

Eighteenth Douzelage Conference

ALTEA

4th - 7th May 2000

PRESENT

*** Education Delegate**

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| ALTEA | Mr. Miguel Ortiz Mrs. Feli Navarro Mrs. M-Angeles Berenguer Mr. Tomas Gonzalez *Mrs. Maria Pepa Rostoll *Mrs. Pepa Perles *Mrs. Maria Carmen |
| BELLAGIO | Mr. Alessandro Nettuno *Mrs. Carla Piccamiglio Mr. Simone Cattaneo *Mrs. Maria Luoni |
| BUNDORAN | Mr. & Mrs. Joe McNulty Mrs. Denise Connolly |
| GRANVILLE | Mr. Bernard Husson *Mrs. Mathilde Prost Mrs. Thérèse-Maria Andrin *Mr. Pierre Audrain |
| HOLSTEBRO | Mr. & Mrs. Olaf Sielemann Mrs. Mette Sørensen *Mr. Morgens Beck |
| HOUFFALIZE | Mr. José Lutgen Mr. Alphonse Henrard *Mrs. Molou Henrard Mr. Francis Collin |
| JUDENBURG | Mr. Gerald Dobnigg *Mrs. Margit Drogenia Mrs. Margit Ergert Mr. Peter Schaufler |
| KARKKILA | Mrs. Riitta Huovinen *Mr. Pekka Lintonen *Mrs. Riikka Tuuhela Mrs. Raili Stenberg |

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| KÖTZTING | *Mr. Günther Pecher Mr. Hermann Kumpfmüller Mrs. Evi Maurer Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher |
| MEERSSEN | Mr. Nico van de Vliet Mr.& *Mrs. Wim Raedts Mr. Jan Swanenvleugel |
| NIEDERANVEN | Mr. Nico Hilbert Mr. Jeannot Poiré Mr. Jos Mouton Mrs. Mari-Antoinette Paquet *Mr. Paul Klein *Mrs. Reine Kohnen *Mrs. Colette Poos |
| OXELÖSUND | Mrs. Benita Vikström *Mr. Göte Eriksson Mrs. Torbritt Bökman *Mr. Mats Andmarken Mr. Christer Wargert |
| PREVEZA | Mrs. Vaya Pani Mr. Spyros Anemozalis Mrs. Kisti Ifigenia |
| SESIMBRA | Mr. Alberto Gameiro *Mrs. Cristina Gaboleiro Mrs. Cristina Conceição *Miss Ana Gaspar |
| SHERBORNE | Mr. Jeremy Barker Mr. Mike Balfour *Mrs. Lin Ashby *Mrs. Alison Flynn Mr. Chris MacAdie *Mrs. Lynne Raddall Mrs. Karin Robson |

The President welcomed all the Delegates, the new faces as well as the old, and mentioned in particular how nice it was to see again José Lutgen, Mayor of Houffalize and also Paul Georges, now restored to health.

Tomas Gonzalez, Chairman of the Altea Douzelage, expressed his wish that the Delegates would enjoy their stay whilst Miguel Ortiz Zaragoza, Mayor of Altea, noted that the conferences contributed to the unity between the towns. He hoped that the role of the Douzelage within the European Community would be recognised not only for its cultural activities, but especially for the achievements in education. Altea was committed to the Douzelage concept and would continue to contribute and, in particular, through Infoville.

A. Business Matters

1. The Minutes of the meeting held in Kötzing, 16th -19th September 1999, were approved.

2. The Annual Accounts for the period 1st April 1999 - 31st March 2000 were approved.

3.a A Statement of Accounts for the purchase of the Simultaneous Translation equipment was circulated to the towns by Nico van de Vliet.

3.b Transport & Insurance of Simultaneous Translation Equipment

1. It had been agreed in Kötzing that the Douzelage fund should meet all expenses involved for the transportation and insurance of the equipment during Douzelage conferences.

2. It was agreed in Altea that the equipment should go direct to the next town to use it. Thus :-

Altea —> Preveza —> Karkkila —> Oxelösund
(€400) (€400) (€400)

3. All towns had agreed to contribute to the capital cost of the equipment. The partner towns were especially appreciative of the generous contribution by Niederanven in view of the fact that they have easy access to the necessary equipment.

All towns, except Niederanven, agreed to contribute to the annual cost of insurance and transportation.

4. It was agreed that in the year 2000 - 2001 each town, except Niederanven, would pay €100. It was further agreed that the money would be held in an Account in the Euro-zone. Meerssen kindly agreed to manage the Account.

5. It was agreed to open negotiations with airlines in the hope of obtaining either free or reduced charges. In which case a change of policy would become possible. Towns are asked to withhold payment for the time being until invoices are sent out.

Action: ALL TOWNS

4. Annual Levy

In view of considerable expenses, and the decline in the value of the Euro, it was agreed to raise the level of subvention to €300.

5. EU funding

The amount to be granted for travel has been increased by €0.04 for each Km over 250 but no progress has as yet been made over the issue of each Delegation having to consist of at least ten people. The President, however, expressed his confidence that if we persist in this request the likelihood is that we will eventually succeed. Each town was asked to continue lobbying.

Dismay was expressed that Altea had not been granted financial support for their conference; the President stated he had done all he could and hoped that the decision might be reconsidered. Nico Hilbert volunteered to make direct contact with Commissioner Vivienne Reding on this issue and the President agreed to revise the Dossier originally sent to Nicole Fontaine, and to send it to her as soon as possible. It was also agreed to draw up guidelines for all towns making applications in the future.

N.B. Please send a list of all your activities to Jeremy Barker or Karin Robson so that they can be included in the Dossier

Action: The President

**Nico Hilbert
ALL TOWNS**

6. Douzelage Constitution

The Constitution drawn up in Kötzing was unanimously accepted.

7. Douzelage Charter

It was agreed that, as a tribute to Granville's initiative, the new Charter would retain the original text of 1991 with a Codicil. The Codicil would read :-

In view of the fact that three new towns have become partners in the Douzelage, and desiring to reaffirm their pledge to continue to work together in a common spirit to create a united, strong and dynamic Europe through all means at their disposal, the representatives of the fifteen towns have signed this Codicil to the original Charter in the town of Preveza in Autumn 2000.

Each town may translate the text into their own language, according to their wishes, and they would then bring the document to Preveza to be signed and sealed by each town.

B. Survey of Recent Events

The President requested towns to ensure that details of all activities and exchanges were forwarded to the Secretary, Karin Robson, so that a comprehensive list could be collated.

Action: ALL TOWNS

C. Projects not yet finished or in preparation

1. Holstebro Music Festival

Meerssen, Karkkila and Oxelösund will participate and the event will take place in 2001 as scheduled.

**Action: Holstebro
ALL TOWNS**

2. Youth Exchanges

- A Stay in the Belgian Ardennes (Houffalize) 4th - 6th June 2000

Granville and Bellagio students will participate as well 15 pupils from Houffalize schools. Activities include a 'Douzelage Challenge' as well as sporting and environmental pursuits. Full details on location, meeting points, etc. were requested.

Action: Houffalize

- European Youth Week (Kötzing) 6th - 17th August 2000

Application to participate is still possible. Towns were urged to endeavour to find at least four young people to attend as this is a very enjoyable and enlightening event.

Action: ALL TOWNS

- Mini Parliament (Bellagio) 10th May 2000

With participants coming from Granville, Meerssen, Houffalize, Sherborne, Kötzing and Preveza, Bellagio is justifiably proud of this initiative which grows from strength to strength.

- Millennium Scout Camp (Niederanven) 19th - 27th July 2000

A booklet with full details was circulated. 315 participants, including representatives from Sherborne, Meerssen and Sesimbra, will be attending but there is still time for more to apply. It was noted that parents are anxious to have full details on host families, travel arrangements, etc. with regard to all youth exchanges.

**Action: ALL TOWNS
Deadline 5/7/00**

- Sporting links

TENNIS - Although on this occasion the response was small, the towns supported Altea's suggestion that each town in turn hold a tennis tournament parallel to the Douzelage meeting. It was agreed that the tennis club of host towns would be

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asked to stage a concurrent tournament, where possible, and Preveza undertook to organize such an event in September 2000.

Action: Preveza
Niederanven
Karkkila
Oxelösund

FOOTBALL (Altea) 9th - 15th June 2000

A very large number of teams will participate including some from the Douzelage. Final applications to take part are still possible.

Deadline 20/5/00

- FUN 7 INLINE YOUTH CAMP (Judenburg) 5th - 8th July 2001

This is a new project with details included in the Judenburg brochure circulated to all the towns. Full information will be provided in Preveza.

Action: Judenburg

3. Preveza Symposium 14th - 17th September 2000

The central theme will be aimed at racism, refugees and Xenophobia. A workshop on the promotion of tourism will be held with officials invited from each of the Douzelage towns, Bundoran requesting a specific seminar on Blue Flag beaches. It was also agreed to hold a meeting for teachers from the six towns involved in the Comenius programme.

New projects from Preveza will include the establishment of Douzelage kiosks and promotion of a Douzelage music festival, whilst Altea will have details of a painting challenge.

4. Programme of future meetings

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|----------------------|-------------|
| 10th - 13th May 2001 | Niederanven |
| September 2001 | Karkkila |
| Spring 2002 | Oxelösund |
| Autumn 2002 | Houffalize |
| Spring 2003 | Sesimbra |
| Autumn 2003 | Holstebro |
| Spring 2004 | Judenburg |

5. Firaltea (Altea)

Due to re-location Douzelage towns could not be invited this year but will be able to participate in 2001.

Action: Altea

6. Workshops in Preveza

As noted in C.3 tourist information officials will be invited to Preveza to promote tourism amongst the Douzelage towns. In order to attract EU funding themes for other workshops were requested. **Action: ALL TOWNS**

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Towns circulated details of internet and e-mail addresses. Those who have not done so, and subsequent new addresses, are requested to be sent to Christer Wargert, Oxelösund, and Karin Robson, Sherborne. **Action: The President
ALL TOWNS**

All towns were requested by Judenburg to send relevant details for their monthly newspaper articles and Tourist Information. **Action: ALL TOWNS**

7. Exchange of Town Councillors (Sherborne)

Several towns showed continued interest in this initiative. Granville would approach their Town Hall, Judenburg were exchanging with Sherborne, Kötzing could exchange with other German speakers, Holstebro could only receive but not exchange. Oxelösund, Bundoran, Karkkila, Meerssen, Preveza, Bellagio and Altea requesting further details and lists of contact names. **Action: Sherborne**

8. Exchange of Town Librarians (Sherborne)

With Sherborne and Karkkila actively involved in a scheme towns were reminded that this project could be a part of annual training. Towns also expressing interest were Houffalize, Kötzing, Bundoran, Holstebro, Oxelösund, Sesimbra, Preveza, Altea and Judenburg and these were requested to provide a list of contact names for circulation between the towns. **Action: ALL TOWNS**

9. Exchange of Primary Health Care & Social Care Personnel (Karkkila)

Bundoran, Sherborne, Kötzing and Niederanven have positive contacts with other interested towns including Houffalize, Judenburg, Holstebro, Meerssen and Sesimbra. Towns were reminded that this Karkkila initiative, as with many other Douzelage projects, serves as a catalyst for response and contact between Douzelage townspeople rather than a specific prepared programme of events.

Action: ALL TOWNS

10. Honeymoon exchanges (Granville)

Towns were reminded that this initiative has been very successful in the past and, with a positive response for new exchanges including the involvement of new towns, Bernard Husson, Granville, agreed to act as co-ordinator. Towns expressing interest were Sherborne, Granville, Houffalize, Judenburg, Kötzing, Bundoran, Holstebro, Sesimbra, Preveza, Bellagio and Altea. **Action: Granville**

ALL TOWNS

D. Douzelage Play 31st July - 5th August

This uniquely ambitious and dynamic Douzelage event has survived a period of immense financial worry caused by Brussels. John Sutherland-Smith expressed his grateful thanks to Karkkila for their continued faith and support and for finding the money to allow the Play to go ahead.

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Following the recent meeting in Niederanven the script has been organised with a strong theme on refugees and the attitude of countries towards them. Commercial enterprises include CDs and the reproduction of a painting by a Danish artist which will be sold for D Kr 3000 (£270) each.

This first Douzelage Play is now regarded as a pilot event and it is intended that others will follow. No formula has been decided and ideas were requested: one suggestion is for a touring company to perform for three or four days in the partner towns.

Action: ALL TOWNS

E. New projects

1. Douzelage Millennium tree

An education initiative from Sherborne this project received an enthusiastic and positive response from all towns, each of whom agreed to plant an appropriate tree with a commemorative plaque.

Action: ALL TOWNS

2. 'Douze Villes pour connaître l'Europe' by Jean Pochet

Karkkila, Oxelösund and Judenburg were requested to sent appropriate information to Houffalize for the updating of this valuable book.

**Action: Karkkila
Oxelösund
Judenburg**

3. Douzelage Tenth Anniversary Celebration - Niederanven 10-13 May 2001

An EU official will be invited to the conference with the name of Nicole Fontaine from Granville amongst the suggestions. Other ideas were for each town to bring musicians and a speciality for the final dinner. Sherborne suggested that a display be created to show the foremost contributions by each of the partner towns which could then be subsequently exhibited in Brussels and Strasbourg.

Action: ALL TOWNS

4. Painting Challenge (Altea)

This new proposal was well received and Altea were requested to circulate full details on paper, which in particular should include information on transport, insurance and Customs.

**Action: Altea
Granville**

5. Virtual Electronics (Judenburg)

With details included in their brochure and to go on the Douzelage website, this initiative is for pupils aged between 13 and 15 years to make contact by e-mail.

Action: Judenburg

6. International slides festival (Judenburg)

Featuring travel and adventure, information on this project is included in the Judenburg folder and on their website.

ALTEA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

4th - 7th May 2000

1. Review of Douzelage activities since April 1999

Altea - folk music project with Bellagio, Mini-Parliament, primary school Comenius project, letter exchange 'Once upon a Time there was a Wood' with Italy and Belgium. Junior football tournament

Bellagio - 15 students will participate in the Houffalize project 'Stay in the Belgian Ardennes', organisation of new Mini-Parliament with between 18-20 students expected, visit to EU Parliament, Strasbourg. Folk music project with Altea

Granville - pupils are interviewing Granville Douzelage members and compiling reports for their school - 3 prizewinners will go to the Mini-Parliament, pupil exchanges with Pontelambro in Italy and with Sherborne, tree planted in Villa Christian Dior by Sherborne pupil during her work experience week, 32 pupils going to Houffalize 'Stay in the Belgian Ardennes'. Students from the Catering School participate in training course in Germany

Holstebro - completion of Comenius project with Sherborne and Ilsenburg, 30 students and 2 teachers visit Kötzing

Houffalize - 3 pupils will attend Mini-Parliament, letter exchanges with Niederanven and Kötzing, many students expected for 'Stay in the Belgian Ardennes', internet project on pre-school education

Judenburg - Comenius project

Karkkila - pupils exchanging with Sherborne, Douzelage Play

Kötzing - some 30 young people expected at Kötzing Week of the Young, Reading Wall exchanges with Niederanven. Julia Bergbauer, Gymnasium student, contributes to Granville project on European schools, student and teacher exchange with Holstebro, 2 pupils go to Mini-Parliament. Junior football exchange with Niederanven.

Meerssen - Youth Week in Meerssen, environmental project with Preveza, Mini-Parliament, letter exchange with Sherborne, e-mail exchange with Granville

Niederanven - Millennium Scout Camp. Reading Wall project with Kötzing with some of the stories posted up on the Internet. Primary school exchange of letters with Houffalize and junior football with Kötzing. E-mail to Sesimbra on their successful Internet contest.

Oxelösund - project with Granville Collège André Malraux, travel bursary allocated to students attending Week of the Young

Preveza - e-mail exchange with Meerssen

Sesimbra - Fairy Tales & Legends project

Sherborne - 16 footballers to play in Altea football tournament, 3 pupils to Mini-Parliament, exchange of letters with Lecco, Italy. Natalie House from Gryphon on work experience in Granville where she also planted an oak tree, student exchange between Gryphon and Granville. Completion of Comenius project with Holstebro and Ilsenburg. Sherborne Prep and Yetminster Primary Comenius project with Judenburg. Student and teacher exchange with Karkkila, 15 Gryphon students will participate in Douzelage Play. Visit by Realschule, Kötzing, students. 4 students to attend Meerssen Youth Week. Venture scouts to attend Niederanven Millennium Scout camp

2/3. Special Educational Needs & Workshops

‘The purpose of education for all children is the same, the goals are the same, but the help that individual children need in progressing towards them will be different. Whereas for some the road they have to travel towards the goals is smooth and easy, for others it is fraught with obstacles’.

Alison Flynn, SEN teacher at the Gryphon School, Dorset, UK began her discussion by informing the delegates that in England each County Council issues guidelines for Special Educational Needs and that her own philosophy lies in early identification. She continued by outlining the five levels of Code of Practice for identifying and monitoring SEN pupils and produced information packs for each delegation containing an example of data on the students transferring from primary to secondary school.

Upon entry to The Gryphon each pupil goes through an assessment procedure, even if they have been previously tested, with scores in numeracy and literacy made available for all staff: students who are subsequently judged to have special needs are then assigned an extra teacher - Learning Support Assistant. 90% of Gryphon SEN pupils achieve their educational goals.

Each identified pupil is provided with an IEP - Individual Education Plan - a blank example of which was provided in the delegation packs and which Alison Flynn explained was completed for each student as a way of them reaching goals. These are constantly reviewed and monitored with teachers, parents, LSAs, head of the SEN department and sometimes the pupils themselves take part in an annual review in order to set a plan for the next year.

This presentation provoked much interest and discussion and was then followed by delegates breaking into four separate Workshop groups with a guideline agenda, the results were debated when the delegates reconvened.

4. Reports from Workshops

1. *What is the structure of your organisation with regard to pupils with SEN?*
Many similarities between teachers towards these children, no specific testing in Denmark, France and Italy start to identify problems in pre-school

How far are SEN pupils integrated in your school?

Some countries have special schools for pupils with disabilities but the trend is for mainstream integration

What type of special difficulties have you found in pupils during their work?

The consensus was that social behaviour is an ever increasing major problem with greater parental education often necessary

How are Able Pupils catered for?

This question raised much debate. The Netherlands have unsuccessfully tried Able Pupil schools, Denmark are beginning to address this special problem, in France the parents have to find appropriate schools and in Belgian the able pupils are educated with their intelligence peers. The Gryphon in Sherborne has an Able Pupils Co-ordinator who is able to offer extension studies.

In the future, what progress would you like to see happen with regard to Special Educational Needs?

It was agreed that a SEN forum should be added to the Douzelage website with copies of all the information included in the special pack produced by Alison Flynn for the delegates. This forum should also include the discussions and resolutions from the Altea Education conference. Matts Andermarken from Oxelösund, together with Alison Flynn, undertook to co-ordinate this.

Niederanven considered that parents should have the right to decide whether their child would be educated in a mainstream school. It was generally agreed that teachers needed better training with regard to SEN and that parental involvement was vital, both with practical help such as reading and attending pupil reviews as well as their acceptance that their child may have a problem. In Spain the Social Services may, where appropriate, place the pupils with foster parents.

Bearing in mind that 'problems are normal' delegates agreed that smaller class sizes are always preferable. How to study is an important lesson; homework was recognised as a specific skill requiring the ability to work individually, retrospectively and unsupported, and therefore 'homework clubs' would mitigate the exercise.

It was noted that SEN pupils in special schools seldom returned to mainstream education, despite regular monitoring and appraisal, and that careful and relevant careers advice and experience was of especial importance.

The Chairman, Lynne Raddall, considered this discussion to have been enormously beneficial and that all delegates had considered it to be a worthwhile enterprise. With greater understanding of how schools in the European Union approach the problem it was felt that greater support would be possible. The new Douzelage website forum would play a significant role in the promotion of greater understanding, support and communication.

5. Video Conferencing

Due to lack of time this topic had to be omitted but will be followed up by the Chairman.

6. Pre-School Education

Lin Ashby from Sherborne informed the delegates that, since initiating this project during the Douzelage Education meeting in Bellagio in 1998, she had drawn up a questionnaire which was circulated to all the towns. From the 23 replies that she received she had compiled a comprehensive list of Pre-school/Nursery schools. Included with the list were contact names, age groups, funding and special interests of the participants. Delegates were requested to regularly update Lin Ashby with any changes or new information.

7. Visit to Les Rotes School, Altea

During a tour of the Les Rotes School delegates were given an excellent multi-lingual adaptation of the play 'Sleeping Beauty' and shown different classes, including art and IT, and the results of a Comenius project. Seven year olds gave a display of learning the art of flamenco dancing and a special performance was also given by the professional tutors. As Les Rotes has many pupils from different countries it has recently been awarded a Special Arts Status and the schools is able to promote art, music and drama as well as languages. Delegates were finally shown the Infants school which also housed a speech therapy unit for junior as well as senior school pupils.

8/9. Website Presentation & Douzelage Play

Delegates joined those from the General meeting for the Website presentation by Chris MacAdie. John Sutherland-Smith also gave a presentation on the Douzelage Play.

10. Comenius Project

Judenburg and Sherborne Preparatory School have already received funding grants and therefore only one more town from the other four applicants needs consent for the three year project to go ahead, the title which is 'Six.towns@one.Europe'. Pupils will be asked to record and compare their daily activities, the first year being on 'One schoolday in six towns'. The language will be English and the work will be put onto CD-ROM with twice yearly meetings.

11. New projects

Details of new projects were circulated on paper to the delegates :-

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| <u>Altea</u> | 1. 'Mosaic of towns' for pupils from 3-14 years |
| <u>Judenburg</u> | 1. E-mail contacts between pupils aged 10-18 years 2. Slide competition 'Journeys & Adventures' 20/21st October 2000 3. Teachers invited to go skiing with opportunity to take groups of students |
| <u>Karkkila</u> | 1. French and German language contacts 2. Douzelage Play |
| <u>Meerssen</u> | 1. The Roman period in Europe, link particularly sought with Preveza 2. European Youth Week, October 2000, theme on United Europe 3. Raising of funds for San Felipé |
| <u>Niederanven</u> | 1. School Reading Wall with pictures to go on Douzelage website |
| <u>Oxelösund</u> | 1. Co-ordination of new Douzelage SEN website forum |
| <u>Sherborne</u> | 1. Millennium Tree-planting |

Conclusion

In thanking the delegates and organisers for all their hard work the chairman, Lynne Raddall asked for any specific message to convey in her report to the General Meeting. She was requested to remind the General Meeting that 'children are the way forward for the Douzelage' and that greater consideration should therefore be

given to the Education meetings to create greater equality. A change in working practice and working times would be requested for the next education meeting in Niederranven in 2001 - in particular to allow more time for discussions.