demonstration of what can be achieved by talking to Civil Servants.

The membership campaign had targeted mainly those EU states who were not currently EBLIDA members. The aim being less to improve EBLIDA's finances which are in a satisfactory state, but more importantly to improve the legitimacy of EBLIDA's actions by demonstrating wide representation across Europe.

In summary, EBLIDA had tried to broaden its focus in line with suggestions from members, ensure wider membership representation, and build a more structured co-operation with sibling organisations.

The Annual work report was approved by Council.

The President emphasized the hard work that the outgoing Director and the Executive Committee had expended to try to reach the goal of having all EU countries represented by EBLIDA. The organisation now has a larger European membership than ever, except for two outstanding countries which EBLIDA would still like to represent for purposes of legitimacy. Efforts stay ongoing to try to achieve this goal.

The President gave his thanks to Andrew Cranfield for his work during his time with EBLIDA and offered a small gift. Andrew Cranfield thanked some individuals and expressed his pride in the hard work that had led this small organisation to the achievements it had reached.

6. EBLIDA Expert Groups. Reports from Chairs.

The President started by explaining that EBLIDA was famous for its work in copyright and since its establishment had done a lot for European libraries. Without EBLIDA he felt sure that there would be a much worse situation than we have now. The Executive Committee has slightly changed its strategy in recent times and wants EBLIDA to be more proactive and to attack other elements of interest to libraries. As a result four expert groups now exist, and the work of each will be described by the chair.

6.1 EGIL (Expert Group on Information Law) – Chair: Toby Bainton

The purpose of the EBLIDA Expert Groups is to help members on difficult topics and this group started out as enthusiasts and only later became experts. The three main aims are to maintain awareness, to address European institutions, and to cooperate with IFLA, LIBER, etc on the topic. Information law affects everything we do in libraries that's digital.

In 2008 the EGIL wrote a response to the European Commission's Green paper on Copyright in the Knowledge Economy and since then the group has followed up with visits to the authors of the paper. Work continues to follow-up on this.

Following the submission of the Medina Ortega Report to the European Parliament, EGIL also had the opportunity to meet with the author, Manuel Medina Ortega, and tried unsuccessfully to influence him. The group sent letters to all members of the European Parliament saying that EBLIDA disagreed with the report, and found allies in the telecommunications industry. The letters made a big impact and the action was a huge success resulting in the subsequent rejection of the report.

The group is also taking an interest in ACTA (the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement) which is being drawn up by a number of powerful states. It could affect libraries as the associated law might get rid of exceptions that make the work of libraries possible.

Toby Bainton thanked all the members of EGIL who are very active and quick to respond and support when action is required.

6.2 JEGDO (Joint Expert Group on Digitisation and Online Access) – Chair: Bas Savenije

The group is a joint group with membership also representing LIBER (The Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche). The volunteers who joined have experienced problems finding time to devote to the group and so it was not possible to make as much progress as hoped.

The mission of the group was to research the topic in relation to the European Union, maintain awareness for members, address European institutions when relevant, and to cooperate with other organisations. Specifically it wanted to encourage member states to formulate digitization policies, encourage long-term digital curation of the outputs of digitization programs, and seek to ensure that the output of research which is publicly funded should be publicly available, in line with the Berlin Declaration of Open Access. The full details of the mission will be put on the EBLIDA web site.

The priorities defined for 2009-2010 are to focus on what EBLIDA can do to help in the short-term. The group wants to formulate a position statement for EBLIDA on Open Access and also on Europeana, particularly from the point of view of public libraries which surprisingly are not well represented in Europeana. For this reason, and to encourage interest in digitization in public libraries, the group is looking for more representatives from this sector to join. If anyone is interested they are invited to contact Bas Savenije by email.

There will also be the 2nd LIBER-EBLIDA Workshop on Digitization of Library Materials in The Hague on October 19-21. Presentations include examples of public-private partnerships from academic and public libraries. All are welcome to attend and announcements about the programme and registration should be made shortly via the website: <http://www.libereurope.eu/node/391>

6.3 ILEG (Information and Library Education Group) – Chair: Jill Martin

This new group was founded in early 2008 and was a successor to the Professional Education Group (PEG) which looked at education and lifelong learning in a broader sense than this group. The group shares the three common mission aims of maintaining awareness of issues, addressing the European institutions, and cooperating with other organisations, in particular the European Association for Library and Information Education and Research (EUCLID).

The group would like to prepare a position statement on the Bologna Process (aimed at creating a European Higher Education Area) and the implications for libraries. It also hopes to pursue its aim to maintain awareness by developing a digital resource of materials and mapping library education in EU states and then beyond, through a questionnaire.

The group welcomed the Chair of EUCLID, Tatjana Aparac from Croatia, as a new member and propose to organise a joint conference in 2011.

The group suffers from not having enough members from Eastern Europe and Jill Martin invited interested parties to contact her for more information. It is also looking for people with experience of training digital librarians and anyone with information is asked to let Martin, or a member of the group know of any leads.

6.4 EGCIS (Expert Group on Culture and Information Society) – Chair: Barbara Lison

The group was set up because EBLIDA had previously not considered its position on cultural matters and the EU had other foci for their cultural agenda which did not take libraries into account. The group's mission was approved by the Executive Committee in autumn 2008. It shares the common mission of other EBLIDA groups: maintaining awareness of issues, addressing the European institutions, and cooperating with other organisations, and adds investigating and

analysing the European agenda on culture and information society issues, preparing statements and position papers for the Executive Committee in accordance with the strategy of EBLIDA, and supporting the collection and dissemination of information of relevance in the fields of European cultural and information society policy.

Findings so far indicate that since 2000, the European Commission has strongly used culture as a way to build social cohesion and European identity; EBLIDA needs to start raising awareness of libraries and archives as potential players in this field. Through the group, EBLIDA is now represented on the Access to Culture Platform and hopes to also gain participation in the Cultural Parliament where no library associations are yet represented.

Barbara Lison presented the work plan for the coming months which starts with the gathering and annotation of documents to link from the web site. They will follow EBLIDA's participation in the Access to Culture Platform and try to gather examples of best practise on "learning about culture and learning through culture" from/in libraries and archives (members are asked to send in any details of examples). In time they hope to formulate a statement on the importance of libraries and archives as elements of the EU cultural policy as a lobby-document for EBLIDA and then monitor its effect, mainly related to the EU-communication "European agenda for culture in a globalizing world". The group welcomes input from EBLIDA members and will continue to support EBLIDA's lobbying activities in relation to the EU's cultural policy.

A member of the Council: Jan-Ewout van der Putten, interjected to ask how it was going to be possible to implement all this work and whether it would be via the secretariat or the Executive Committee, for instance. Barbara Lison replied that all Expert Groups work for the Executive Committee and are not independent from the committee, the President or the Director. The secretariat is engaged but all groups are taking measures to reduce the effort required from the secretariat by, for example, organising at least one meeting in The Hague. The Director is required as a link between the groups but is not necessarily a fully active member of each group. The President added that the structure of the groups is now changed so that the Director is not the secretary for each group. Jan-Ewout van der Putten pointed out that the really hard work was lobbying, which required a lot of preparation and so the Director should not be weighed down with too many secretarial jobs. Barbara Lison clarified that not all participation resulted in a large volume of work, for example, EBLIDA would not be required to do much work if it became a member on the European Cultural Parliament, but that the Executive Committee would take care to balance the work and set priorities.

With regards membership, the group is looking for representatives from Eastern European states but anyone who is interested in these issues is invited to contact Barbara Lison.

6.5 EGELLL (Expert Group on Education and Lifelong Learning) – Chair: Joanne Yeomans

Although presented under the title of an Expert Group, this group has not yet been mandated by the Executive Committee. A first meeting of the Chair and three other interested persons had taken place in Vienna just prior to the Council meeting. They had agreed that following the meeting, the Chair would research and disseminate European documents relevant to the topic and that each would read up on this and think about what an Expert Group on this topic might achieve. They would also look into the involvement of libraries in lifelong learning within their own countries to get a feel for what was happening, and any interest shown by the national authorities for the involvement of libraries in this topic.

As some members of the group will attend the IFLA Milan conference, a second meeting would be organised there to look at the results of these studies and discuss again the value of such a group.

7. EBLIDA Annual Work Programme 2009-2010

The Director, Joanne Yeomans, presented the EBLIDA Work Programme for 2009-2010 starting with a reminder of EBLIDA's core purpose: lobbying at the European level, providing relevant and up-to-date information about EBLIDA and European library issues by seeking involvement in European projects and by organizing seminars and workshops of interest to the library and information community. These core aims remain the focus of EBLIDA's work programme.

In particular she highlighted how it was hoped to improve communication from and between the Expert Groups by improving the dissemination of information via the web site, the newsletter, and by pursuing the KIC project – to develop an online knowledge information centre on the topics targeted by the groups. Some work was also required to build the newer Expert Groups into more effective groups.

Established links with IFLA, LIBER, and NAPLE will continue to be developed, and meetings will continue with the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), the Frankfurt Group (European forum for academic and research information) and EUCLID. Relationships with CENL (Conference of European National Librarians) and ICA (International Council on Archives) will be investigated.

She reminded members that the 2nd LIBER-EBLIDA Workshop on Digitization of Library Materials will take place in The Hague on October 19-21 and hopes that many participants will join in as the programme looks very interesting.

Participation continues in the European projects Entitle and Communia, and begins on the licensing group in Europeana.

The EBLIDA strategy document will be revised and other preparations made for the next (18th) Council meeting in 2010. The Executive Committee will attempt to attract new members from other countries and organisations and will strive to involve the new members and retain current members by listening and reacting to concerns.

The secretariat in The Hague is now managed by Claudia Forero who began work in March at approximately the same time as the new Director and with this total change of staff there is a need to spend time familiarizing with procedures, attending relevant training, and learning about EBLIDA's members. The secretariat will aim to improve the web site, creating a new restricted members area, and improve communication and dissemination of information.

The work programme, which had been distributed in advance, was approved by the Council.

The President added some words concerning the follow-up that was intended on the topic of tomorrow's conference: A Library Policy for Europe. He showed to the Council a document discussed and agreed with the Executive Committee and then with NAPLE which he proposed to call the Vienna Declaration and which he intended to present at the end of the conference. It is important that the conference is not the end, but the beginning of the process and he hoped EBLIDA would be keen to work together with NAPLE on developing the White Paper mentioned in the first point.

8. EBLIDA Finances (Income/Expenditure/Balance: Financial Report). Bas Savenije, EBLIDA Treasurer

8a. Financial statement 2008

Four pages of the Auditor's report were distributed to members to accompany the spreadsheet describing the EBLIDA budget. The full report is available on request to any member wishing to see it.

The overall total expenditure in 2008 was lower than anticipated mainly because an amount had been set aside to cover for an overlap of staff if the Director, coming to the end of his contract, had left earlier than anticipated. In the end, the Director had worked to the end of his contract and so these costs are now pushed forward into 2009. Other costs were more or less as expected leaving an overall saving of around €5000.

Income was slightly down on the budget estimates because of the loss of some members but the savings in expenditure led to an overall surplus of €13,000, mainly due, as mentioned previously to the changeover of staff being in 2009 rather than 2008.

EBLIDA's capital has grown from €70,000 to €83,000 leaving the organization in a stable position. The audit, made by Bouwer and Officier, reports that everything is fine.

There were no questions and the financial report for 2008 was approved.

8b. Revised budget 2009

The budget for 2009 is revised in the light of the financial report for 2008: small raises are made to the miscellaneous office costs (insurance, etc), temporary employees (covering the overlap of new staff related to the departure of the Director and also that of the Office Manager following her resignation in January 2009), training and travel costs. A reduction is made to the location costs based on the recent trend seeing the costs decrease, and no allocation is made for legal advice as it is not foreseen that this will be necessary in 2009. In order to ensure the web site can be improved where necessary a small increase is made to these costs. Overall these amount to a slight increase in overall costs, and with current economic problems reducing the interest expected on bank accounts we can expect a deficit in the running budget at the end of 2009 of around €7000. This more or less matches the surplus in 2008 and should therefore pose no cause for concern.

A member of the Council: Jan-Ewout van der Putten, asked whether it wasn't better to include a small amount for legal advice in the event that something comes up unexpectedly in 2009. The Council needs to be assured that if legal advice is needed, there is money available. The Treasurer assured the Council that if legal advice were needed, money would be made available. Another member of Council, Pernille Drost, agreed with the Treasurer, that it would be strange to include money for something that was not foreseen.

The President asked if Council approved the revised budget as it stands and it was approved.

8c. Draft budget 2010

The Treasurer presented the budget for 2010. It includes a raise in salaries as predicted by Dutch inflation and an allowance again for temporary employees because the current staff is still new and under probation. Lower web site costs were foreseen, back at a level required simply for maintenance but training was increased to support the development of the new staff. The income is expected to be similar to 2009 leading to a small overall surplus of around €75.

Council member Jan-Ewout van der Putten asked again if there was nothing foreseen for legal advice and encouraged the Treasurer to include something. The President agreed that depending on the discussion on item 10 in the agenda, an amount might need to be set aside and so it was agreed to allocate €1000 for legal advice in 2010.

With the addition of €1000 for legal advice, the 2010 budget estimates were approved.

The President thanked the Treasurer for his work with EBLIDA during the term of his office.

9. Minutes of Executive meetings

The President proposed that unlike in previous meetings, the Council should not be asked to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee as they had not been present at these meetings. However, minutes would continue to be distributed and to be put online for members to access, and questions or comments were welcome either during the meeting, or at any time afterwards. No questions were asked therefore there was no specific discussion on any of the following sub-points and the meeting moved to item 10.

9a. The Hague, 8th May 2008

9b. Athens, 3rd – 4th November 2008

9c. Istanbul, 31st March 2009

10. EBLIDA Constitution

The issues of voting rights for associate members had been raised with the Executive Committee. Currently only full members of EBLIDA (mainly EU library associations) are entitled to vote and associate members (non-EU (European) associations, individual libraries, and other organisations not considered full members) are not. The Executive Committee members had sought input on the question from their own organisations and subsequently discussed it in several recent committee meetings. After considering the options, the committee proposes that a vote be awarded to associate members and that full members are awarded five votes in order to ensure a balance exists with the bias towards full members' wishes.

As such a change to the voting rights would require a change to the constitution, any other proposed changes should also be put forward and the committee would inform full members in time to discuss the proposals before voting at the 2010 Council meeting.

Council member Pernille Drost suggested sending a paper approximately six-seven months before the 2010 Council meeting describing the proposals in full and prompting discussion. The President agreed that this was a good idea. Council member Breda Karun said that she believed awarding associate members voting rights was a good move which might encourage new members and would help associate member representatives justify travel to the EBLIDA meetings.

The President went on to add that as a two thirds majority of full members is needed to change the constitution, as it was possible that this would not be reached and as there is currently nothing in the constitution about how to address the issue of non-quorum, the committee had sought legal advice on how to move forward. It was suggested that in these circumstances, an organisation can call a second meeting where quorum is not required to vote on the issue and that this second meeting can in practice be held five minutes after the first, as long as notice is given to members of the intentions and none of the members object to this procedure. The President suggested that this procedure therefore also be described well in advance so that members can be asked to agree to it.

11. Election for EBLIDA President

and

12. Election for EBLIDA Executive Committee

Barbara Lison took over as Chair for items 11 and 12.

She explained that she will step down from the Executive Committee as will Bas Savenije, Pernille Drost, Karin Åström Iko and Toby Bainton as they have all reached the end of their term.

There were nine candidates for the ten available positions on the Executive Committee therefore there were several options for Council to elect its new committee: by acclamation of all candidates, by a public vote on each candidate, or by a secret ballot. Lison asked first if any member of Council objected to an acclamation for either the committee posts or the post of President. As there were no objections, the nine nominated members were elected to the Executive Committee for the period 2009-2011 and the President was re-elected:

- Mr Gerald Leitner, BVOE Austria: re-elected to EBLIDA President.
- Ms Jill Martin, CILIP UK: re-elected.
- Mr Klaus-Peter Böttger, BID Germany: newly elected.
- Ms Lene Byrialsen, Danish Library Association: newly elected.
- Mr Berndt Fredriksson, Swedish Association of Archivists: newly elected.
- Ms Saara Ihamäki, Finnish Library Association: re-elected.
- Ms Gloria Perez Salmerón, FESABID Spain: re-elected.
- Mr António de Pina Falcão, BAD Portugal: re-elected.
- Mr Aldo Pirola, AIB Italy: re-elected.
- Ms Erna Winters, VOB Netherlands: newly elected.

All elected committee members presented themselves to Council and their biographies will be made available on the EBLIDA website.

Lison restated for confirmation by Council that there had been no wish for a vote and therefore all nominees, including the President, were elected by acclamation. Council confirmed its agreement and applauded the newly elected President and Executive Committee.

Gerald Leitner thanked the former Vice-President, Barbara Lison for her assistance and for her work supporting him as EBLIDA President. They had had a good team and ambitious work programme, and with great trust and pleasure in working together, he believes they have reached their goals. He thanked the outgoing Executive Committee and again expressed his pleasure at working with such trust, hard work and enjoyment with a great team of people. He presented some small gifts to Pernille Drost, Toby Bainton, Bas Savenije, and Barbara Lison and added some personal thanks to each one.

13. Council Meeting 2010

The President announced that the Finnish Library Association had agreed to host the EBLIDA Council in Helsinki in 2010. He invited Saara Ihamäki to say a few words.

Ihamäki explained that 2010 would be a year of great celebration in Finland: the Finnish Library Association is 100 years old and the Helsinki City Library is 150 years old so the city will see a variety of events celebrating these two anniversaries. They will be happy to invite EBLIDA Council to the beautiful city and provide a warm welcome to all members in May 2010.

18th EBLIDA Council Meeting will take place in Helsinki, Finland with an associated conference on 6-7 May 2010.

14. Any Other Business

Giorgios Glossiotis from the Association of Greek Librarians and Information Professionals described the proposal put forward together with the National Book Centre for an International Librarians Day which would aim to give libraries an opportunity to promote their services to users. It had been discussed in detail at a recent meeting and the proposal was currently being translated into English to send to EBLIDA, UNESCO and IFLA for our consideration and support. They would like to jointly lobby UNESCO and ask them to organise this day.

The President agreed that the Executive Committee would discuss such a proposal and looked forward to seeing more details.

15. Closure of Meeting

All members of Council were invited to share a cocktail immediately after the meeting followed by dinner in a typical Viennese restaurant.

As there were no more questions or comments, the President closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. He hoped everyone would enjoy tomorrow's conference and looked forward to welcoming everyone again in Helsinki in 2010.