

(31 December 1996-9 October 1997)

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## **A. BOARD MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS AND ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS**

The Executive Board elected at the Madrid Conference consisted of: Mili Hernández, Steffen Jensen, Milus Kotisová, Kurt Krickler, Hannele Lehtikuusi, Jackie Lewis, Enric Vilà, and Mark Watson. The following were elected as reserve members: Eva Ogenborg and Gonzalo Diniz.

The Board met immediately following the end of the Conference and agreed that, since none of the elected members was of Belgian nationality, the Board needed to appoint an

ex-officio member of Belgian nationality in accordance with Article E.2 of the Constitution. The Board unanimously agreed to appoint Pierre Noël as that ex officio member.

The Board has held four meetings so far during its period of office, as follows:

- on 31 December 1996 in Madrid (attended by all elected members except from Mark Watson who had already left Madrid when the results of the elections were announced; Pierre Noël also attended);
- on 5 and 6 April 1997 in Brussels (Mili Hernández had announced her resignation from the Board at the beginning of April; Eva Ogenborg, who was elected as a substitute in Madrid, was invited to the meeting but could not make it at such short notice; all other Board members attended the meeting);
- on 3 July 1997 in Cologne (Jackie Lewis and Enric Vilà could not attend);
- on 26 and 27 July in London (attended by Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis, Pierre Noël, and Mark Watson).

The Board plans to have another meeting just before the 19th European ILGA Conference in London on 9 October 1997.

At its first meeting, held directly after the end of the Madrid Conference, the Board decided that since one of the Board members had already had to leave the conference before being notified of his election and of the Board meeting, it would elect the chairs of the Board on an acting basis until the second meeting. Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler were elected on this basis. The Board then elected Jackie and Kurt as chairs at its second meeting in April.

The Board agreed at its first meeting to appoint Pierre Noël as the minute taker for Board meetings.

At its second meeting, the Board decided that it needed to appoint a Treasurer with responsibility for dealing with its income and expenditure, and for providing the Board with reports on the financial position. Steffen Jensen was elected to this position.

## **B. ESTABLISHMENT (REGISTRATION) OF ILGA-EUROPE**

As mandated by the Madrid Conference, the Board - assisted by Chille Deman - pursued the registration of ILGA-Europe as an international association under Belgian law. For this purpose, necessary technical changes were made to the Constitution in accordance with the decisions of the Madrid Conference. A new clause G.3 ("Any change of this Constitution must be published in the Annexes to the 'Moniteur Belge'.") was added.

Pierre Noël translated ILGA-Europe's Constitution into French. The request for registration was then sent to the competent Belgian minister of Justice. The Board will report on the latest position at the London Conference.

## **C. PREPARATION OF DRAFT STANDING ORDERS AND RULES OF DECISION MAKING PROCEDURES FOR THE BOARD INCLUDING FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

As mandated by the Madrid Conference, the Board prepared both draft Standing Orders for the running of European Regional Conferences and rules for decision making within the Board including financial regulations. Jackie Lewis drafted both proposals which will be presented to the London Conference, the draft standing orders for adoption by the conference.

## **D. RELATIONS TO ILGA WORLD**

Board members participated in the ILGA Secretariats Committee meetings in Brussels on 22 and 23 March 1997 (Milus Kotisová and Kurt Krickler) and in Cologne on 29 June 1997 (Steffen Jensen).

Since the new ILGA World Constitution adopted in Cologne does not mention regional secretariats, the Board decided to delete, prior to registration, the last sentence in clause E.1 of ILGA-Europe's Constitution as a technical amendment - as the Board was mandated to do in Madrid.

The Board also discussed the problem which arises from the fact that the new ILGA World Constitution provides for two European regions (Western Europe and Eastern Europe), although the Madrid Conference had very clearly decided to establish one regional structure and adopted a constitution for that structure. The Board decided to present to the London Conference a proposal which is in line with the decision made in Madrid for dealing with this situation.

## **E. LOBBYING THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **1. Action Plan and follow-up**

Based on the outline of an Action Plan which Alberto Volpato of Égalité had produced and which was discussed at the Madrid Conference and based on the conclusions of that conference (see item M below), the Action Plan with "24 ideas for European Commission-led initiatives" towards equality for lesbians and gays in Europe was finalised in early 1997. The full text of the Action Plan was published in "Euro-Letter" # 49 and also distributed in the first mailing for the 19th ILGA European Conference. The Action Plan is a list of possible initiatives which ILGA-Europe wishes to be financed and implemented by the European Commission. The Action Plan is a policy document. It can be successful and effective only if ILGA member associations and any other organisation, company or institution which wish to promote equality for lesbians and gays submit project proposals to the Commission, using the Action Plan as an official reference and guideline.

Steffen Jensen was responsible to mail the Action Plan, on 31 March 1997, to almost 100 addressees within the European Commission and Parliament as well as to the permanent representatives to the EU of all European and Mediterranean states. The response to this mailing was overwhelming. 17 out of 20 Commissioners answered to ILGA-Europe's request for a meeting with their representatives, some by referring the issue to other commissioners. Until now, ILGA-Europe has had meetings with representatives of 6 commissioners:

A first meeting took place already on 23 April. Alberto Volpato met with Mr. A. Pierucci from the Cabinet of Commissioner Marcelo Oreja, responsible for information, culture and audio-visual policy. On 21, 22 and 23 May 1997, ILGA-Europe had five meetings with the following persons (in chronological order):

1. Isabel Pérez-Minayo, assistant in the Cabinet of commissioner Manuel Marín, Vice-president of the European Commission, responsible among other things for the relations with Mediterranean, Latin American and Asian (with some exceptions) countries
2. Ranveig Jacobsson, Deputy Head of the Cabinet of Commissioner Anita Gradin, responsible for immigration, justice and the interior
3. Julie de Groote, member of the Cabinet of President Jacques Santer

4. María-José Cueto Faus, administrator in DG V, she received us on behalf of commissioner Pádraig Flynn, responsible for employment and social affairs
5. Babette Nieder, member of the Cabinet of Édith Cresson, responsible for research, education and youth.

ILGA-Europe representatives in these meetings were Alberto Volpato, Kurt Krickler, plus Mark Watson in the meeting with Mrs Jacobsson.

The main purpose (and probably the main result) of our meetings was certainly to introduce ILGA and ILGA-Europe, start a PR and lobbying offensive, and to confront our interlocutors with our concerns and demands. We also explained the importance of taking up the issue of "sexual orientation" and "homosexuality" on all EU levels and in all relevant contexts. All the services and institutions of the EU should be sensibilised for the topic, and ideally they would integrate and include it as a matter of course in all their activities where appropriate. This message of "mainstreaming" our concerns was perfectly understood by all our female interlocutors who obviously are familiar with this approach from the fight of women to mainstream women's issues. In this context, we asked that the Action Plan be distributed in the services of the Commission as broadly as possible in order to raise and create awareness. The Action Plan, for instance, was already distributed in the human rights inter-service group by Ms Napoli (human rights co-ordination unit in DG IA).

Another common "trait" in all meetings was the importance which all EU representatives attributed to the fact whether "sexual orientation" would be included in the Amsterdam Treaty (see below) or not.

Human Rights was another important topic. Human rights violations against lesbians and gays should be reported to the EU delegations in third countries. Local groups should write to the office of the European Commission in their countries and document human rights abuses. This information could be included in the EU reports on the human rights situation in third countries. Local NGOs should be invited to also feed into these reports. It was proposed that the EU monitors the human rights situation of gays and lesbians, too, and the reports on third countries should automatically include a chapter on this issue. It was also proposed to try to get "sexual orientation" included in the mandate of the Group of Commissioners for Equal Opportunity.

Existing programmes suitable for lesbian and gay projects (cf. also Anneke van Wijngaarden's overview included in the second mailing for the London Conference) were mentioned in most of the meetings. Pierucci (Cabinet Oreja/DG X) in particular pointed out the "Building Europe Together" programme under which it is possible to receive up to 50 % EC funding for a conference discussing EU themes; Pérez-Minayo (Cabinet Marín) mentioned the MEDA (Mediterranean Democracy) Programme, Jacobsson (Cabinet Gradin) the GROTIUS programme, Nieder (Cabinet Cresson) the "Youth for Europe" programme.

A full report about ILGA-Europe's meetings with the EU was published in "Euro-Letter" # 51. Proposals for Action Plan follow-up activities will also be presented to the London Conference.

So far, the Board has decided to specifically encourage certain ILGA-Europe members to submit project proposals, together with other

European groups and organisations, under the various Action Plan headings:

Action Possible interested organisations

- 2 Égalité
- 3 Research institutes
- 4 SETA
- 5 Stonewall
- 6 CGL, Arcigay Arcilesbica, COGAM
- 7 SOHO, HOSI Wien
- 8 CGL
- 9 Filmfestival organisers
- 10 Tupilak, filmfestival groups
- 11 Research institutes
- 12 IGLYO
- 13 ILGA's AIDS Working Party
- 14 European Pride organisers
- 15 SVD
- 16 LBL
- 17 Arcigay Arcilesbica
- 18 COC, LBL
- 19 Stonewall
- 20 European Gay & Lesbian Sport Federation, Gay Games
- 21 HomoDok
- 22 UNISON
- 23 ABOP, UNISON
- 24 SNEG, Völklinger Kreis

The Board has circulated the report on funding programmes prepared by Anneke van Wijngaarden to all member groups as part of its work on the Action Programme and to provide groups with information on potential sources of funding.

## **E. LOBBYING THE EUROPEAN UNION**

### **2. Intergovernmental Conference**

ILGA's lobbying efforts towards the Intergovernmental Conference - with the purpose to come up with a proposal to be included in the new EU Treaty - started already at the European Conference in Riga in December 1995 (cf. letter from ILGA to its European members in March 1996) and were speeded up in the final phase of the IGC in the first months of 1997. Roy Dickinson of Égalité and Hein Verkerk of COC-NVIH assisted the ILGA-Europe Board a lot in preparing the lobbying strategy towards the IGC which was coordinated by Steffen Jensen.

The Dutch EU Presidency surprised everybody by putting forward a draft treaty which - contrary to the previous draft of the Irish Presidency - did not list "sexual orientation", "disability" and "age" as grounds of discrimination in the relevant anti-discrimination clause. ILGA-Europe released a press statement and sent letters to the personal representatives of the heads of states of the European Union calling for these aspects of discrimination to be put back in the clause. ILGA member organisations in the EU countries were asked to send a similar letter to their foreign ministry. A few of the personal representatives answered. The Dutch Presidency, however, presented soon a revised draft which contained these three categories again.

The result of the IGC finally was that the draft of the new treaty does not include substantial changes of Article F - as we wanted - but a new Article 6a has been introduced:

"Without prejudice to the other provisions of this Treaty and within the limits of the powers conferred by it upon the Community, the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation."

This means that the political leaders of the EU have, for the first time, recognised in a common decision that being lesbian or gay is no reason why people should be discriminated against. It is a huge step forward for all of us in political terms, even if the practical benefits may take time to materialise. The inclusion of this broad anti-discrimination clause is, obviously, a very welcome step, but we now need to explore ways of following it up. The Board will be presenting some proposals in London.

## **F. PROJECT APPLICATIONS TO THE EU**

1. Strengthening lesbian organisations in Central and Eastern Europe
2. Establishing a lesbian and gay community centre in Budapest
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4. Human Rights for lesbians and gay men in the EU

1. In April 1997, ILGA-Europe submitted two project applications to the EU, one under the "Phare and Tacis LIEN programme 1996" which is entitled "Lesbians on line: Strengthening lesbian organisations in Central and Eastern Europe" and involves six lesbian groups in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Russia, and Slovenia. This project, which asks for EU funding amounting to 200,000 ECU, was prepared by Anneke van Wijngaarden and Mary van der Graaf of COC-NVIH in consultation with the groups involved and with the particular assistance of Milu\* Koti\*ová. The Board has been informed that, due to the very large number of applications received for funding under this programme, an initial response to the application cannot be expected before September. The Board will therefore report on any such response to the London Conference.

2. The second project was submitted under the "Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme" and is about the establishing of a lesbian and gay community centre ("Meleg ház") in Budapest providing meeting space and office premises for several groups and organisations in the Hungarian capital. The project was prepared by László Macsonaki and Douglas Conrad of the (lesbian and gay) Háttér Support Society in Budapest and also requested funding from the EU of 200,000 ECU. However, in August 1997, ILGA-Europe was informed that the European Commission did not support the project.

3. The Board has considered an outline proposal for a project on immigration in Europe prepared by Board member Mark Watson who works with the Stonewall Immigration Group. The proposal is being developed into a project application which is supposed to be submitted soon.

4. Additionally, the Board chased a project application which ILGA (World) had submitted in 1996 ("Human Rights for lesbians and gay men in the EU") and to which the responsible DG V only replied in January 1997. It was also discussed in the meeting with DG V representative Cueto Faus (cf. chapter E2 above) in May 1997, and the Board sent a reminder to DG V in August but no decision has yet been taken. The Board will report any new development in this case to the London Conference.

## **G. COUNCIL OF EUROPE/OSCE**

ILGA applied for NGO consultative status with the Council of Europe on 11 May 1995. On 18 June 1996, the CoE requested some further information regarding the suspension of ILGA's NGO status with the UN (ECOSOC). This information was forwarded on 17 July 1996, and the CoE acknowledged receipt of the information on 15 October 1996. ILGA-Europe has asked for information on the development in this matter on 7 April 1997 but has not yet received any reply.

In 1997, there have been no relevant OSCE meetings yet which ILGA-Europe could have attended.

## **H. OUTREACH TO EASTERN EUROPE**

Milus Kotisová has launched the project of a quarterly Eastern European Bulletin which is to be produced in rotation by individual groups in this sub-region. The group in charge of producing one issue also has to cover all costs involved, including for distribution. The news bulletin is distributed by ordinary mail to one contact address in each of the Eastern European countries which is then responsible for further distribution to other groups in the relevant country. This project is a low-budget and viable activity based on pro-active cooperation between all partners and reflecting the needs of Eastern Europeans. The first two issues of the Eastern European Bulletin were produced by Milu\* Koti\*ová on behalf of the Czech lesbian and gay association SOHO.

## **I. FINANCES**

ILGA-Europe has not yet had a full financial year but the financial records for the period January - August 1997 show the following figures:

### **INCOME:**

Donations:

COGAM	10.000 PTS =	440 DKK
RFSL	10.000 PTS =	440 DKK
HOSI Linz	4.000 PTS =	176 DKK
SETA		1.499 DKK
RFSL Piteaa		480 DKK
Individuals	30.100 PTS =	1.324 DKK

Total **4.359 DKK**

### **Expenses:**

Travel to Board meeting in Brussels (two Board members)	<b>1.425 DKK</b>
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NET INCOME: **2.934 DKK**

Balance:

Assets:

Bank account	2.934 DKK
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Liabilities:	0 DKK
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Capital: **2.934 DKK**

Board members have received financial support for their travel expenses to Board and other meetings from other sources as follows:

Steffen Jensen	5,000 DKK from LBL
Kurt Krickler	19,000 ATS from HOSI Wien
Hannele Lehtikuusi	2,400 FIM from Finnish Green Party 2,300 BEF from SETA 300 FIM from SETA
Pierre Noël	3,200 BEF own private donation
Enric Vilà	27,000 PTS from CGL
Mark Watson	229 GBP from Stonewall Immigration

ILGA-Europe has not yet got its own bank account but the money is stored at the account of the International Gay/Lesbian Lobby in Copenhagen as a temporary measure. Funds will be transferred to the ILGA-Europe account when it is opened, following registration.

The Board has also prepared a budget proposal for 1998 which will be presented to the London Conference.

## **J. EURO-LETTER**

The "Euro-Letter", which is edited by Steffen Jensen, Ken Thomassen, Peter Bryld, Lisbeth Andersen, and Søren Baatrup, has been sent out on behalf of ILGA since 1991. Since the establishment of ILGA-Europe, the Euro-Letter has been produced on behalf of ILGA-Europe (e.g., from # 47 onwards). It is published about ten times a year and contains political and legal news relevant for lesbians and gay men in Europe.

The Euro-Letter can be received by e-mail (send a message to <[steff@inet.uni2.dk](mailto:steff@inet.uni2.dk)>). From # 30 onwards, the Euro-Letters are available on the internet at ILGA-Europe's homepage at: <http://inet.uni2.dk/~steff/ilgaeur.htm>

## **K. WEB-SITE**

Steffen Jensen has established a web-site for ILGA-Europe at:  
<http://inet.uni2.dk/~steff/ilgaeur.htm>

The web-site is still under further construction. Up till now, it includes the following:

- Links to Euro-Letter
- Conferences Conclusions from the Madrid Conference in December 1996
- Action Plan regarding the European Union institutions
- The Constitution of ILGA-Europe
- The Board members of ILGA-Europe with their e-mail addresses
- A comparative survey of the legal situation concerning homosexuality in Europe
- A survey of partnerships in Europe
- This report

## **L. DIVERSITY & DEVELOPMENT:**

The Madrid Conference specifically recognised that ILGA-Europe must address the issue of diversity as an integral part of developing a strong and representative regional structure, and the working programme adopted at the conference mandated the Board to undertake work to begin to address a wide range of diversity issues.

The Board believes that the most effective way of beginning to address these issues is for ILGA-Europe to adopt a strategic approach to the development of our organisation which fully recognises that the issues of diversity and development are fundamentally linked.

It has, therefore, prepared proposals on such an approach for discussion at the London Conference and sought to address the issues of diversity as an integral part of its work so far on:

- the overall working programme agreed in Madrid;
- specific aspects of the working programme, such as the development of projects and the European Union Action Plan;
- continuing the development of the structures of the organisation, including the draft Standing Orders, the Board's working methods and procedures, and the preparation of the programme and proposals for the London Conference;
- beginning to develop ways of improving the provision of information and communications to and between member groups;
- beginning to develop ways of improving the visibility of ILGA- Europe and to recruit additional member organisations.

The Board's work on these areas since the Madrid Conference is outlined in the various sections of this report. Its proposals to the London Conference seek to reflect the need for the new Board to continue to work on these and other aspects of our development as an organisation, including seeking ways of improving the participation of member organisations and the support provided to member organisations in such areas as training and access to information. Clearly, the initiatives which can be taken are currently limited by the fact that ILGA-Europe does not, as yet, have any income or employees, but the Board believes that its work to date, with its proposals for continuing that work, has begun to set a framework for the overall development of ILGA-Europe in accordance with the principles agreed in Madrid.

## **M. SUMMARY REPORT OF MADRID CONFERENCE**

The Board also produced a summary report of the decisions made at the last ILGA European Conference in Madrid. This report is also included in the third mailing for the London Conference.

## **N. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

The Board handled a large amount of correspondence including protest letters and replying to inquiries and requests by groups as well as individuals.

The Board cooperated with the organisers of EUROPRIDE in Paris concerning the EUROPRIDE Statement and with the organisers of the lesbian and gay input to the EU "Counter-summit" in Amsterdam which both took place in June 1997.

Board members participated in the following events:

- a meeting to prepare for the creation of "Euro-Gates", a European Gay Network for HIV prevention, in Antwerp on 8 February 1997 (Kurt Krickler)
- the conference on gay and lesbian issues in the EU organised by the GUE/NGL group of the European Parliament in Brussels on 29 April 1997 (Eva Ogenborg)
- the international colloquium "Homosexualités et droit" in Paris on 27 June 1997 (Steffen Jensen)
- the press conference for the Berlin Christopher Street Day arrangements, together - among others - with Claudia Roth, in Berlin on 23 June 1997 (Kurt Krickler)
- a panel discussion on "Anti-fascist organisations and the inclusion of homophobia" during the 13th IGLYO Conference in Pisa, 1 August 1997 (Kurt Krickler).

## **O. SUMMARY**

The Board believes that it has made good progress towards carrying out most of the tasks it was entrusted with by the Madrid Conference which had adopted a Working Programme and several recommendations for actions of the Board.

The Board, therefore, also believes that these first nine months of ILGA-Europe have been very successful, especially with regard to the lobbying activities towards the European Union, e.g., the Action Plan and the Intergovernmental Conference.

The only major task which the Board has been able to make little progress as yet is the setting up of an office for ILGA-Europe. Since this project depends on securing funding and substantial fund-raising efforts, the London Conference should discuss the topic of fundraising and come forward with relevant proposals.

The new Board may also intensify contacts with other NGOs.

The Board will table a supplementary report to the London Conference on any significant developments during the last month before the 19th European Regional Conference.

Finally, the Board would like to thank all individuals and member organisations who have supported the work of the Board either financially or by their activities. Special thanks go to the volunteers of the ILGA Office in Brussels, and here especially to Tom Hoemig.