

Minutes of the ninth general Douzelage-meeting at Houffalize

Sept. 1995

Present:

Chairman: Mr. Karel Majoor

Altea: Mr. Tomaq Jouzaléz
Mrs. Esperanza Lledo

Bellagio: Mr. Bruno Bianchi
Mrs. Maria Angela Gilardoni
Mrs. Carla Piccamiglio
Mr. Alessandro Nettuno

Bundoran: Mr. Joe McNulty
Mrs. Mary McNulty

Granville: Mr. Jean-Marc Julienne
Mr. Phillippe Joly
Mrs. Mathilde Prost
Mr. Bernard Husson

Houffalize: Mr. José Lutgen
Mr. Paul Georges
Mr. Daniel Rob
Mr. Alphonse Henrard
Mr. Jean Pochet

Kötzing: Mr. Hermann Kumpfmüller
Mr. Wolfgang Kerstier
Mr. Günther Pecher
Mrs. Eveline Maurer

Meerssen: Mrs. Manna Majoor
Mrs. Regien Boeren
Mr. Hans Ruijsink
Mr. Paul Claessens

Niederanven: Mr. Jos Mouton
Mr. Jeannot Poiré
Mr. Jean Schiltz

Preveza: Mr. Dimitrios Tambouris
Mr. Dimosthenis Zambos
Mrs. Anna Maria Sardelis
Mr. Dimitrios Donos

Sesimbra: Mrs. Odette Graca
Mr. Manuel José de Sorsa Dias
Mrs. Fernanda Maria Da Veiga Alveso
Mrs. Laura Reis Marques

Sherborne: Mr. Jeremy Barker
Mr. Mike Balfour
Mr. Partick O'Dwyer

Guests:

Hillesheim: Mr and Mrs. Hank
Mr. Götz Krieger.

Minutes of the first day, 22nd September 1995

I Opening

The Chairman opens the meeting and welcomes all delegations to this 9th meeting of the Douzelage this time in Houffalize. He furthermore expresses his gratefulness to our Houffalizerian friends for all the preparations they have done to make this meeting possible.

Holstebro again is not present at this symposium. Joaquim Roma has been hospitalized unexpectedly some days ago. Mr. Tomag Jouzaléz will take the honours for him. We wish Joaquim Roma a very speedy recovery! Mr. José Lutgen welcomes all partners at his beautiful town. The main item of this symposium will be the children's rights /childrenstown.

1. Touristic Brochure.

Preveza has completed the Touristic Brochure. The texts we have all sent to Preveza are used for it, except for the text of Bellagio. After several reminders Preveza has taken this text from elsewhere.

The Greek film has been produced and 2000 English and 3000 Greek versions have been printed. The delegation of Preveza brought the films to distribute to the other partners.

The price of this film and draft is: 81.000 Drachmes
(266 ECU)

Please deposit this amount to:

NATIONAL BANK OF GREECE-PREVEZA'S BRANCHE
number: 448/540331-62

mention " DOUZELAGE TOURISTIC BROCHURE".

2. Touristic Officers meeting at Preveza.

Preveza was very disappointed that only 1 member of the Douzelage attended the touristic Officers meeting, although several partners had promised to take part in it. We all know that it takes a lot of work to organize such a meeting. Mr. Mike Balfour was the only-one present.

Mr. Mike Balfour states that he has had a wonderful time at Preveza. He thanks his hosts for the marvelous hospitality they have offered him. Mike Balfour gives a survey of his activities in Preveza.

A succesful pressconference was held and he enjoyed a wonderful concert. He met several Prevezian travelagents, the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and he visited a primary school. A Greek language holiday for people of Sherborne has been discussed and some information about the Ecosystem-project was handed to him. Mike Balfour will take care of a constructive feedback to the travelagency in Sherborne. He suggests that parallelmeetings should be held during the general meetings on the subject of tourism too. The economical benefit of this project should be noticeable on very short terms.

Preveza: The Chamber of Commerce at Preveza has promised to make a draft for the tourism-project. They also developped a new sticker that can be put on the windows of hotels and shops by which they are recognizable for all Douzelage-visitors.

Granville: It is very difficult to motivate businesspartners or to have them understand the meaning of the Douzelage.

Kötzting: Kötzting has appointed a contactperson who will have the responsibility for this project. It will not be easy to convince businessmen of the importance of this project.

Bellagio: After the last elections we can present Bellegio in a more active way. We will improve our colaboration to the various projects. We do agree with the suggestion that parallelmeetings should be held on tourism. If we know the price of the sticker we will decide whether we will buy it.

Bellagio has improved the budget for the Douzelage-activities. To have more public relations we have made some music-cassettes to be broadcasted on our regional radio. Please send us your cassettes too, so people in the region can learn about the Douzelage.

Sesimbra: Because of the fact that we noticed that people don't understand Douzelage, we have made a special brochure. It would be nice to have parallelmeetings on the subject of tourism.

Niederanven: We are not a very touristic city. So we didn't participate at the Touristic-officers meeting in Greece. We will consider the new sticker.

Meerssen: We aren't a touristic city, as we explained before and the shops in Meerssen are not very enthusiastic about this project.

Houffalize: We have sent a letter to all the shops and hotels in our region in which we explained the Douzelage very meticulously. Within 15 days we had several reactions that some of them would participate in this project.

Kötzting: We do not understand why there must be a new sticker. Why can't we use the old one?
The decision to go to a Douzelage-town is made at home. People therefore should be informed about the Douzelage at home.

Sherborne: We agree that the old sticker must be maintained.

Chairman: There has been put a lot of energy in our common sticker. This sticker now is used for the big poster and for the Douzelage-passport and for several other brochures and printed matters. It has become our common logo. We used this logo for approximately 2 years now and it would be a tremendous loss of energy and public relations if we change to another logo. That would not be wise, so let's stick to the old sticker. Despite of this we all thank our Prevezian friends that they have done all the work for it and we compliment them with the nice sticker.

Sherborne: We would like to set a timetable to all cities by the end of October. The project should be completed by the end of January.

Conclusion:

A. Each partner should give the name of its contact-person with whom the network can be made by the end of October.

B. It is very important that all local hotels and shops are informed about the Douzelage. We will all receive the letter Houffalize has sent so we might use it at home too.

C. We will stick to our old sticker.

D. Bellagio will send a letter to all partners to inform them about the radio-cassettes.

E. Our compliments go to Sesimbra for taking the initiative to make a local brochure in which the Douzelage is explained and for having an exhibition of the Douzelage during the Seafestival. That is the proper way to have your inhabitants informed.

3. Children's Drawing Contest.

It was a fantastic idea and a very sympathetic project. We congratulate Houffalize with this charming initiative.

Mr. José Lutgen announces the winners (2 children of Sherborne) of this contest and presents the poster of the winning drawing. The original drawing will be given to Sherborne (framed). There will be 15 posters for each country to give to the various schools all over Europe. The poster stands for brotherhood, peace and solidarity. The two winning children will receive a price.

4. Children's Towncouncil Bellagio.

In spring 1996 the Bellagian children's towncouncil will have a meeting with a delegation of Unicef. The children are 9-14 years old. Bellagio invites 3 participants from each country to join this event: 1 or 2 children, a parent and a teacher. Bellagio will take care of lodging and boarding. The general language will be English. Bellagio will send a letter with all the details to all partners. In this letter we also will be informed about an eventual fund of the European Union for this project and about the exact date (mind the holiday-periods and don't interfere with the dates of the General meeting in Sesimbra).

5. Art Exhibition at Strasbourg

Gunther Pecher states that there has been no changes in information. All data and instructions still are valid. There has been an application of 7 towns for this exhibition.

Niederanven and Bundoran have asked their local artist to take part in this project, but they weren't interested. They will not take part.

Günther Pecher once again asks all partners (also the partners who do not participate in the exhibition) to send a poster of your town to Kötzing as soon as possible. These posters will also be exhibited at Straatsburg.

Presency at Strasbourg during the official opening on 13-11-1995 at 16.00 hours:

- * The mayor of Strasbourg
- * a delegation of the European Committee
- * our Chairman mr. C. Majoor.

Most countries have an embassy in Strasbourg, you could all invite your representative. Also members of the European Parliament and of the Council of Europe should be invited.

Günther Pecher will send an official invitation to all partners. You can pass it through to those representatives.

Conclusion: We wish you a lot of succes with this exposition and we thank you for all the work you have already done, and you're about to do, in this project.

6. The drop has fallen.

Meerssen explained this project to you in a letter of 15th of May 1995.

In the mean time a reaction from Preveza and Holstebro has been received. They both will participate in this project. Because at least 3 partners should be involved before we can ask for a grant from the European Union, this can be done now.

Reactions from all partners on this project:

Houffalize: We are positive about this project. Mr. Verbrugghen will be the coordinator for Houffalize.

Altea, Granville and Bellagio answer that they will join in. Niederanven is not sure yet and Bundoran and Sesimbra say that they cannot participate.

8. Educational project Houffalize.

Jean Pochet of Houffalize has worked out this project and made a beautiful book called: " Douze villes pour connaitre L'Europe". The book explains about the Douzelage and the twelve partner-towns. Children could easily learn about Europe and the Douzelage by using this book.

The figures are updated up to 1995. It is a very impressive book, it was a tremendous amount of work that has been done by Jean Pochet.

Intermezzo by Mr. Claude Lelièvre
about:

The rights of children.

Mr. Claude Lelièvre has made a comprehensive rapport of his activities. The title of this book is: "Children's rights in French Communities of Belgium".

Mr. Claude Lelièvre recalls the history of children's rights in the legislation of Belgium.

After the rights of Children where completely modified in 1991 the discussion for a warrant for those rights started.

Children don't have political representatives, they are not entitled to vote, they cannot choose the people who are in charge for them and they cannot put any pressure on the media or create lobbying groups. The legislation of children's rights is not as sufficient as the legislation for the rights of adults. Until October 1994 in Belgium a child of divorced parents hadn't anything to say about the procedure.

Many children therefore complained in civil cases. They couldn't express their opinions otherwise.

Now forces and activities were rebalanced in Belgium.

Educational programmes where reformed and the State has cut on budgets. They took financial means out of the budget to protect children's rights to solve other problems.

A judge decides (with respect of the children's rights) when a child must be taken out of its family. If this decision is not the right one, children escape and hide. There is nothing else they could do.

Mr. Lelièvre tries to find a balance between the decision of the judge and the will of the child. He tries to mediate between them.

There are 4 main principles:

- * children are entitled to receive the means to live in human dignity
- * children have a right to develop freedom of thought and education
- * children have a right upon protection
- * and children have a right upon their own responsibility.

Children must be told about the rights they have. They should be made aware of them. Schools can help in this, in order that the children are given the opportunity to use those rights.

Mr. Lelièvre has been appointed as a "guard" of the rights of children. He looks after the rights and interests of the children. His department consists of 1 man only. Last year his bureau had to deal with 600 affairs.

He only intervenes with the institutions if they don't do their job the proper way.

His duties are:

1. give information to children
2. check up on laws or rules and see whether these laws are correctly implicated.
3. make proposals to have laws modified
4. take in requests and mediation in case of complaints.

He can help children and young adults up to 18 years old.

His institution doesn't belong to the governmental administration, but his actual boss is the government. So, he is fully independent. The government however is able to control his actions, the analyses and reports go to Parliament where they will be discussed. The report shows the Parliament what is wrong and what is left to be done.

The powers of the general delegate is:

- * inquiry power (no-one can prevent him from making investigations)
- * free access to buildings and administrations
- * people have the obligation to give him the necessary information.

Many cases handle about incorrect implementation of the law.

- bankaccounts that disappear (there now exists a registered list)
- divorces
- children who are abused
- complaints about official services.

Most of the children want to remain anonymous. For this purpose "SOS children" was created (a free telephone-number).

From personal experience Mr. Lelièvre noticed that children who are abused only talk about it after they became 18 years old, because before that time they have to live with their families.

In former days the law prescribed that an abused child under the age of 10 only could be heard after it became 18 years old. Mr. Lelièvre has asked to amend this law and enforced this with 350.000 signatures.

Those signatures where presented to the King and the Prime Minister. The law now has been mended.

The number of children's complaints has increased while the budget has become less.

Conclusion: The protection of children is slowly improving but a lot remains to be done. There still are some lacks in the Convention of Geneva.

José Lutgen expresses his gratitude to Mr. Lelièvre for accepting the invitation to speak at the symposium.

Mr. Lutgen proposes a new project:

A comic-strip could be designed in which the children can fill in their own textures.

Items could be:

- child and tenderness/abuse
- child and welfare
- child and expression rights
- child and health
- child and environment

Mrs. Dublé, a teacher from a local school, will work out all the details on this proposal after which Houffalize will inform all partners about it.

Odette Graca asks a question about what to do against or how to prevent childlabour. Mr. Lelièvre concludes that this problem is linked with the cultural, social and economical developments of a country. He has no concrete solutions to offer for this problem.

9. Fishing Project Gr.A.S.

Sesimbra states that this project is very important to develop economy. Delegations from Altea, Granville and Sesimbra had a meeting of 4 days on fishing problems last May. They discussed the various methods of fishing. Because of the work Sesimbra is going to have in preparing the general meeting in 1996, it would be very convenient if Altea would be able to organize this fishery-meeting in 1996. Sesimbra would take the turn in 1997.

Mr. Jean-Marc Julienne gives a summary of the meeting in Granville. During this meeting it was possible to talk about the various processing and marketing procedures, the different legislation, safety of fishermen, various techniques of fishing methods and hygiene-standards, the quality of the boats and materials.

The meeting has been subsidized by the European Union. Through this meeting they hope to be able to have exchanges and informations which can be distributed by the Chambers of Commerce.

Minutes of the second day in Houffalize
Saturday, 23 September 1995.

9. Education.

a. Newsletter project.

For this project at least 3 cities should cooperate (more participants are welcome). A network for a newsletter must be set up. Already 4 partners declared that they will join this project of Sherborne (Bellagio, Sesimbra, Holstebro and Kötzing). The project therefore can start if the subvention for it is granted by Brussels.

Holstebro has sent to Mike Balfour a proposition for a similar project. For this project Sherborne and an other German city gave their cooperation. For this project also support from Brussels must be asked.

These projects must be prepared very carefully. They must be set up extremely thorough because a lot of other projects from all over Europe have to be subsidized from the same budget. Peter Such has prepared this project. Sherborne will inform all partners about this again. You however need a modem for it.

b. Computer-conferencing.

Sherborne started this project with Holstebro. Bellagio: we would like to join you if the funding is all-right. Sherborne now is coordinating this project and therefore will ask for subvention in Brussels. Further details will be discussed during the educational parallelmeeting in spring 1996 in Sesimbra.

10. Choir festival in Preveza.

We all received a letter about the contest that will be held in July 1996. Altea participated in 1995. They hope to be there again in 1996.

Kötzting: We are willing to participate, but the holidays start in June, so it will be very difficult.

Sesimbra: We like to participate, but we are very busy in 1996. In 1997 we for sure will join you.

Sherborne: We have approached 5 choirs in Sherborne. We hope one of them will participate in spite of the high travelling costs.

There is a journey-fund at the European Union. Besides, it is a cultural program, so subvention should be possible. Preveza will make some inquiries about this.

Bellagio will send a choir.

Houffalize needs some more time to ask the choirs. In a month or two they can give their final answer.

Granville: With some reservations (depending on the grant from Brussels) they will join this contest.

Meerssen: Will pass the information through to the various local choirs.

11. Dorset Opera.

Sherborne expresses its disappointment that nobody joined the Dorset opera this year.

There will be another opera next year. Information about it will circulate again. They will give us data and details as soon as the association has decided upon these items. Please motivate your singers!

13. Radio-amateurs.

Kötzting once again asks all partners to send in the wire-numbers of your local radio-amateurs.

It appears that radio-amateurs already have contacts. The local Douzelage committees don't have any grip on the frequency anymore, but it seems there is some network going on now.

14. San Felipe.

Sesimbra has a twinning with the community of San Felipe on the Ape Verde Islands. This community has a lot of problems, especially with educational materials. It would be very appreciated if schoolbooks (French or English), school materials or toys (for children in the age from 4-15 years) could be provided.

A delegation of San Felipe is invited to the Symposium in Sesimbra, so they can receive your gifts at that occasion. Mr. Jean-Marc Julienne states that Granville will go by bus so there will be plenty of room to transport the gifts.

At San Felipe there are approximately 800 children. Everything is welcome.

Sesimbra will send some characteristics from San Felipe so the partners will be better informed.

Mr. Lutgen states that next week in Houffalize a second-hand market on toys will be held. Something will be given to the delegation of Sesimbra already.

15. Douzelage-concert

Sesimbra has asked every partner for regional/typical music. Altea, Kötzing, Preveza, Sherborne, Bellagio, Niederanven have already provided Sesimbra with their contribution. Meerssen will send a tape and the notes and texts in October to Sesimbra.

16. European Folk games.

Sesimbra received the rule of plays already from Kötzing, Sherborne, Niederanven and Altea. The other partners promised to send them on very short terms.

Preveza states that it will be very difficult for them to attend to this meeting because it will be Greek Easter then too.

In Niederanven it was already clear that Easter would be on the same date. The Greek delegation was however very positive about attending the meeting in spite of Orthodox Easter.

Preveza cannot be missed at this symposium. Please try as hard as you can to send a delegation!!

17. Book of proverbs.

The president asks all delegations whether they are willing to give their energy and time to this project. All delegations give their consent to it.

The proverb book will have about 150 proverbs. Every two months 15 proverbs will be sent to the partners to be translated or to check if the given translation is correct.

18. Chairmanship.

The Chairman says that the 500 ECU that was agreed upon in Niederanven to support the chairmanship has not been received yet from all partners.

The president thought of a way to benefit more from the possibilities Brussels can give in subvention matters. These rules, as we all heard from Mr. Woesler in Niederanven, are very complex and it takes a lot of professional work to have these possibilities explored fully.

Mr. Majoor knows a man in Maastricht who has a lot of experience in European projects and how to obtain subvention for them. This man is willing to do the exploring and applications for the Douzelage on a base of no cure, no pay.

Only some small fees like telephone costs etc. , would be paid to him. These costs will be paid from the budget you have given the presidency.

All partners (if they didn't send in the contribution yet) promised to send it in as soon as possible.

20. Eurathlon programme.

The Eurathlon programme is only available in the Portuguese language at the moment. It seems a very interesting programme for sports-exchanges.

Mrs. Laura Reis Marques will try to obtain the English version at Brussels and then send it to all partners again, together with a proposition.

21. Future general meetings.

The president has sent a letter to Mr. Kurt Nygaard. You all received a copy of this letter. No answer so far has been obtained. The Chairman will keep you informed.

We all agree that it perhaps would be better to find an other Danish town which can fully participate, if Holstebro sticks to its decision not to participate in the necessary general meetings.

Sesimbra, spring 1996.

Laura Reis Marques tells us that in spring 1996 the weather in general is very good in Sesimbra. The item of the Symposium will be tourism and sports. There also will be a lot of schools involved.

There will be a possibility, apart from the official delegations to have some members from the local committees over for a week's holiday.

Sesimbra will give all partners some more information about it (costs etc.)

Holstebro, autumn 1996.

A discussion takes place about the measures we should take if Holstebro responds that they will not, or cannot organize the symposium.

President: It is not an easy question for Holstebro to answer. We should give them some time. We will wait with this discussion till after their answer has arrived.

Then we also can discuss the membership of Holstebro in the Douzelage.

The General symposium however should take place every 6 months. It is not only a matter of personal attendance. The period of 1 year is too long to have continuity in projects, subventions and items to discuss. It is vital for the Douzelage that we have an symposium every 6 months, otherwise the projects would be delayed even more than they do now already (Douzelagedesease!). Most of the decisions are made during the general symposia anyhow, not only during the meetings, but especially too in the countless informal contacts during these days.

The meetings however could be organised less expensive in future. When we have been to all towns we will know them and leisure time could be less and less expensive in a more modest way.

The question of adding the 3 new members from Austria, Finland and Sweden is very complicated. On the other hand, Holstebro's isolated position might become less and it could perhaps motivate them to full participation.

The Chairman asks all partners to think about this item very thouroughly and to let him know your suggestions.

(Mr. Tomag Jouzaléz leaves the meeting for the journey home. The president thanks him for his positive contribution to this Douzelage meeting and asks him to give our best regards to Joaquim Roma).

Bundoran, spring 1997.

Joe McNulty tells that the data not yet have been finalized. It will be at the end of April 1996. (schoolholidays should be regarded upon, because there must be a parallel-educational meeting).

22. Charter of the Douzelage.

In the book Houffalize made Sesimbra is not mentioned by in the Charter in Granville. That has happened because Sesimbra joined the Douzelage in autumn 1992. The Charter then was signed by them in Meerssen.

To complete all charters we should all bring them to Sesimbra. Please do not forget this (you all should bring your stamp too!!.)

23. Hillesheim/Houffalize.

Mr. Martin Hank, Mayor of Hillesheim, the twinning town of Houffalize, thanks Houffalize for the given opportunity to attend to this symposium.

Houffalize and Hillesheim have had many encounters accomplished because the cities are only 100 km apart. They have been active on European level too: the Council of Europe nominated Hillesheim for their campagne of city-modernization. Mr Hank wishes all Douzelagepartners a lot of success with the initiative and espacially Mr. José Lutgen with the project of Children's town.

Mr. Majoor thanks Mr. Hank for his presence at this meetings.

24. Youth-week at Kötztting.

The details of this project are well known to everybody. The project was a great succes. Aspecially the last evening all participants had a wonderful time. They were all very enthousiastic about their stay in Kötztting.

With the help from Munchen this project was established. Next year it could be held in an other city of the Douzelage if anyone would wish to organize it. A youth-hotel would be the best place to lodge the youngsters.

If you are interested, contact Gûnther Pecher and he will explain all the details and where to get some help to organize it.

Gunther Pecher asks all delegations to see to it that next year other youngsters will participate. This is important to have a spin-off as wide as possible.

Intermezzo by Mr. Coulon.

(Member of the Chamber of Commerce of the province of Belgian Luxembourg).

Mr. Coulon explains that the Chamber of Commerce and Industry takes an exceptional place in Belgium, because it is a private undertaking. They do not receive financial means from the Government like in France or The Netherlands. This is of course not a very comfortable status but they don't think about it as a handicap. Because the mayor advantadge is that they can do whatever they like and so create a high flexibility.

There are some mayor rules they should stick to:

1. they organize services to entrepreneurs and
2. their flexibility should make them able to be the informant for all entrepreneurs in the region.

They have the ability to travel all over Europe, they like themselves to be called "Europe-trotters".

Proposal of Mr. Coulon:

Contact your local Chambers of Commerce and tell them about the way we work. The Chamber of Commerce would be pleased to establish a relationship with all the colleagues in the European regions.

Intermezzo by Mr. Pierre Bourron of the Brasserie D'achouffe in Houffalize Belgium.

Mr. Pierre Bourron informs us about the background of the brewery. His brother-in-law and he himself started the brewery when they were students, because they wanted to brew their own supplies of beer.

In the beginning it therefore was a side-line activity. Today 11 people are employed full-time in the brewery. In 1986 the export started. Now they export to 16 different countries all over the world. The total capacity of the brewery is 16.000 HL a year. The yearly production has increased by 25-30 %. Next year they expect to have two more employees.

They now are in negotiations with Sweden to export their beer. This is difficult because Swedish legislation only permits a limited alcoholpercentage.

There are two kinds of beer in production now: La Chouffe and Stout.

The legislation-administration to have beer exported causes them a very hard time. The paperwork is huge and becomes a real burden for them.

Mr. Bourron thinks that political leaders should be pleased if an entrepreneur wants to export, they should encourage him. But they only put a very heavy burden on thisa shoulders now by increasing the paperwork every time. Naturally a legal framework is necessary , but they really are exagerating it now. Also the entry-fee for youngentrepreneurs has been increased up to a level it makes it almost impossible to start a new company.

Mr. Majoor shows his gratitude to both gentlemen and thanks them that they could free themselves from their busy jobs to speak at our symposium. We are all looking forward to visit the brewery this afternoon.

25. Survey of the Douzelage-activities.

Houffalize:

We have been very busy in preparing this meeting.
 We organized the drawing contest.
 There have been some sports-exchanges and
 some Sherborne-children came to visit Houffalize.

Altea:

Because of the absence of Mr. Joaquim Roma we are quite
 handicapped in giving our survey.

Preveza:

We have organized the mixed choir contest.
 We received Mr. Mike Balfour at our Tourism-officers meeting
 We entered into the Children's drawing contest
 and we have been working on the Tourism-brochure.
 In the future we would like to realize some tourist-exchanges
 with Sherborne and also we would like to examine the
 possibilities in other towns for this.
 We are not quite sure that we can participate in the fishing
 project Gr.A.S.. We will consider this.

Granville:

We have organized the fishing symposium in spring.
 We want to propose a new project for the 4th, 5th and 6th of
 April 1996. The theme: various cooking traditions in Europe.
 Each country can send 3or 4 participants:
 1 cook
 1 wineproducer or winedealer
 1 person working in gastronomy
 1 delegate from each Douzelagetown

We will send you a letter in which we explain conditions and
 details of this project.
 During this meeting a one-day exposition of the various products
 of each region will be held (to develop awareness of the
 Douzelage).

Kötzting:

In May the SeniorTurnverein from Kötzting went to Bellagio. We have had a sportsclub from Bellagio visiting Kötzting and we organized the Youth week at Kötzting. Also we have been busy with the organization of the exhibition at Strasbourg in november 1995.

We would like to widen our cultural festival in future. Before the meeting in Sesimbra we will inform you about this.

Bundoran:

We received a teacher from Sherborne for shadow-teaching. We have had a request from Holstebro to take part in the exchange of pupils.

Jeremy Barker will visit Bundoran next month. Exchanges with the Police-force of Sherborne and our policeforce have been established.

We entered the drawing competition in Houffalize and in the future we will be busy preparing the symposium at Bundoran.

Sherborne:

We have been quite busy. The local Douzelagecommittee has met regularly. To have our relationship more close we invited the whole Douzelagecommittee from Granville.

We surely like to participate in the cooking project in Granville.

Our schoolexchanges still go on. We have had some teachers from Altea for Shadow teaching.

Peter Such has organized a language holiday-project. We have had an annual exchange of schools with Holstebro and a drama-group exchange. Computer conferencing is still going on and we did participate in the Youth week in Kötzting.

There were contacts between a Sherborne school and a primary school from Bellagio and a Sherborne couple won a week's free stay in a hotel in Bellagio. The castle project with Sesimbra is still going on and Mr Jeremy Barker will visit Bundoran next month. A girls-choir has been sent to Meerssen and there have been some shadow-teaching exchanges with Meerssen too.

We have raised a special fund for students to give them the possibility to travel and a newsletter was created for the schools, wich will be printed once a term.

Mike Balfour visited the tourism-meeting in Preveza.

In 1998 the 1000st. anniversary of the Benedictarian Abbey will be celebrated. All religious people from our partnertowns will be invited to this.

Our local police-force would very much like to have contacts with other police-forces.

Bellagio:

We have had a painting exhibition.
 A honeymoon-couple went to Houffalize.
 A family went for a holiday to Kötzing.
 We received the Senior Turnverein from Kötzing.

In future we are planning to have children meet in a congress with Unesco.
 We will provide accommodation for a teacher from Sherborne and we now are building a Industrial centre in Bellagio, that will be very important for export-purposes.
 The World Dog's exhibition will be held in October.

Sesimbra:

We have made the Douzelagenda regularly.
 In april we attended to the Fishing-meeting in Granville.

We participate in the painting exhibition at Strasbourg.
 We will organize a Douzelage-exhibition during our annual seafestival.
 We have had several visitors for a holiday: 3 times from Granville and 2 times from Meerssen.
 We are very busy planning the Symposium in april 1996. We would like to have an exchange with Bellagio in the honeymoonproject, and we would like to have the data fixed for the fishing project 1996 and 1997.

Furthermore we will introduce a new project: the project of European Heritage.
 We need at least 3 participants to join us.
 We must have an exhibition on panels about the heritage of the participating towns, and also a video is required.
 The financial support must be asked before the 10th of October.
 The deadline therefore has been set on October 2nd.1995.

Niederanven:

We have had quite a lot of exchanges with Houffalize and Meerssen. There where some soccer exchanges and a Harmony from Meerssen recently gave a concert at Niederanven.
 We have had some table-tennis contests too.

We contacted Granville to start a youngster-exchange. We have made our local traders interested in work-experience jobs. We have had some primary school exchanges. There has been a honeymooncouple-exchange.
 We received the Towncouncil of Meerssen.

Meerssen:

The first edition (in Dutch and English language) of the cookery cards have been printed. We are awaiting your orders. A soccer-club from Meerssen has visited Niederaanven and there has been a return visit from Niederaanven too.

We have entered the drawing competition of Houffalize. The drawings that were not nominated were exposed in our Townhall. Two French trainees have fulfilled a workexperience job at a local company.

28 Pupils of our Stella Maris College went to Holstebro this summer.

A shadowteacher from Sherborne stayed at Meerssen for one week. The Sherborne girls choir was in Meerssen for 4 days and they gave 3 wonderful concerts.

Harmonie St. Caecilia went to Niederaanven to give a concert.

The Towncouncil of Meerssen went to Niederaanven for their annual trip.

At the end of September a Meerssen delegation of 16 persons will visit Sesimbra for the Elderly-project.

Future activities.

An exchange for a sportclub going to Kötzing will be prepared. We have organized a local puzzle/drawing contest for all children about heraldics and Coats of arms.

There will be a basketball-exchange next year

The sticker has been made on posters. They will be placed at the borders of our community very soon.

We are preparing the meeting with the Music-company of Altea when they enter the contest at Kerkrade (World Music Contest).

We are thinking about the design of a trip-strip

We do consider the exchange with the Sherborne police-force.

We are going to send a "shadow-judge" to Kötzing.

26. End of the meeting.

The Chaiman concludes this meeting by thanking all delegations for their constructive contribution to the meetings. He compliments all delegations with all the work they have been doing. It was a very effective and fruitful meeting.

Meerssen, september 1995

Regien Boeren.