



The European Region
of the
International Lesbian
and Gay Association

Avenue de Tervueren 94
B-1040 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: +32-2 732 54 88
Fax: +32-2 732 51 64

info@ilga-europe.org
www.ilga-europe.org

ACTIVITY REPORT

OF THE

ILGA-EUROPE EXECUTIVE BOARD

1999/2000

(24 October 1999 – 3 October 2000)

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A. BOARD MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS AND BOARD OFFICERS

The Executive Board elected by the 1999 Pisa conference was composed of **Nico Beger** (*Lesbenbereich Bündnis 90/Die Grünen*, Germany), **Adrian Relu Coman** (*ACCEPT*, Romania), **Isabelle Cruette** (*David et Jonathan*, France), **Tatjana Greif** (*SKUC/LL*, Slovenia), **Steffen Jensen** (*Landsforeningen for bøsser og lesbiske, LBL* – the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians), **Kurt Krickler** (*Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien*, Austria), **Jackie Lewis** (*National Lesbian and Gay Committee of UNISON*, the public sector trade union in the United Kingdom), and **Alberto Volpato** (*ÉGALITÉ – Equality for Gays and Lesbians in the European Institutions*).

As reserve members were elected: **Anke Hintjens** (*Federatie werkgroepen homoseksualiteit, FWH*, Belgium) and **Jan Willem de Jong** (*RozeLinks*, Netherlands).

The Board held four meetings during its period of office:

– on 24 October 1999, immediately following the end of the Pisa conference. Board members present: Adrian Coman, Isabelle Cruette, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis. Reserve members Anke Hintjens and Jan Willem de Jong also attended. Nico Beger was not present at the conference, Tatjana Greif and Alberto Volpato had already had to leave. It was agreed that the current co-chairs and the treasurer would continue until the first board meeting when elections would take place. Since none of the elected Board members was of Belgian nationality, the Board appointed, as required by the Constitution, a Belgian national, **Pierre Noël**, as an ex-officio member of the Board;

– on 15 and 16 January 2000 in Brussels. Board members present: Isabelle Cruette, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis, Pierre Noël, Alberto Volpato (on the first day). Reserve member Jan Willem de Jong also attended. Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler were elected Co-Chairs, Steffen Jensen was elected Treasurer;

– on 20 and 21 May 2000 in Brussels. Board members present: Nico Beger, Adrian Coman, Isabelle Cruette, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis, Pierre Noël (in the afternoon of the second day);

– on 22 and 23 July 2000. Board members present: Adrian Coman, Isabelle Cruette, Tatjana Greif, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, and Jackie Lewis.

The Board will have another meeting on 3 October 2000 immediately before the start of the 22nd ILGA-European Conference in Bucharest.

B. INTERNAL MATTERS

After more correspondence and a meeting with the responsible person in the Belgian Ministry of Justice, ILGA-Europe finalised the wording of the Constitution, as mandated, to meet the registration criteria. The registration, therefore, is expected to be effectuated before the end of 2000.

ILGA-Europe was provisionally registered as an association in Denmark because such an official registration was a requirement for applying for core funding with the European Commission (see under item D1).

C. RELATIONS WITH ILGA-WORLD

Jackie Lewis and Pierre Noël, representing the European region of ILGA on the ILGA-World executive board, have actively taken part in the undertakings of the ILGA-World board which is working on re-organising the office in Brussels and defining a work programme for the year to come. They participated in the ILGA world conference in Rome in July 2000. The next world conference is scheduled to take place in Oakland, USA, in the last week of August 2001.

D. LOBBYING THE EUROPEAN UNION

D1. Core funding application

In April 2000 ILGA-Europe submitted a grant application under the call for proposals VP/2000/004 – "support for the co-ordination activities of organisations operating at European level and active in fighting discrimination". Funds granted under this proposal are designed to cover core funding of European networks fighting against discrimination on the grounds listed in Article 13 EC. ILGA-Europe was obviously a candidate for such funding. The project grants under this call are also meant as a preparatory measure bridging the time gap until the Community Action Programme to combat Discrimination 2001-2006 will be in place (see under item D2).

In August 2000 ILGA-Europe received notice that its application was selected. This, however, was not least due to the continuous and consistent lobbying and participation in relevant activities at EU level over the last three years. ILGA-Europe has demonstrated with its many activities and its two publications, the 1998 *Equality* report and the 1999 *After Amsterdam* guide, to be a serious and trustworthy interlocutor and partner for anti-discrimination work at the European level. ILGA-Europe is widely recognised as the European LGBT political lobby. With this acknowledgement of ILGA-Europe's role by the EU institutions, ILGA-Europe has achieved one of its main aims formulated in its very first work programme adopted at its founding assembly in Madrid in December 1996.

In preparation of the grant application, the ILGA-Europe board met with the responsible Commission services in DG Employment and Social Affairs on 17 January 2000, including Rosendo González Dorrego, head of directorate D.2, who had addressed a keynote speech to the 21st ILGA European conference in Pisa in 1999. ILGA-Europe was also invited to the "Information Meeting on Preparatory Action for the Implementation of Article 13 on Non-discrimination" organised by DG Employment on 15 February to explain the details of the upcoming call for proposals.

The core funding budget is presented below under item G. The main features to be financed with this money would be: office space in Brussels, two employees – a full-time information officer and a half-time administrator –, expertise to be purchased (up to € 70,000), funding for

50 participants at the annual conference, a two-day policy meeting of 20 people acting as the focal contact persons in the EU member states, four board meetings, travels to meetings in Brussels and Strasbourg, office equipment, and the production of an ILGA-Europe leaflet, a quarterly newsletter and the annual report.

The Commission grant will cover 80 % of the project budget, i. e. € 216,000. ILGA-Europe will have to raise the rest of 20 % in cash, i. e. € 54,000. As mentioned above, it is expected that the Action Programme to be adopted by the European Council this year (see also item D2) will create the basis for further core funding at least until the year 2006. This funding opportunity is a unique chance for ILGA-Europe but also a big challenge in view of the requirement to contribute a rather huge sum in cash to the project. The support, including particularly in financial terms, of many ILGA members will therefore be needed so that use can be made of this opportunity.

D2. Implementation of Article 13 EC

Lobbying for a comprehensive implementation of Article 13 continued to be one of the most important activities of ILGA-Europe in the past twelve months. These activities followed and built upon the many activities of the previous years (see Board Report 97/98, item D4, and especially BR 98/99, item D1).

As reported, the Commission presented its first proposals for the implementation of Article 13 in discussions papers in May 1999. It was a "package" consisting of three elements, two directives and an action programme. ILGA-Europe had welcomed the proposal for a horizontal directive to forbid discrimination in employment on all grounds mentioned in Article 13 and the proposed action programme aimed at combating discrimination on all Article 13 grounds. However, ILGA-Europe had criticised the fact that the proposal for a directive to prohibit discrimination in other areas of EU competence was limited to the grounds of racial or ethnic origin. ILGA-Europe has made the argument repeatedly, including to the responsible Commission services, that this one-ground approach would undermine the principle of equal treatment and promote a hierarchy between discriminated groups and grounds.

On 12 October 1999, ILGA-Europe made another lobbying effort and wrote to all 20 members of the European Commission in order to influence their decision with regard to the discriminatory treatment of the various grounds in this package. On 25 November 1999 the European Commission finally adopted its Draft Communication to the Council, the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions "on certain Community measures to combat discrimination" accompanied by its proposals for

- a Council Directive "implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of racial or ethnic origin",
- a Council Directive "establishing a general framework for equal treatment in employment and occupation", and
- a Council Decision "establishing a Community Action Programme to combat discrimination 2001 – 2006".

These proposals, however, did not differ very much from those presented in the discussion papers in May 1999. ILGA-Europe issued a press release (see *Euro-Letter* # 75, November 1999). The concerns of ILGA-Europe, also shared by the Platform of European Social NGOs

(see also item H1), were ignored. ILGA-Europe's official response to these discussion papers submitted to the Directorate-General Employment (ex-DG V) in July 1999, and the recommendations of the *After Amsterdam* guide, which was published in September 1999 (see BR 98/99, item D5), therefore, have remained absolutely valid and up-to-date.

The Commission proposals were sent to European Parliament for consultation – the EP has no co-decision power here – and to the European Council. ILGA-Europe has closely followed the consultation process in the EP and the negotiations in the social questions working party of the Council. In spring 2000 it became evident that the EU – due to the entry of the far-right party FPÖ into the Austrian government in February – wanted to adopt the "race directive" extremely swiftly. Six of the main rapporteurs appointed to draft opinions and reports for the various EP Committees involved, and separately on each of the three elements, agreed to work closely together. However, the framework directive and the action programme – both dealing with sexual orientation discrimination – could not be dealt with before the summer recess of the EP due to the reluctance of German conservative MEP Thomas Mann to speed up his report on the framework directive. The report on the race directive, however, was adopted by the EP in May, and subsequently the Council adopted the directive in June 2000.

ILGA-Europe closely followed the drafting process of the various reports and opinions, including on the action programme (see also *Euro-Letter* # 79, April 2000). It continued its lobbying activities, also in co-operation with the Platform and its individual networks. Alberto Volpato and Kurt Krickler met with British Labour MEP Michael Cashman (13 January) and participated in meetings for NGO representatives organised for by ENAR, the European Network against Racism (10 February and 14 March). Volpato also attended a seminar organised by SOLIDAR (28 March). Krickler also met with Dutch Labour MEP Joke Swiebel (10 February) and, on behalf of the Platform, British Liberal Democrat Liz Lynne (2 March). He attended a couple of relevant events: the Labour MEPs round table on the non-discrimination package (30 March), the Platform seminar on anti-discrimination and Article 13 (15 May), where he gave a presentation, and the joint public hearing of the EP Committees on citizens' rights and freedoms, justice and home affairs and on employment and social affairs, *The Fight against Discrimination: New Perspectives under Article 13* (23 to 24 May). Angela Mason, executive director of ILGA member *The Stonewall Group for Lesbian and Gay Equality* was one of the panelists.

ILGA-Europe participated in the meetings of the Platform working group on social policy and anti-discrimination and also met with the rapporteurs on the Article 13 package for the Committee of the Regions, Peter Moore (28 January), and the Economic and Social Committee, Sukhdev Sharma (1 March). A couple of concerns expressed by ILGA-Europe were taken up by Mr Moore in his report later adopted by the Committee.

At all these meetings and occasions – and on many more (see Board Calendar pp. 23-26) – ILGA-Europe distributed its *After Amsterdam* guide. A lot of positive feedback has been received from many people and organisations. 3,500 of the 5,000 copies printed of the English version have been distributed so far. Both the French and German version (each printed in 1,000 copies) are out of print. Of the 1,000 Spanish copies, 200 are left. HOSI Wien has been helping with the dispatch of the guides and spent around € 300 on postage since the project accounts were closed in October 1999. On 1 March 2000 ILGA-Europe distributed copies of the guide to all 626 Members of the European Parliament – they were accompanied by a cover letter stressing once more the main concern of ILGA-Europe with regard to the hierarchy in the protection from discrimination created by the Commission proposals.

In summer 2000, the Budapest-based ILGA member *Háttér Baráti Társaság a Melegekért* translated the guide into Hungarian and published it, adding various relevant documents and articles on aspects and issues relevant for Hungary. The publication received EU funding under the PHARE programme's micro projects strand.

In August 2000 ILGA-Europe finally prepared a position paper on the details of the employment directive and the action programme with regard to the debate and vote of the various reports in the EP Committees in September. These reports are expected to be voted on by the plenary of the EP in October. After this, the Council is expected to conclude its negotiations and adopt the employment directive and the action programme before the end of the year 2000. Expert advice for the position statement was received from Mark Bell, Robert Wintemute and Kees Waaldijk.

ILGA-Europe also submitted this position paper to the responsible Commission services. It is also meant as an aid for ILGA members in the EU member states to lobby their national governments. This lobbying will be crucial in the final phase because the 15 governments represented in the Council will finally decide the details of the directive and the action programme. After adoption, the member states will have three years to implement the directive in national law. If the proposal is adopted, it will be an important progress for a majority of the member states that do not yet have legislation prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in employment and occupation.

On a regular basis, ILGA-Europe has also provided up-dated information on these developments to its mailing list specifically created after the Article 13 seminar in Vienna in October 1999. Via this mailing list, the participants of the seminar, who are supposed to function as national focal points, have been able to co-ordinate lobbying activities with ILGA-Europe and exchange relevant information. This mailing list was also used to up-date people on the development on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (see item D6).

D3. *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project

In September 1999, ILGA-Europe and *Mobility International*, a federation of organisations of and for disabled people, joined a project application which *UNITED for Intercultural Action, the European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees* submitted as the lead partner to the European Commission (see BR 98/99, item D6). Under this call for proposals VP/99/016 "preparatory measures aimed at combating and preventing discrimination in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty" have been funded. It was the first call for proposals ever to explicitly include sexual orientation discrimination in its setting. Pre-conditions for projects to be selected included addressing more than one ground of discrimination listed in Article 13 and building on transnational partnership. The project was called "Stepping Stones and Roadblocks" and was to compare successes and failure factors in action against discrimination on the various grounds, and the various ways of working of the three networks/movements.

In December 1999, UNITED was informed that the project was selected and the Commission would grant € 166,000 for the project whose total costs are budgeted to amount to € 202,000. UNITED is responsible for the financial administration of the project since UNITED is the contract partner of the Commission.

In December, the work on the project started: a first two-day planning meeting was held in Brussels. In January 2000 a leaflet to introduce the project was produced and another three-day planning meeting was held between the three project partners. Jackie Lewis, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler and Pierre Noël have been involved in the work on ILGA-Europe's side. Further planning meetings were held in conjunction with the first two of the three project seminars, and on 24 July to plan for the research part of the project and the final report. On 9 June ILGA-Europe was also represented in a meeting the Commission organised for all project leaders of proposals selected under the call VP/016/1999. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange experiences and to feed-back to the Commission on the various aspects of this call for proposals, for example the advantages and disadvantages of addressing more than one ground of discrimination in a joint project, the administrative and financial rules involved, and on evaluation criteria.

The core activity of the project were three four-day seminars, each organised by one of the networks. Each workshop gathered around 30 to 40 participants principally from the organising network, but with five participants came from each of the other networks.

The Mobility International workshop was held in April in Brussels, the UNITED one in May in Dammarie-les-Lys near Paris, and the ILGA-Europe one in June in Vienna. HOSI Wien helped with the preparations and practical arrangements of the Vienna seminar. Each of the workshops has produced a 7-page report that is also translated into French and German. Additionally, ILGA-Europe has also produced a comprehensive full report of its seminar. All reports will be soon available at ILGA-Europe's web site. The project will be terminated by December 2000 and a project report will be published.

D4. Other and new project applications

In March 2000 ILGA-Europe submitted a project application to the Directorate-General for Education and Culture under the budget heading A-3024. Under this heading the European Union finances projects organised by association and federations of European interest. ILGA-Europe applied for € 25,000 for the annual conference in Bucharest. However, in June we were informed that the application was not selected.

ILGA-Europe was also much in demand as a partner for applications. ILGA-Europe finally joined, as a transnational partner, two other applications under the new call for proposals (VP/2000/013) for "preparatory measures aimed at combating and preventing discrimination in accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty". This call was issued by the Commission in March 2000 under the same budget line (B5-803) as the *Stepping Stones and Roadblock* project (see item D3).

One of the two applications was submitted by SOLIDAR, an independent alliance of social welfare, life-long learning, development and humanitarian aid NGOs, and the project is about best practice in non-discriminatory access to services provided by the voluntary sector – a guide of good practice will be produced.

The other application was submitted by *Paritätische Wohlfahrtsverband*, a welfare organisation based in Germany, and the project is about organising a conference to mainstream the results of anti-discrimination projects on the European level.

No decision as to the selection of these two applications has yet been made.

D5. Other activities at European Commission level

As a postscript to the last board report – the news had arrived too late to be included – it can be mentioned here that the European Commission's Representation in Italy granted its honorary patronage to the 21st ILGA European conference in Pisa last year.

In January 2000 ILGA-Europe met with Mr Jari Haapala of Directorate-General IA (External Relations/Europe and the New Independent States) to get information on the ACCESS programme which replaces the LIEN programme and is aimed at strengthening civil society in the ten candidate countries in Central and Eastern Europe. The programme provides three strands, one – called "networking facility" – is to support NGOs in these countries to participate in activities organised at EU level. Through the Platform, European NGOs such as ILGA-Europe were later asked to provide the Commission services with a list of their events to which they would like to invite participants from accession countries. The Commission delegations in these countries were then supposed to grant funding, under the networking facility strand, to these participants. ILGA-Europe listed the Bucharest annual conference and the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* seminar in Vienna, however, the implementation of the programme was delayed so that it could not be used for these two events.

In January 2000 ILGA-Europe wrote to Commission president Romano Prodi and commissioner Michel Barnier with regard to the Intergovernmental Conference which is again revising the Treaties. ILGA-Europe raised two issues: the need for strengthening Article 13 by giving it direct effect and by providing for qualified majority vote in the Council and co-decision procedure with the Parliament for the adoption of measures to combat discrimination, and the Platform demand for incorporating a clause into the Treaty to institutionalise the civil dialogue with NGOs.

In February 2000 ILGA-Europe wrote again to Prodi expressing its deep concern about the new government in Austria and the negative effects this may have on the already precarious situation of lesbians and gays in that country.

ILGA-Europe participated in the two sessions of the bi-annual meeting between the European Commission (DG Employment) and the Platform of European Social NGOs held on 1 and 30 March 2000.

In March 2000 ILGA-Europe wrote to commissioner António Vitorino welcoming the fact that same-sex partners had been taken into consideration on equal terms with opposite-sex non-married partners in defining family members for the purpose of the proposal for a Council Directive on the right to family reunification. The proposal was drafted under his responsibility and presented by the Commission on 1 December 1999. ILGA-Europe's request for a meeting with Vitorino was not met.

D6. European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights

The European Union plans to adopt a Charter of Fundamental Rights at the European Council meeting in Nice on 7 to 8 December 2000 (see BR 98/99, item D3). A Drafting Convention made up of 60 representatives of the European Parliament, national parliaments, and member states, has been developing the text of the Charter throughout the year. The Convention is due to finalise its proposals for consideration by the member states in October 2000.

Following the developments in drafting the Charter and lobbying where appropriate was another priority of ILGA-Europe at EU level. The Charter was the main topic discussed in a meeting with Austrian Green MEP Johannes Voggenhuber (10 February) who is also one of the rapporteurs for the EP on the Charter.

In March 2000 it was announced that the Convention would proceed to a hearing of representatives of civil society. Interested NGOs were requested to make themselves known to the secretariat of the Convention. ILGA-Europe did so. Nigel Warner, London-based participant in the work of the ILGA-Europe board (see also items E and H2), drafted, with the assistance of Dr Robert Wintemute (School of Law, King's College, London), and Dr Kees Waaldijk, (Faculty of Law, University of Leiden), both an oral and a written presentation. Kurt Krickler delivered the oral presentation to the Convention in the hearing that took place in the EP building in Brussels on 27 April 2000. ILGA-Europe argues for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the non-discrimination clause, and for the clause on the right to marry and to found a family to adopt language recognising the diversity of relationships in contemporary Europe. The written submission was also published, like a lot of other relevant material, at the Convention's web site (see also *Euro-Letter* # 79, April 2000).

ILGA-Europe participated in another NGO event on the Charter. On 6 June the Permanent Forum of Civil Society organised an Open Day in the European Parliament intended as a forum to discuss the draft charter with Convention members. However, only a very few members showed up, including Dutch Labour MEP Ieke van den Burg.

ILGA-Europe was also involved in the activities of the Platform of European Social NGOs, in particular in the joint campaign of the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the Platform: *Fundamental Rights: The Heart of Europe*. In the context of this campaign, Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler attended the UK and the Austrian national conferences respectively (26 May; 14 July) as well as the Final European Campaign conference held in Brussels on 31 August to 1 September 2000.

At the time of writing, the text proposed by the Convention includes sexual orientation, but not gender identity, in the non-discrimination article. The article concerning the right to marry and to found a family designates these issues as a matter for national legislation, and therefore excludes them from the scope of the Charter.

If the final version of the Charter retains sexual orientation in the non-discrimination article, it will be the first international human rights charter to do so. The Charter is likely to be declaratory in nature rather than legally binding. Even so, the inclusion of sexual orientation would be important in confirming that the European Union must not discriminate on grounds of sexual orientation and would be likely to influence the actions of both the Commission and the European Court of Justice.

D7. Work with the European Parliament

The Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbian Intergroup that existed in the previous Parliament has not yet been officially re-established. However, an informal intergroup already met twice, on 15 March and on 14 June 2000. Kurt Krickler participated in the June meeting and introduced ILGA-Europe.

ILGA-Europe started to lobby and work together with Members of the European Parliament on various issues even without the intergroup being officially in place (see also items D2 and D6).

On 30 November 1999 ILGA-Europe participated in the Preparatory Hearing of the EP Committee on citizens' freedoms and rights, justice and home affairs with a view to the 1999 debate on an area of freedom, security and justice (AFSJ) in Brussels. This was a follow-up to the March 1999 Interparliamentary Conference on the AFSJ (see BR 98/99, item D7). ILGA-Europe prepared a two-page written contribution to which a document was added which Nigel Warner had prepared for the 1st European Human Rights Discussion Forum that started in Brussels on the very same afternoon (see item D8). Kurt Krickler took the floor in the debate and underlined the importance of including sexual orientation in the anti-discrimination clause of the proposed EU Charter on Fundamental Rights (see item D6). He also stressed "that discrimination of lesbians and gays also constitute a severe obstacle to the free movement of persons, especially for those same-sex couples legally registered in one Member State. If they wished to move to another Member State without similar legislation, they would lose their status as a quasi married couple and be considered as complete strangers to each other. This is completely unacceptable."

Another lobbying target was the report on the Commission's draft communication to Member States establishing the guidelines of the Community Initiative Programmes (CIP) for which member states are invited to submit requests for aid in the context of the EQUAL programme (transnational co-operation for the promotion of new practices to fight against discrimination and inequality of any kind in relation to the labour market). While the Commission's proposal explicitly mentioned all grounds of discrimination listed in Article 13 EC to be taken into account in these guidelines, the rapporteur for the Committee on employment and social affairs, Austrian Conservative MEP Ursula Stenzel, proposed to delete any such wording. Through amendments tabled by other political groupings, this could be prevented. After adoption of the communication ILGA-Europe informed its member organisations in the EU member states to lobby their national governments to take discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation into account when implementing the initiative (see *Euro-Letter* # 80, June 2000).

ILGA-Europe carried out a substantial lobbying effort to get relevant amendments to the annual report on respect of human rights in the European Union (1998-1999) which was drafted by Danish Liberal MEP Bertel Haarder for the Committee on citizens' freedoms and rights, justice and home affairs. ILGA-Europe contacted the rapporteur and proposed several amendments, but unfortunately most of them were ignored. ILGA-Europe, therefore, approached friendly MEPs before the debate and vote of the report both in the committee and in the plenary. Most of the proposed amendments were tabled and finally adopted in the plenary on 16 March. The report (doc. A5-0050/2000) refers to sexual orientation in seven paragraphs which make some quite substantial recommendations (see press release published in *Euro-Letter* # 78, March 2000). On that day, NGOs were invited to an exhibition in the EP Building in Strasbourg to present themselves. ILGA-Europe could not send any representative to the exhibition, but its friends in the Parliament displayed information material.

In January 2000 ILGA-Europe also wrote to the two representatives of the EP in the intergovernmental conference and the two rapporteurs of the EP Committee on Constitutional Affairs on the IGC to communicate our concerns to them (see also item D5).

D8. Other activities at European Union level

ILGA-Europe continued its "tradition" of meeting with representatives of the EU presidency. On 10 November 1999 Hannele Lehtikuusi, activist of *SETA* and member of the first ILGA-Europe board (1996/97), and Kurt Krickler had a meeting with representatives of the Finnish Presidency in Helsinki. They met with Johanna Suurpää, counsellor in the human rights unit, and Petri Helander, legal officer in the legal department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. An immediate result of this meeting was an invitation extended to ILGA-Europe to attend – as one of only around 30 NGOs – the 1st European Human Rights Discussion Forum organised by the Finnish EU Presidency in Brussels on 30 November to 1 December. Nigel Warner prepared a 12-page document, "Sexual Orientation Discrimination in Member States of the European Union and the Accession Countries", which was distributed at the forum.

On 17 March 2000 ILGA-Europe had a meeting with a representative of the Portuguese Presidency. Kurt Krickler met with João Pedro da Silveira Carvalho, *director-geral dos Assuntos Comunitários* in the Foreign Ministry in Lisbon.

On 7 April ILGA-Europe participated in the Official Opening of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC) in Vienna.

E. LOBBYING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The past year has again seen a high level of activity at the Council of Europe, with four major areas of work: the proposal for a Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights extending the scope of its anti-discrimination provision; Recommendations by the Parliamentary Assembly on the situation of lesbians and gays in Europe, and on discrimination in asylum and immigration practices; and the membership applications of three countries with laws which ban same-sex relationships between men. Each of these areas of work has presented important opportunities for promoting LGBT rights, opportunities which are either of their nature "one-off", or are unlikely to be repeated in the foreseeable future.

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

E1. Protocol No 12 to the European Convention on Human Rights

The anti-discrimination provisions set out in Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights have a significant weakness: protection from discrimination is provided only with regard to "the enjoyment of the other rights and freedoms" in the Convention. There is no general right to freedom from discrimination, leaving any discrimination not related to one of the rights in the Convention unprotected.

In March 1998 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe initiated the development of an optional Protocol to the Convention with a view to remedying this deficiency. If implemented successfully, this will represent the first extension to the Convention's anti-discrimination provisions in its 50-year history.

ILGA-Europe has used the opportunity presented by this event to mount a major campaign to get sexual orientation and gender identity included in the list of prohibited grounds of

discrimination included in the draft Protocol. As reported last year (see item E2(i)), in May 1999 ILGA-Europe made submissions arguing this case to the committee responsible, the intergovernmental Steering Committee on Human Rights. However, when the Committee of Ministers published its proposed draft of the Protocol in August 1999, ILGA-Europe's recommendations had been ignored.

Following publication, the draft Protocol was referred to the Parliamentary Assembly for its Opinion. ILGA-Europe immediately contacted the rapporteur for the Assembly, Senator Erik Jurgens of the Netherlands, and proposed to him the inclusion of both sexual orientation and gender identity. He was supportive of the inclusion of the former. His reasoning, as expressed in the wording of the Opinion was unequivocal: "[the Assembly] believes that the enumeration of grounds in Article 14 is, without being exhaustive, meant to list forms of discrimination which it regards as being especially odious. Consequently the ground 'sexual orientation' should be added".

The Assembly debated the Opinion on 26 January 2000. The great majority of speakers were substantially in favour of the inclusion of sexual orientation in the draft Protocol, including those representing three of the four largest political groupings in the Assembly, the Socialists, the European People's Party, and the Liberal Group. Only the conservative European Democratic Group was opposed. Despite this, an attempt to delete "sexual orientation" from the Opinion was only narrowly defeated: opponents of gay rights had remained silent, hoping that the apparent absence of opposition would lead its supporters to leave the Assembly (see press release published in *Euro-Letter* # 77, February 2000).

Prior to the debate ILGA-Europe had written to more than 300 parliamentarians providing additional information in support of the Opinion, and urging them to be present for the debate.

The Opinion was then forwarded to the Steering Committee on Human Rights for its response. ILGA-Europe took this opportunity to make a second submission to the Steering Committee. This submission, which was prepared by Dr Robert Wintemute, was also sent, together with supporting material on discrimination in Europe, to the 41 European Foreign Ministers who make up the Committee of Ministers. Despite these efforts, the Opinion of the Assembly was rejected, and in June 2000 the Committee of Ministers adopted the text of the Protocol unamended. It will be opened for signature by the member states at a Ministerial Conference to be held in Rome at the start of November 2000 in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Convention.

Although the objective of ILGA-Europe's campaign was not achieved, the fact that the Parliamentary Assembly, consisting of parliamentarians from some 41 countries, had voted in support of the inclusion of sexual orientation, was an important statement of support for lesbian and gay rights, and a real success for ILGA-Europe.

The Assembly's Opinion can be found at: <http://stars.coe.fr/doc/doc00/edoc8614.htm> and the text of the debate at: <http://stars.coe.int/verbatim/20001/E/0001261500E.htm>

E2. Report and Recommendation on the situation of lesbians and gays in Council of Europe member states

This Report and Recommendation prepared for the Legal affairs and Human Rights Committee of the Assembly covers the whole range of discrimination experienced by lesbians

and gays in Europe, and puts forward proposals for tackling this both at the level of member states and at the level of the Council of Europe. The scope of the Recommendation is such that, if adopted, it will constitute the single most important statement by the Assembly on gay and lesbian rights since the 1981 Recommendation on "Discrimination against homosexuals".

The Assembly debated the Recommendation on 30 June 2000. Although the great majority of speeches were very supportive, opponents of the Recommendation succeeded in postponing the vote until the September 2000 session of the Assembly, on the basis that insufficient parliamentarians were present for there to be a quorum.

The Recommendation calls for a range of actions by member states in support of lesbian and gay rights, including:

- making sexual orientation a prohibited ground for discrimination in their national legislation,
- the repeal of all laws making homosexual acts between consenting adults liable to criminal prosecution, and the release of anyone imprisoned under such laws,
- the application of the same minimum age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual acts,
- ensuring equal treatment with regard to employment
- adopting legislation which makes provision for registered partnership for same-sex couples.

It also repeats the Assembly's call to the Committee of Ministers to add sexual orientation to the grounds of discrimination prohibited by the European Convention on Human Rights, and calls for the terms of reference of the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) to be extended to cover homophobia.

The Report was prepared for the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee by a Spanish Socialist Member of Parliament, Ms María del Carmen Calleja. Following her departure from the Assembly in the spring of 2000, her role was taken over by a Hungarian Socialist Member of Parliament, Mr Csaba Tabajdi.

In preparation for the Report an all-day hearing was held before the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Assembly in Paris on 14 October 1999. Expert evidence was presented on a range of subjects including homophobic hate crimes, employment discrimination, the criminal law, the problems of lesbian and gay youth, registered partnership, parenting, and the recognition of sexual orientation discrimination in national and international law. Sweden's sexual orientation ombudsman Hasse Ytterberg also made a presentation on his role and experiences. Information for the Report was also collected by means of a questionnaire sent to the governments of member states.

ILGA-Europe provided extensive support to the rapporteurs. This included helping with organising the Paris hearing (including suggesting many of the experts), drafting the questionnaire, providing evidence in the form of a 30 page survey of discrimination in Europe (copies of which were sent to around 100 parliamentarians), and assisting with speech preparation. ILGA-Europe also wrote to around 300 members of the Assembly urging their support for the Recommendations and co-ordinated a lobbying campaign by its members at national level, and by other networks, including the Amnesty International Group for LGBT Concerns, the International Lesbian and Gay Youth Organisation, and the European Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation (see also *Euro-Letter* # 80, June 2000).

The Report can be found at: <http://stars.coe.fr/doc/doc00/edoc8755.htm> and the text of the debate at: <http://stars.coe.int/verbatim/20003/E/0003301000E.htm>

E3. Report and Recommendation on the situation of lesbian/gay couples with regard to asylum and migration

On 30 June 2000 the Parliamentary Assembly voted to support a Recommendation which expressed concern that immigration policies in most Council of Europe member states discriminate against lesbians and gays, and called on member states to:

- recognise as refugees homosexuals persecuted on account of their sexual orientation
- ensure that bi-national lesbian and gay couples are accorded the same residence rights as bi-national heterosexual couples (see also *Euro-Letter* # 81, August 2000).

ILGA-Europe will now lobby the Committee of Ministers to respond to the Assembly's Recommendation by making a similar recommendation to the member states.

The Report, which had been prepared under the auspices of the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography, commented that "Persecution on grounds of sexual orientation is widespread and just as horrifying and harmful in many countries as persecution for reasons of religion or political belief". It drew attention to the small, but growing number of countries that recognise persecution on the basis of sexual orientation as a ground for asylum.

On the rights of bi-national couples, the Recommendation noted that "the failure of most member states to provide residence rights to the foreign partner in a bi-national partnership is the source of considerable suffering to many lesbian and gay couples who find themselves split up and forced to live in separate countries".

The Report and Recommendation were prepared by an Austrian Social-Democrat Member of Parliament, Ms Irmtraut Karlsson. Following her departure from the Assembly, her role as rapporteur was taken over by Ms Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold of Switzerland (Socialist).

ILGA-Europe provided much of the factual information used in the Report, assisted with the drafting of both the Report and the Recommendation, and provided Ms Vermot-Mangold with material for use in her speech during the debate in the Assembly. Lobbying in support of the Recommendation was carried out as part of the campaign in connection with the Recommendation on the situation of lesbians and gays in Europe described above.

The text of the Report can be found at: <http://stars.coe.int/doc/doc00/edoc8654.htm> and the text of the debate at: <http://stars.coe.int/verbatim/20003/E/0003301000E.htm>

E4. Applicants for membership of the Council of Europe

Applicants for membership of the Council of Europe are required to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Parliamentary Assembly that their observance of human rights is at least consistent with the minimum standards set by the Council of Europe, or are required to give binding undertakings that they will meet these standards within a short period of accession. The abolition of laws which make same-sex acts between consenting adults illegal is, in theory, one such requirement. The rapporteurs for the Political Affairs Committee and for the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee of the Assembly have the role of establishing the

position of a particular applicant country, and proposing the binding undertakings needed for the Assembly to support accession.

Twelve months ago three countries, Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, were known to be at a relatively advanced stage in the application process. In all three same-sex relations between men were illegal (in the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, only in the territorial entity of the Republika Srpska). In the early part of 1999 ILGA-Europe had expressed its concerns to the rapporteurs for these countries, concerns which were repeated in late 1999. At the January 2000 session of the Assembly ILGA-Europe learned from one of the rapporteurs for Bosnia and Herzegovina that it had been decided not to recommend that repeal of the law in the Republika Srpska be a binding obligation. ILGA-Europe immediately wrote to the 180 members of the two committees urging them to insist that repeal of the laws in question be made a binding obligation in the case of all three countries.

At the April 2000 session of the Assembly ILGA-Europe learned that the admission of Armenia and Azerbaijan was to be debated in June. A number of parliamentarians were lobbied in person, and letters sent to a further 80. The Political Affairs Committee did not respond, and their report ignored the issue. Fortunately the Legal Affairs and Human Rights Committee (which had the task of giving an Opinion on the Report of the Political Affairs Committee) proposed amendments insisting on the repeal of the laws in these two countries. In the event, news came from Azerbaijan shortly before the June Assembly session that a new criminal code, in which the ban on gay relationships was repealed, had been approved by the Parliament. Accordingly, the amendment in respect of Azerbaijan was withdrawn. However that in respect of Armenia was tabled, and carried by an overwhelming majority.

This was a valuable achievement by ILGA-Europe – in Armenia, prosecutions of gay men are known to continue to take place, with the Ministry of the Interior admitting to four such prosecutions in 1999.

EUROPEAN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

E5. Celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Convention

The 50th anniversary of the Convention is to be celebrated at a European Ministerial Conference on Human Rights (Rome, 3-4 November 2000). The Conference will address a number of themes related to the future operation of the Convention, including "Threats to the principles of equality and non-discrimination", and will produce a number of texts intended to give the Council of Europe political impetus and guidelines for its work across the entire human rights sector in the coming years.

ILGA-Europe was one of only 20 NGOs invited to participate in an NGO Forum in Rome in February 2000, the purpose of which was to give NGOs the opportunity to contribute to the preparation of the texts for the Conference. ILGA-Europe was represented by Dr Robert Wintemute, who chaired the sub-group working on the theme "Threats to the principles of equality and non-discrimination", and presented the Forum's conclusions on this theme at a joint meeting with the Steering Committee on Human Rights at the end of the Forum. In its conclusions on this theme, the NGO Forum placed particular importance on the fact that discrimination based on sex, race, ethnic or national origin, or religion is not the only serious and harmful kind of discrimination in the Council of Europe countries, and that discrimination

based on disability, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity can be just as serious and harmful.

ILGA-Europe also made a submission in its own right to the Drafting Group of the Steering Committee on Human Rights. This was also prepared by Dr Robert Wintemute.

Despite the conclusions of the NGO Forum, and ILGA-Europe's submission, the most recent texts prepared by the Drafting Group make no reference to discrimination based on disability, age, sexual orientation or gender identity.

E6. Judgements by and cases pending at the European Court of Human Rights

The 12 months since ILGA-Europe's last Annual Report have seen the European Court of Human Rights deliver judgements on three separate subjects which are of the greatest importance in establishing the extent to which the Court now considers sexual orientation discrimination to be in violation of the Convention. These cases involved employment in the armed forces (*Lustig-Prean and Beckett v. the UK*, and *Smith and Grady v. the UK*), a gay father's custody rights (*Salgueiro Da Silva Mouta v. Portugal*), and the discriminatory definition of privacy (*A. D. T. v. the UK*). Of particular importance was the parallel drawn by the Court between racial prejudice and sexual orientation prejudice in the armed forces cases, and the Court's acknowledgement in the custody case for: "that the [Lisbon] Court of Appeal made a distinction dictated by considerations relating to the sexual orientation of the father, a distinction which cannot be tolerated under the Convention" (paragraph 36, unofficial translation into English from the French text).

The Stonewall Lobbying Group, a member of ILGA-Europe, was closely associated with the *Lustig-Prean & Beckett* and *A. D. T.* cases. ILGA-Europe issued a press release on the armed forces case calling Germany, Greece, Poland and Turkey to lift their restrictions on military service by lesbians and gay men (see *Euro-Letter* # 74, October 1999).

Another case, *Fretté v. France*, involves the refusal of the French authorities to allow a gay man to be considered as a prospective adopter. ILGA-Europe, with the help of Dr Robert Wintemute, has provided support and advice to M. Fretté, the admissibility of whose case is currently being considered by the European Court of Human Rights.

E7. Other activities at the Council of Europe

ILGA-Europe's delegates have also participated in the NGO Groupings at the Council of Europe. They attended meetings of the Human Rights, Gender Equality, Civil Society in the new Europe, and Social Rights Groupings. Its delegates also attended the annual Plenary Conference of NGOs in January 2000.

In April 2000 ILGA-Europe submitted a paper to the Council of Europe NGO Working Group on the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights arguing for the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the non-discrimination clause of the Charter.

ILGA-Europe's representatives to the Council of Europe in 1999/2000 were Nico Begger and Nigel Warner.

F. LOBBYING THE OSCE

There have not been any relevant OSCE meetings since the Pisa conference. Therefore, there were almost no lobbying activities with regard to the OSCE in the last twelve months. ILGA-Europe, however, participated in the OSCE Anniversary Celebration "25 Years Helsinki Final Act" in Vienna on 19 July 2000, and in the OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension meeting on "Migration and Internal Displacement" on 25 September. At this meeting, ILGA-Europe distributed copies of the Council of Europe report on immigration adopted in June 2000 (see item E3).

G. FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Accounts for 1999

Apart from the EU funded project to produce the guide *After Amsterdam – Sexual Orientation and the European Union* (see item D2) and to organise the seminar *The Treaty of Amsterdam – New Opportunities for Protection from Sexual Orientation Discrimination*, ILGA-Europe had income of a little more than € 13,000 in 1999.

63 % of this income were generated by donations from individuals and member groups (*HOSI Wien*, and *LBL* of Denmark to cover travel expenses for Steffen Jensen). 30 % of the income came from ILGA-World covering about 10 % of the fees paid by European members of ILGA. The voluntary fee of € 70 for full members and € 35 for associate and individual members gave less than € 1,000.

Barely € 4,800 were used for board travel and meetings. However, this amount does not reflect the actual expenses for board meetings as some board members had their expenses covered by others sources. *UNISON* covered expenses for Jackie Lewis, and the Slovene branch of the Open Society Institute (OSI) covered expenses for Tatjana Greif.

The total result for 1999 is a surplus of € 7,863, which, added to the capital from previous years, give a total capital at the end of 1999 of € 12,097.

After Amsterdam project

The total costs of this project, including the seminar in Vienna on 2 and 3 October 1999 and the production and translation of the guide in four languages, amounted to € 58,358 (including € 8,000 as in-kind contribution from authors of the report and experts at the seminar).

The EU Commission covered a little less than 50 % of the costs, the Austrian government 29 %. 7 % were covered by ILGA-Europe's nine project partners (*HOSI Wien*, *UNISON*, *LBL*, *SETA*, *RFSL*, *Stonewall*, *ÉGALITÉ*, *Fundación Triángulo* and *PAN-Fonden*), the in-kind contributions made up barely 14 %.

Accounts for the current year

The accounts for the current year – as of July 2000 – show an income of € 2,087, mainly generated by a donation from one individual. The expenditures in the first half of 2000, mainly for board travel and meetings, have totalled € 2,700, leaving a deficit of a little more than € 600, which has reduced the capital accordingly. In August, however, ILGA-Europe received donations amounting to € 2,600 from the Madrid-based *Fundación Triángulo* (€ 2,000) and from one individual.

In August 2000, ILGA-Europe was informed that its grant application for core funding for its EU related activities in 2001 had been approved by the European Commission. ILGA-Europe must contribute in cash 20 % of the total costs related to this project (see also item D1).

The following budget has been set up for this project:

Personnel	126,000 €
Travel and subsistence	75,000 €
Printing, translation etc.	28,000 €
Equipment, rental, etc.	12,000 €
Contingency reserve	12,000 €
Administrative costs	<u>17,000 €</u>
Total	270,000 €

The Commission grant of 80 % of the total project costs will amount to € 216,000. ILGA-Europe, therefore, will have to raise € 54,000 from other sources.

H. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS

H1. Platform of European Social NGOs

ILGA-Europe has continued its commitment within the Platform during the last twelve months. Membership in the Platform has been again extremely important for the positive developments and progress ILGA-Europe has made at EU level, including in financial terms as the Platform has financed the participation in various events which ILGA-Europe itself would not have been able to cover. For example, Isabelle Cruette and Kurt Krickler participated in the Citizens' Agenda 2000 NGO Forum in Tampere in December 1999 during the Finnish EU Presidency where ILGA-Europe was co-presenting a theme seminar on "anti-discrimination and the EU" with other Platform members. ILGA-Europe also participated in the Platform conference on *Civil Dialogue and the European Union: Strengthening Social Cohesion* (in Lisbon in November 1999) and in two conferences of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) held in Helsinki and Lisbon. ILGA-Europe also attended the meetings of the Steering Group and the College of the Platform on a regular basis (see Board Calendar).

Thanks to a letter of the Platform to President Jacques Chirac, the three "wise men" tasked to assess the situation in Austria after the entry into government of the far-right FPÖ finally agreed to receive representatives of civil society. On 29 August, 21 representatives of Austrian NGOs participated in a hearing with Martti Ahtisaari, Jochen Frowein and Marcelino

Oreja. Kurt Krickler was officially representing the Steering Group of the Platform at this hearing, and also testified as a representative of HOSI Wien on the human rights violations against homosexuals in Austria. These violations, however, were later completely ignored in the report of the three wise men.

H2. Pink Triangle Coalition

ILGA-Europe is a member of the Pink Triangle Coalition, an international coalition for coordinating affairs relating to the Nazi persecution of gay men and lesbians (see previous Board reports). In the past year, ILGA-Europe contributed to the work of the Coalition in various ways.

On 12-13 February 2000 the Coalition, working through one of its members, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), co-organised with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung a colloquium on the *Persecution of Homosexuals under the Nazis*. Two ILGA-Europe representatives, Kurt Krickler and Nigel Warner, participated in the conference which also was used to discuss future activities of the Coalition including the submission of a claim under the Swiss Banks Settlement. Under this settlement reached in the New York courts with certain Swiss Banks, some US\$ 1.25 billion compensation will be paid to victims of Nazi persecution or their heirs in respect, inter alia, of assets deposited in Swiss Banks and slave labour which benefited Swiss entities.

These discussions within the Coalition continued in an international telephone conference on 21 February during which the plan for such a submission, drafted by Nigel Warner, was finalised.

Recognising that very few of the homosexual victims or their heirs would make claims, ILGA-Europe, on behalf of the Coalition, finally submitted to the Court a proposal that a sum of money be allocated for the establishment of a Foundation in memory of the homosexual victims of Nazi persecution. This Foundation would fund education about, and research into, the Nazi persecution of homosexuals. To date there has been no reaction to this proposal submitted on 29 February.

H3. Open Society Institute (OSI)

In November 1999 ILGA-Europe received a project grant of US\$ 10,900 from the Open Society Institute in Budapest. This grant will cover the main part of the costs to publish a report on the situation of lesbians and gay men in the 13 EU accession countries – a report similar to ILGA-Europe's 1998 *Equality* report. The title of the project is *Lesbian and Gay People in the Candidate Countries for EU Membership*. The work on this report is co-ordinated by board members Tatjana Greif and Adrian Coman. In the first phase of the project, potential authors of the country reports from Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Turkey had to be found. At the time of writing this report, the various contributions are being collected and edited. The project is to be concluded by December 2000.

H4. Heinrich Böll Foundation

ILGA-Europe has started co-operation with the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, the non-profit political foundation affiliated with the Green Party in Germany. There have been contacts before – for example on 6 December 1999 Nico Beger met with people from the Foundation to discuss possible co-operation, and see also item H2 –, but in August 2000 a joint project was finally agreed. The HBS is funding the Bucharest conference in October 2000 with an amount of € 20,760.

H5. LGBT organisations

ILGA-Europe representatives were also invited to events of member organisations and other LGBT groups.

On the occasion of a visit to Portugal, Kurt Krickler joined António Serzedelo (*Opus Gay*) in a meeting (on 16 March 2000) with a representative of the minister for equal opportunities to discuss the implementation of Article 13.

On 25 March Kurt Krickler held a workshop about ILGA-Europe at the general assembly of the Swiss *Pink Cross* in Neuchâtel.

On March 27-28, *Nash svit (Our World)*, a lesbian and gay group based in Lugansk, Ukraine, presented the Russian translation of ILGA-Europe's 1998 report *Equality for lesbians and gay men – a relevant issue in the civil and social dialogue* (which is out of print in its English, French, German, and Spanish versions but still available in all five languages at ILGA-Europe's web site). On behalf of ILGA-Europe, Pierre Noël attended the seminar and the press conference that *Nash svit* had organised on this occasion. Andriy Maimulakhin, of *Nash svit*, and Pierre Noël were guests of the morning programme on all-Ukrainian television on 28 March.

On 30 May Isabelle Cruette represented ILGA-Europe in a public debate around homophobia. Other panelists were Bernard Bersinger (Communist Party), the Parliament's rapporteur on the *PaCS*, as the French registered partnership is called, ILGA activist René Lalement and the president of the national *AIDES* federation. The debate was called *Homosaiques* and took place in Isabelle's home town Clermont-Ferrand.

On 24 July Isabelle Cruette and Kurt Krickler gave a presentation on ILGA-Europe and its activities in a workshop at the Euro-Mediterranean Summer University on Homosexualities in Marseilles. Isabelle stayed until the end of the event and networked with French activists. It was a good opportunity to present ILGA to French people. Volunteers to translate the *Euro-Letter* into French on a regular basis came forward.

On 8 September Kurt Krickler was a guest speaker at the 7th conference of the European Pride Organisers' Association (EPOA) in Vienna.

I. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The information work has continued in the last year. The web site of ILGA-Europe has been regularly up-dated with press releases, pieces of news and documents produced. All the submissions, statements, documents, etc. mentioned in this report are available at: www.ilga-europe.org.

The *Euro-Letter*, published on behalf of ILGA-Europe by the *Gay and Lesbian International Lobby* in Denmark in co-operation with the Danish Lesbian Association for Gays and Lesbians *LBL*, has continued to appear on a monthly basis.

The Board handled again a large amount of correspondence and replied to many requests and inquiries from individuals and groups. For internal communication and decision-making within the Board, hundreds of emails have been sent and received between Board members.

ILGA-Europe board members participated also in some other events. Nico Beger addressed the International Congress of Young Liberals in Berlin in November 1999, Isabelle Cruette represented ILGA-Europe in the Women World March in Paris. And ILGA-Europe is also invited to take part in an event on the situation of lesbians and gays in Europe at the EXPO in Hanover on 27 September.

J. SUMMARY

ILGA-Europe has had another extremely successful year despite its limited financial and personnel resources. ILGA-Europe has further consolidated its status as the lesbian and gay lobby at European Union level, and has established itself also at the Council of Europe as a serious player and partner in the human rights context.

Like last year, however, it must be stated that ILGA-Europe again failed to set enough resources aside to market its good work, results and achievements and to rally more support of the member groups behind its activities.

K. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The extensive work of the past year would neither have been possible without the work and commitment of the many people who have supported the various activities of the Board. We cannot mention them all here but special thanks have to go to Nigel Warner, Robert Wintemute, Mark Bell, Tom Hoemig, Enrique Góngora, Kees Waaldijk and António Serzedelo.

BOARD CALENDAR 1999/2000
MEETINGS AND TRAVELS
(an overview)

October 1999:

[events in the previous board term not reported in the last board report calendar:

- 2-3: Seminar *The Treaty of Amsterdam – New Opportunities for Protection from Sexual Orientation Discrimination under Article 13*, **Vienna**
- 14: Hearing of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on the situation of lesbians and gays, **Paris**
- 15-16: Economic and Social Committee (ESC) convention of representatives of civil society organisations at European level, **Brussels**
- 24: ILGA-Europe Board meeting, **Pisa**

November:

- 5: Steering Group meeting of the Platform of European Social NGOs, **Brussels**
- 8-9: *Social Exclusion in Europe: Time for Action*, conference on national and European policies to combat poverty and social exclusion, organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), **Helsinki**
- 10: Meeting with representatives of the Finnish EU presidency, **Helsinki**
- 18-19: Conference *Civil Dialogue and the European Union: Strengthening social cohesion*, organised by the Platform of European Social NGOs, **Lisbon**
- 20: Platform College meeting, **Lisbon**
- 24: International Congress of Young Liberals, **Berlin**
- 30: Preparatory Hearing of the EP Committee on citizens' freedoms and rights, justice and home affairs with a view to the 1999 debate on an area of freedom, security and justice, **Brussels**
- 30: 1st European Human Rights Discussion Forum, **Brussels**

December:

- 1: 1st European Human Rights Discussion Forum, **Brussels**
- 3-5: NGO-Forum Citizens' Agenda 2000, **Tampere**
- 6: Meeting with Heinrich-Böll-Foundation on possible co-operation, **Berlin**
- 18-19: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Brussels**

January 2000:

- 13: Meeting with MEP Michael Cashman, **Brussels**
- 15-16: ILGA-Europe Board meeting, **Brussels**
- 17: Meeting with EU commission services/DG Employment, **Brussels**
- 21: Platform Steering Group meeting, **Brussels**

- 21: Meeting with DG External Services on the ACCESS programme, **Brussels**
- 24-27: Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly session, **Strasbourg**
- 28: Meeting with Peter Moore, rapporteur on the Article 13 package for the Committee of the Regions, **Brussels**
- 29-31: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Amsterdam**

February:

- 10: Article 13/Anti-Discrimination meeting organised by the European Network against Racism (ENAR), **Brussels**
- 10: Meeting with MEP Johannes Voggenhuber, **Brussels**
- 10: Meeting with MEP Joke Swiebel, **Brussels**
- 12-13: International Colloquium *The Persecution of Homosexuals under the Nazis*, **Berlin**
- 15: Information Meeting on Preparatory Action for the Implementation of Article 13 on Non-discrimination, organised by DG Employment, **Brussels**
- 21-22: Council of Europe NGO Forum in preparation of celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights, **Rome**
- 29: Meeting of the Platform working group "social policy and anti-discrimination", **Brussels**

March:

- 1: Bi-annual meeting between the European Commission and the Platform of European Social NGOs (1st part), **Brussels**
- 1: Meeting with Sukhdev Sharma, rapporteur on the Article 13 package for the Economic and Social Committee, **Brussels**
- 2: Platform Steering Group meeting, **Brussels**
- 2: Meeting with MEP Liz Lynne, **Brussels**
- 14: Article 13/Anti-Discrimination meeting organised by ENAR, **Brussels**
- 16: Meeting with João Manuel Nunes Abreu, *assessor do gabinete* of the Portuguese Ministry for Equal Opportunities, **Lisbon**
- 16: Platform Steering Group and College meetings, **Lisbon**
- 17: EAPN seminar *Mainstreaming Social Inclusion into all Policies to Promote Social Cohesion*, **Lisbon**
- 17: Meeting with a representative of the Portuguese EU Presidency, **Lisbon**
- 25: General Assembly of Pink Cross, **Neuchâtel**
- 27-28: Presentation of the Russian translation of ILGA-Europe's 1998 *Equality* report, published by the Ukrainian ILGA member "Nash svit" (Our World), **Kiev**
- 28: Article 13 seminar, organised by SOLIDAR, **Brussels**
- 30: Bi-annual meeting between the European Commission and the Platform of European Social NGOs (2nd part), **Brussels**
- 30: Labour MEPs round table on the European non-discrimination package, **Brussels**

April:

- 3-6: Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly session, **Strasbourg**
- 7: Official Opening of the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia (EUMC), **Vienna**
- 12: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Brussels**
- 13-16: *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* seminar "on equal rights for people with disabilities, **Brussels**
- 16: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Brussels**
- 27: Hearing of the Convention tasked with drawing up a Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union, **Brussels**

May:

- 3: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Melun/Dammarie-les-Lys**
- 4-7: Seminar *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks in the Struggle against Racism*, **Melun/Dammarie-les-Lys**
- 7: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Melun/Dammarie-les-Lys**
- 15: Platform seminar on anti-discrimination and Article 13, **Brussels**
- 20-21: ILGA-Europe Board meeting, **Brussels**
- 23-24: Joint hearing of the EP Committees on citizens' freedoms and rights, justice and home affairs and on employment and social affairs: *The Fight against Discrimination: New Perspectives under Article 13*, **Brussels**
- 26: National UK conference for the ETUC/Platform campaign *Fundamental Rights: The Heart of Europe*, **London**
- 26: Platform Steering Group meeting, **Brussels**
- 30: *Homosaiques*, debate around homophobia, **Clermont-Ferrand**

June:

- 6: Open Day in the European Parliament devoted to the Charter of Fundamental Rights, organised by the Permanent Forum of Civil Society, **Brussels**
- 9: Meeting for project leaders of proposals selected under the call VP/016/1999 for preparatory actions to combat discrimination in the framework of Article 13 (*Stepping Stones and Roadblocks*), organised by DG Employment, **Brussels**
- 14: Meeting of the EP "Gay and Lesbian Rights" intergroup, **Strasbourg**
- 18: Women World March, **Paris**
- 22-25: *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* seminar "Combating Sexual Orientation Discrimination", **Vienna**
- 26-30: Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly session, **Strasbourg**

July:

- 4-7: ILGA World conference, **Rome**
- 8: World Pride, **Rome**
- 6: Platform Steering Group meeting, **Brussels**

- 14: National Austrian conference for the ETUC/Platform campaign *Fundamental Rights: The Heart of Europe*, **Vienna**
- 19: OSCE Anniversary Celebration "25 Years Helsinki Final Act", **Vienna**
- 22-23: ILGA-Europe Board meeting, **Brussels**
- 24: Planning meeting for the *Stepping Stones and Roadblocks* project, **Brussels**
- 24-30: Université d'été euroméditerranéenne des Homosexualités, **Marseilles**

August:

- 29: Meeting with the three "wise men" appointed by the EU to report on Austria, **Heidelberg**
- 30: Platform College meeting, **Brussels**
- 31: Final European ETUC/Platform Campaign Conference *Fundamental Rights: The Heart of Europe*, **Brussels**

September:

- 1: Final European ETUC/Platform Campaign Conference *Fundamental Rights: The Heart of Europe*, **Brussels**
- 8: 7th conference of European Pride Organisers' Association, **Vienna**
- 12: Fringe meeting on the ETUC/Platform charter campaign at the TUC congress, **Glasgow**
- 25: OSCE Supplementary Human Dimension meeting on "Migration and Internal Displacement", **Vienna**
- 27: Information forum on the situation of lesbians and gays in Europe at the EXPO, **Hanover**