



From Vilnius to Vienna: Report from the European Representatives on ILGA Executive Board

October 2007 – October 2008

ILGA has seen quite a few changes during the past year. Securing core funding enabled us to increase the number of staff at the office, organise a Board Meeting and solidly work on implementing the Strategic Plan. In addition to the number of interns and volunteers, the increase at the office has seen significant changes within the organisation. We have seen a definite positive change in both the administration and organisation of ILGA, and we foresee this to be a long-term and constructive implication.

The following are a few points of interest from ILGA, which happened over the past year.

1. **Board:** In May 2008 the ILGA Board met. All the members of the Board and staff were present. All the regions were represented and we have managed to tick all boxes on our very long agenda! The focus of the board meeting lay almost entirely to policy development, employment and governance matters. Several sub-committees were formed in order to sustain the work required by the Board. All Board members were able to participate at the Brussels Pride.
2. **Regions:** ILGA regions are at various stages of organisational development, some still being at their early stages. Regional conferences were held during the year: Europe (Vilnius, October 2007; Vienna, October 2008), LAC (Latin America and Caribbean) in September (Lima, Peru), Asia in January (Chiang Mai, Thailand) and Africa had its first regional board meeting in early 2008 (Johannesburg, South Africa). Two interim board members were elected for the North American Region. More work is needed to have a more active ANZAPI (Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands) region.
3. **Office:** The impact of the new Executive Director, Trevor Cook, on both the administration and organisation of ILGA has been very positive; and coming from ILGA-Europe, Françoise Barlet became the new ILGA's Finance and Administrative Officer. The office is still adjusting to the new office circumstances after ILGA-Europe's office move. At the same time, ILGA is very glad to be sharing the offices with new kids on the block, IGLYO!
4. **Communications:** ILGA secured funding from ARCUS foundation in order to revamp the websites. This is part of a wider Communication Strategy, which aims at strengthening the links between regions, increasing the visibility of ILGA and offering a better service to ILGA members, potential members and partners.
5. **Finance:** ILGA has a fast growing budget but hardly any working capital (assets), making the cash flow a delicate thing. [More information in the finance workshop at the World Conference.]
6. **Registration of ILGA:** following the changes in Belgian law ILGA is now registered as an international NGO. This required an extensive amount of time and energy. The ILGA World Conference will be deciding to close the previous registration in Belgium, under the name "ILGA-Belgium".
7. **24th World Conference:** after cancelling the Quebec World Conference scheduled for spring due to lack of funds, the Board issued a call for a new conference host. HOSI Wien (Vienna, Austria) stepped in and we are definitely looking forward to this 'double bill' Vienna conference. €20,000 donated by ILGA-Europe to ILGA for the World Conference Scholarships.
8. **25th World Conference:** Moscow 2010, as voted in Geneva 2006, was also cancelled after careful consideration, following discussions between ILGA Board representatives and Gay Russia. A fresh call for the Conference host 2010 is on the World Conference agenda.
9. **Membership matters:**
 - a. A number of membership policies are being implemented by the Office, as to better

ILGA's relationship with its membership.

- b. Issues discussed on the agenda include: discussion on 'dormant' members, introducing new fee levels, management of fee collection, reviewing application forms and status of various categories of membership. [See also the proposals to the World Conference.]
- c. Thanks to funding from ILGA-Europe, ILGA has a brand new, multi-purpose membership database. The database will enable ILGA to maintain members' details in a more accurate and protected way, offer additional services to members and potential partners and ease the approval procedures by the Regional and the World Boards.

10. Political developments:

- a) ILGA & IGLYO: the LGBT global youth mailing list is about to be launched! This collaborative project between ILGA and IGLYO is seen as only a first of many to come, and is part of both organisations' strategies to encourage participation of young people and increase the visibility of young LGBTI people around the world.
- b) UN: The work at the UN level has not stopped. New LGBT organisations were granted the ECOSOC status, now totalling to seven. There has been more attention to the UPR reviews and the introduction of the Yogyakarta Principles.

This is but a brief overview of ILGA's work during the past year. It has been our pleasure to be part of it and we look forward to see the unfolding of this new chapter in ILGA. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact one of us.

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Dublin, Amsterdam
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