

Minutes of the first General Douzelage-meeting at Altea Friday 2nd. September 1994

House of Music Altea.

Present:

Altea:

Mrs. Maria Angeles Berenguer
Mr. Jos6 P6rez Grau
Mr. Francisco Resell6
Mr. Joaquim Roma
Mr. Francisco Candela
Mr. Francisco Lloret
Mrs. Christina Botella
Mr. Pedro Pla Ronda

Bundoran:

Mr. Michael McElhinney
Mr. Jo McNulty

Bellagio..

Mr. Alessandro Nettuno

Granville:

Mr. Henri Haffray

Holstebro

Mr. Bernard Husson

Houffalize:

Mr. Jens Garsteen

Mr. Alphonse Henrard

Mrs. Hansenne

Mrs. Caprasse

Mr. Francis Collin

K6tzting:

Mr. Hermann Kum~fmUller

Mt. Theodor Zellner

Mrs. Evelin Maurer

Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher

Meerssen:

Mr. Karel Majoor (president)

Mrs. Regien Boeren

Mr. Hans Ruysink

Preveza:

Mrs. Miranda Papadimitriou

Mrs. Evanthia Nanou

Sesimbra:

Mrs. Odette Graca

Mr. Paulo C. Soares

Mr. Jos6 C. Ferreira

Sherborne:

Mr. Jeremy Barker

The delegation of Niederanven is not yet present

Opening.

The president opens the meeting and welcomes all delegations to this first meeting at Altea.

According to the agenda for the general meeting that Mr. Majoor has distributed; the following items come at order:

1. Proposal Niederanven : the division of tasks

Every town should coordinate an item or project of our Douzelage and take the responsibility of that project:

Reactions:

Granville: We Agree with this proposal.-We will follow the instructions of the President.

Kötzing: There should be a summary of all the tasks before they can be divided among the various towns. Every town should state its preferential tasks.

Sherborne: Mr. Barker is very happy with this proposal.

Preveza: No translation present.

Sesimbra. We agree with this proposal. To attain an optimal result the collective and individual projects should be divided.

Houffalize: We accept a division of tasks.

Bundoran: It is a good idea. We are willing to take some of the projects.

Bellagio: Mr. A. Nettuno states that it is an honour to be at Altea. Unfortunately none of the people of the Bellagio Committee has been able to attend the meeting. Mr. Bruno Bianchi however sends his best regards.

If the majority decides to divide the projects, Bellagio will agree too.

Meerssen: We agree with this proposal and we are willing to take some of the tasks.

President: We will make a catalogue of the projects. The tasks will be divided. We will talk about it again when the delegation of Niederanven is present.

We confirmed that educational Committee meetings should be held once a year, and for Practical reasons should take place simultaneously with the Main Meeting, but would strongly press that they should take place in school holiday periods, so that full representation can take place. We also recommend that there be continuity of representation, as far as can be achieved.'

Future actions.

1. Houffalize announced the "Childrens Town" a drawing and painting contest, which will be concluded on the occasion of the conference in Houffalize.

2. Meerssen proposed that in the next 6 months all partners should prepare a project in which classes should state: "What do you think of European Future?" These can be distributed to the other - partners and be discussed at the next Education Meeting. This was agreed upon.

3. The various different educational systems should be explained to each other in order to get the best possible understandings in those meetings.

Mike Silberrad Acting Chairman of the
Education Committee.

President:

I like to thank you all for your contribution to the meetings and to this Symposium at Altea. I furthermore want to thank, all people in Altea who have worked so very hard to have this meeting organized. They have done a wonderful job. We all felt at home from the very beginning. The hospitality we have experienced in your beautiful town was overwhelming. Thank you very, very much.

Meerssen, Oktober 1994

R. Boeren

We still have a very long way to go. As Francisco already told you about the free circulation of the citizens: this also is a small drop into a very large ocean. The decisions must be taken at the base. We only must be the driving force. The European Parliament is directly chosen by, the citizens, on base of political parties. The national or sectorial aspect is given too much attention in this. I only wish to be the voice of the European people. The European partnership should to my opinion be based on this.

The European partnership has to begin 11bottum up". As you are willing to ask some European subvention I am available to be intermediary in this. It would be very interesting to have an exhibition of the Douzelage-members. It would improve the result of the work' the twelve of you are doing. I am fully at your disposal if you have some questions.

President: I thank you very much for your inspiring words.

Within a short notice the German and Dutch delegation will ask t ' he European Council for some support for our Douzelage.

The motion is signed by all delegations. Mr. José Lutgen and I will make an appointment with Mrs. Barbara Lücke in Brussels to talk about our Douzelage and its various projects.

We thank you for your full support.

Questions:

Mr. Barker: How effective is the Committee of Regions?

Mr. Joseph Enrico Pas Grau.: As we started to strengthen' the European model, which is in favour of the European Government, we talked also about the regional and local governments. It is however very complex. Some countries do not have any contact with neighbour-countries, and certain forces are very nationalistic., We do our utmost to go beyond the regions, but for the time being we have no power to improve the conditions. The regions are scared to work with the European Parliament because the little power they have now could be taken away from them. We try to become more representative in this matter.

Odette Graca: Political manifestations can also be held in other forms.: .By elections they depend on the municipality. The regional committee is dependant on the political parties we know. So the elections are political. Most of the people here present are members of the council. Do you think the European parliament more important?

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upon in Preveza. This design could have been made for 0.7 ECU. The original design as it was presented in Preveza by Sherborne will he made. Niederaanven can make this pin also for a lower price.

Number of pins each town wants to order:

Granville:	200 pieces
Kötzting	1000 pieces
Sherborne:	200 pieces
Preveza:	200 pieces
Sesimbra:	200 pieces
Niederanven	300 pieces
Houffalize:	200 pieces
Holstebro:	(will let us know at a later date)
Bundoran	100 pieces
Bellagio:	400 pieces
Altea:	400 pieces
Meerssen:	300 pieces
Total of	<u>3600 pieces</u>

The price will be lower 1/2 ECU.

Niederanven will set up a new price according to this total number of ordered pins. Before the first November orders must be made and confirmed. Delivery time: one month.

16. Touristic Brochure.

Miranda Papadimitriou apologizes for the inconvenience that appeared yesterday. She presents the new design of the Touristic Brochure to all partners.

Page 1: The banners of all twelve countries together with the coat of arms of the twelve

Page 2 and 3 photographs of each of the towns
symbol of the European Union
small comment /history
text in own language and English.

Measurements 22 x,31 cm.

Bristol Paper 300 grams

5000 brochures each x 11 (Holstebro?) 55.000 brochures

for the price of 2.200 ECU for 5000 pieces. (German Mark ± 1.20 a piece) (Belgian Francs 24 a piece)

Dutch Florin 1.40 a piece

President: The photos that Preveza used are the photographs that were sent by you to Holstebro.- You can all change these photographs if you want.

Niederanven: We will send a new photograph and text to Miranda within 3 weeks

Houffalize: We cannot order 5000 pieces of this brochure. At the most we could order 2000 pieces. Nevertheless the brochure is very well designed.

Holstebro: As I told you that I am here on private base I cannot speak for the town of Holstebro. I have to wait until the association at Holstebro is accorded. However, do not wait with completing this project because I am not sure we will be participating in this project

Bundoran: We think Miranda Papadimitriou has made a nice piece of work. Also Bundoran is not correctly placed in the geographical map. We can only order 500 pieces.

Bellagio: We like the work Miranda Papadimitriou has done. When we receive a copy, the Bellagio Committee will decide upon the number we can order.

Meerssen: Miranda has created a nice brochure: The last draft must be sent to 411 partners to give their approval to the text. However 5000 pieces is far too much for. Meerssen.

President:

- indication of the towns on the geographical maps must be corrected. - The flags on the back-side can be left out so there will be more room to indicate the towns in the right spots.
- The partners who want to change the photograph, texts, coat of arms, must do so within 3 weeks from now.

After that Preveza will design the final draft. This must be sent to all partners before 1-11-1994.

All partners will give their comments within 3 weeks after that, so before 20-11-1994.

Then the final draft will be sent to all towns accompanied with the indication of costs. After that everybody will indicate how many copies they will order.

K6tzting proposes to have the names of all towns individually be printed on the back-side (together with the front-side that must be printed in the different languages, too. It wouldn't make any difference in costs because they already have to be printed in the various languages.

After discussion (about the language(s).the brochure should be printed in) a decision is made that:

There was an exchange with Preveza and Altea The passport was shown in three towns of the Douzelage and nothing happened. In Sherborne 50 firms have given their collaboration to the Committee. If other towns fail to do the same, people from Sherborne will be disappointed. when there is no extra welcome. We must give urgent attention to this.

Sesimbra: We have had an exchange with Meerssen approximately 20 elderly people visited social institutions at Meerssen. There will be a symposium for Fishermen at Granville that some fishermen of Sesimbra will attend to. This will be an interesting symposium between Altea, Sesimbra and Granville, with a double activity, : fishermen and tourism.

Sesimbra has made a touristic brochure for the people in Sesimbra. The information in this brochure from the other partners has not yet been sent to Sesimbra by all partners. They should do so at short notice.

Some Douzelendas have been sent in languages Sesimbra cannot translate. Reminder: The Douzelagenda too should be in the English language.

Niederanven:

Our activities

We have distributed information about youth training. There are some exchanges with the fishing club in Houffalize.

We had a football exchange with Meerssen.

In Houffalize we had a music exchange.

Jean Schiltz went for two days for Kötzing.

The Koninklijke Fanfare Ulestrate(Meerssen) has come to Niederanven where they gave a concert.

Environmental information about Niederanven has been distributed.

In the near future we will try to accomplish the honey-moon project with Preveza.

Houffalize:

Houffalize received a young couple from Bellagio last September. Now a young couple from Houffalize will go to Bellagio.

Various sport events have taken place. Some were not a complete success. We apologize to Meerssen for the negative attitude Houffalize has shown during the football-exchange. From Sherborne some young people arrived at Houffalize for a sports-course.

Holstebro:

participate in it and to make a financial contribution to it.

Jens Garsteen: Our Director of the Local Tourist Office, Kurt Larsen was not allowed to come to Altea. He was very sad about this. I cannot promise we'll have the money to participate in this project. I however will do my utmost to find a way.

Bellagio: Bellagio will also have local elections next year, but it is not to be expected that this will change the participation in the Douzelage.

Sherborne: We have made several committees: the membership of politicians is limited to 4 people. We have the Central Committee, the Education committee an Economic Committee which exists of businessmen and the tourist office. It runs very smoothly and efficient this way.

Sesimbra: We think the political situation in a town is not important to continue participation in the Douzelage. We just want to relate to

Europe. Maybe a common letter to the mayor of Holstebro would help Jens Garsteen in his efforts to get the town-council in favour of the Douzelage.

President: I would like to ask your comments on this proposal from Sesimbra.

K6tzting: We do not think this is appropriate at the moment. The participation in Douzelage should be based upon the inhabitants of Holstebro. One cannot order friendship. The group-exchanges as they have been planned in the past and will be organised in future will convince them.

The common brochure is a project that is common for al. of us. Please don't let it depend on the participation of Holstebro. K6tzting is surprised by the idea that the participation in the Douzelage depends on the (un)willingness of the politicians. The feelings about Europe should be deeper than that!

Altea: It might be important to send this letter to show out solidarity.

President: The situation is very sensitive. The reaction of the Council of Holstebro might be the opposite of what we intend to do. We just must give it some more time.

Decision: A common letter to the council of Holstebro will not be written. Every time an exchange with a association in one of the partner-towns took place a letter of recommendation will be sent to Holstebro.

5. Douzelage badge/pin.

Niederanven will arrive tomorrow and then this item will be discussed.

in Paris. Within 4 weeks the other towns will be provided with documentation.

End of the first work-conference.

III Second work conference of the general Douzelage meeting in Altea

Friday, 2nd September 1994.

Present: see the presence-roll of the first meeting at 2nd September 1994.

8. Meeting of the Tourist officers in Preveza.
As the interpreter for Miranda Papadimitriou has not yet arrived this item, will be postponed until the meeting tomorrow.
9. The common motion by Mr. Beck.

The president has sent the common motion around to be signed by each partner. The motion will be taken to Brussels by Mr. Majoor en Mr. Lutgen. The signatures of all delegations are put on this motion and are handed over to the president who will take care that it will be discussed in Brussels.

10. Work-experience jobs.

Granville: We have had some exchanges this year. "The Greta-association" (a national educational association) has sent 9 students to Meerssen for a period of 3 weeks. They all had work-experiences in Dutch companies. Mr. K. Majoor has taken care of those places in companies in or nearby Meerssen. Evaluation of those work-experience-jobs has not yet taken place.' Two more students of a technical school in Granville had a work placement of 6 weeks at a engineering firm in Meerssen. An evaluation still has to be made. Two students from Holstebro were at Granville at the Thalasso-institute. An evaluation report has been sent to Holstebro. Also a student from Meerssen has had a work experience at the Thalasso-institute. This work-experience will be repeated with other students.

President: The work experience jobs do not only have to be in your town. Please do examine the possibilities in your region too.

We also experienced that it is very important to give the young people some guidance when they are in your town. Take the responsibility about lodging, showing them around a little bit and get them acquainted with the region and a certain support during their stay.

K&tzing: we had a young carpenter for a work-experience. It is however necessary to ask for some salary. The only thing we can do as community is making the contact.

Decision: To break through the circle: 1. have an indication on what firms or enterprises are willing to have trainees and what specific education level they require. 2. Send this information to all partners. 3. Put an advertisement in your local paper.

4. If you get any reaction on this advertisement, the exchange can start.

Art-exchange.

For this project some important problems must be solved: The financial support, custom-problems, the way of transport and insurance of the art-objects. Who will pay for all of this? And there is also the question of which artists can participate, only professionals or also amateurs?

President: I think it would be best if anyone with artistic gifts can participate.

In Meerssen we have decided that the group of Dutch professional artists who are having an exposition in November 1994, is giving 20 % of the amount of sold art-work into a common pool so they on long terms can provide for themselves.

For the time being some sponsors have been attached to this project.

As far as insurance, the costs are not very high. Insurance during exposition should be taken care of by the hosting-town. Insurance during transport should be taken care of by the sending-town.

Custom-problems existed until 1992. Then the European borders where opened and now there should not be any problems anymore or they are at least less complicated.

Decision: Meerssen will examine the possibilities. A questionnaire will be made and sent to all partners. The guest of the European parliament who is going to be here tomorrow will be asked for his support to have an exhibition in Strasbourg or Brussels.

12. Choirs/Music/Brass bands exchange.

Most of these exchanges are bilateral. Reactions from partners:

K6tzing: We would like to have an exchange with Granville in 1995. Further details will be worked out bilateral.

Sherborne: We have had various exchanges. Bilateral is the most efficient way to do this.

Sesimbra: We will have some bilateral exchanges.

Houffalize: There is no specific project on short time going on in Houffalize. We however would like to have a bilateral exchange.

Holstebro: If there are any partners willing to have an exchange with Holstebro, please contact to the choirs or brass bands themselves. There absolutely is a possibility in Holstebro to have bilateral exchanges.

Bundoran: We do not have a choir. some bilateral exchanges however can be Arranged with singers.

Bellagio: Some choir-exchanges have been made. Already. The problem is always the costs but we will find a way to solve this problem.

President: You must be all aware that we can have subvention from Brussels for those exchanges. Every participant*, if more than 10 participants, can have 1 ECU-cent and for some countries 2 ECU -cent per km for travelling. This support can be asked for so it will be easier to organize it. Lodging of the participants can be easily arranged-if you examine the possibilities of family-lodging. The experiences with Meerssen-Niederanven on this were positive.

Altea: We have had some experiences with music-exchange on bilateral level.-We would like to have an exchange of any cultural kind with a Douzelage-partner.

Answer: Political parties do not for 100 percent represent the will of the people. It is very dangerous to have the European democratic system based upon political parties. I for instance am also a member of the local council, but I am also a member of the European parliament. This is not an incompatibility. The European Parliament gives me a wider vision. To me it is a vaccination to the illness called Extreme nationalism. The different wills of the various nations show the real differences of the regional and local policies.

President: Thank you again Mr. Grau for your explanation. We thank you for the support you have promised us. We hope you stand to your promises.

16. Division of tasks.

Decision:

Project	coordination by
Education	Sherborne
Tourism	Preveza
Badge (pin)	Niederanven
Art-exchange	Meerssen + Kötzing
Happy Family Game	Meerssen
Cookery-Cards	Meerssen
Youth Club Exchanges	Houffalize
Drama	Kötzing
music (all kinds)	Altea
Economic projects	Granville
Sports	Sesimbra

President: The towns mentioned do not have to organise all (bilateral) exchanges in their field, but they have to coordinate the information given to the other partners, because it is very good if all partners know about all exchanges. Experiences with certain bilateral projects can be asked for in the towns which have already, organised a similar exchange. For example how to

. . .

We will inform you in Niederaanven about the progress. We all can think now about how to honour the first one who has visited all partner-towns.

22. Passport.

Granville: The effectiveness of the passport, as Jeremy Barker has mentioned, is a very important item. Every town uses the sticker now. This sticker is one of the ways publicity is made for the Douzelage. I want to congratulate Jeremy with the discount-arrangement in his town.

President: We all know that the passport is not in the first place to get discount, but it should be used as an entrance, a sign of distinction. In Meerssen the visitors should apply to the town-hall or to the Tourist-Office. There, people are instructed to give the bearers of the passport a special treatment. Unfortunately the shops don't cooperate in Meerssen as well as they do in Sherborne.

Kötztting:

We feel that it is very important to show that we are members of the Douzelage, and therefore we should promote the use of the passport. In Kötztting we have a group of businessmen (Town Marketing Club) who use the passport-sticker as well. The passport can also be used by visitors to get into contact or to get acquainted with the shops in our town.

Sesimbra: We think that the passport is a very important instrument. For us however it is very difficult to get the shops as far as to give reduction on their products. The Passport however is an interesting way of presenting yourselves in a foreign town.

Niederaanven:

We have not yet contacted the shops to cooperate with discount by showing the passport. We feel that the function of the passport is to get entrance in the facilities in the partner towns. We should encourage all Douzelage-members (and other inhabitants of our towns) to visit the partner towns.

Houffalize:

We think the passport is a reference-point to make visitors acquainted with our town and to make them feel at home. The

. . .

Sesimbra and Granville. Mr. Paco will be asked to join this meeting with a delegation of Altea businessmen.

Sherborne: Maybe it is a good idea to hold economic parallel-meetings.

President: We must not have too much pretensions.

The minutes of this meeting will be worked out and sent to all other partners. It however needs professional aid and support by the Chambers of Commerce to effect any exchange. In Granville the meeting about fishing could mean a good start.

24. Radio-amateurs.

Jens Garsteen talked about HAM-clubs (radio-amateurs)

Altea: At Altea the President of Radioscope is a member of the Douzelage. It should be easy to have some exchanges.

Meerssen.. I am sure we do have some radio-amateurs, we unfortunately didn't yet contact them.

Sherborne: Yes we do have some radio amateurs, but we didn't contact them yet.

K6tzting: Yes we do have some radio-amateurs, but we do not have specific information about them.

Granville: yes, also in Granville some radio-amateurs are active.

Preveza: We do have quite a lot of radio-amateurs.

Houffalize: Yes we did have a large number of radio-amateurs. There are no amateurs left now because of legislation.

Bundoran: We have at least two radio-amateurs. We will get into contact with them.

Bellagio: Yes we do have them too. Will get into contact with them.

President: Practically all towns have radio-amateurs. Maybe it will be possible to form a Douzelage-Ham-club. Altea will coordinate this project. Specific information of every town must be given to Altea

25. Possibility to vote for strangers.