

TWENTIETH DOUZELAGE
CONFERENCE

NIEDERANVEN

10th - 13th May 2001

PRESENT

10th Anniversary Special Guests

Mr. Henri Haffray
Mr. & Mrs. Karl Majoor

ALTEA

Mr. Tomas Gonzalez
Mr. Manuel Delgado
Mr. Feli Navarro
Mrs. Carmen Borrego
Mrs. Josefa Perles
Mrs. Inma Cortes

General Meeting

Education

Translator

BELLAGIO

Mr. Alessandro Nettuno
Mrs. Angela Gilardoni
Mr. Simone Cattaneo
Mr. P. Nociforo
Mr. P. Rossi

General Meeting

Education

BUNDORAN

Mr. Joe McNulty
Mr. Tiernan Brady
Mr. Michael Mahon
Ms. Grainne Jones
Ms. Maria McSharry

General Meeting

Education

GRANVILLE

Mr. Jean-Marc Julienne
Mr. Bernard Husson
Mr. Pierre Audrain
Mrs. Mathilde Prost
Mr. André Gendre
Mr. & Mrs. Marcel Michel
Mrs. Marie-Thérèse Andrin
Mr. & Mrs. Raoul Delamare
Mrs. Sylvie Julienne

General Meeting

Education

Website

Non-Official

HOLSTEBRO	Mrs. Mette Grith Sørensen Mrs. Hanne Rahbek Mrs. Dorte Storper Mr. Morgens Beck Mr. Jorgen Lindholm	General Meeting Education Play
HOUFFALIZE	Mr. Paul Georges Mr. Alphonse Henrard Mr. José Lutgen Mr. Daniel Rob Mrs. Manuela Di Pinto Mrs. Dany Dubé Mrs. Malou Henrard Mr. Francis Collin	General Meeting Education Journaliste
JUDENBURG	Mr. Gerald Dobnigg Mrs. Andrea Kober Mrs. Sylvia Hubl Mr. Manfred Hoffelner	General Meeting Education Website
KARKKILA	Mrs. Riitta Huovinen Mrs. Marja Kärkkäinen Mr. Erkki Saarinen Mrs. Salla Nikander Mrs. Eeva-Kaisa Nikkilä Mr. Matti Poskiparta	General Meeting Education Play
KÖTZTING	Mr. Wolfgang Kerscher Mr. Hermann Kumpfmüller Mr. Wolfgang Ludwig Mrs. Evi Maurer Mr. Günther Pecher	General Meeting Education
MEERSSEN	Mr. Nico van de Vliet Mr. Joop Hosman Mr. Ger Kockelkorn Mrs. Irene Raedts Mr. Jan Swanevleugel Mr. Cees Rullens Mr. & Mrs. Peter Gillissen Mr. & Mrs. Rob Waltmans Mrs. Marlies Hosman Mrs. Anneke Kockelkorn Mr. Martijn Hosman	General Meeting Education Play Non-Official Website

NIEDERANVEN	Mr. Francis Anen	General Meeting
	Mr. John Bauler	
	Mr. Claude Braun	
	Mr. Fernand Gatti	
	Mr. Antoine Geyer	
	Mr. Paul Greis	
	Mr. Nico Hilbert	
	Mr. Claude Kaufmann	
	Mr. Ted Moos	
	Mr. Jos Mouton	
	Mr. Albert Paquet	
	Mrs. Mari-Antoinette Paquet	
	Mr. Jeannot Poiré	
	Mr. Gust Ronck	
	Mr. Sonny Sartorius	
	Mr. John Schumacher	
	Mr. Nico Schumacher	
	Mr. Léon Wecker	
	Mrs. Nicole Wecker-Bintner	
	Mr. Raymond Weydert	
Mrs. Colette Poos	Education	
Mrs. Reine Kohnen-Reichling		
Mr. Paul Klein	Play	
Mr. Ed Weber	Website	
OXELÖSUND	Mr. Sören Carlsson	General Meeting
	Mrs. Benita Vikström	
	Mr. Christer Wargert	Website
	Mrs. Gunilla Wargert	Non-Official
PREVEZA	Mr. Georgios Alisandratos	General Meeting
	Mr. Konstantinos Papageorgiou	
	Mrs. Barbara Zandraveli	Education
	Ms. Amalia Papageorgiou	Website
	Mr. Konstantinos Sofianos	
SESIMBRA	Miss Ana Teresa Martins	General Meeting
	Mr. Amadeu Penim	
	Mrs. Amadeu Penim	Non-Official
SHERBORNE	Mr. Jeremy Barker	General Meeting
	Mr. Mike Balfour	
	Mrs. Margaret Balfour	
	Mrs. Karin Robson	
	Mrs. Lynne Raddall	Education
	Mr. John Sutherland-Smith	Play
	Mr. Chris MacAdie	Website

In his speech of welcome to the Delegates the President expressed his pleasure in seeing many familiar faces, as well as new ones, continuity being vital to the continuing effectiveness of the Douzelage Symposia.. The last year had come to a fitting climax but it was to the future that all now had to look.

Jul Christophory from Luxembourg, Head of the European Commission's Delegation in Luxembourg, and Franco Avena from Italy, responsible in the Delegation for Public Relations, both recognised the unique role played by the Douzelage through its many activities at the grass roots level of Europe and its promotion of contact between its citizens through education, culture and sport.

A. Business Matters

1. The Minutes of the meeting held in Preveza, 14th - 17th September 2000, were approved.

2. The Statement of Accounts for the period 1st April 2000 - 31 March 2001 was unanimously approved. Towns were urged to pay the annual subvention promptly.

3. Simultaneous Translation Equipment

A Financial Statement was circulated by Meerssen. The costs are very low for 2001 and therefore ample money remains in the fund for travel and insurance. Towns were urged to endeavour to transport the equipment by car, rather than by plane, as this was usually cheaper.

4. Subscription for the year 2001/2002

It was agreed that this would remain at €300 for each town.

5. Honorarium for the Douzelage Secretary

It was agreed that this would be raised to €1,654 per annum.

6. Organisation of Meetings

Vice-President Riitta Huovinen held an informal workshop on Thursday, 10th May, she and Ed Weber then presented two Proformas as agreed in Preveza :-

- Proforma for new projects (DF 0001A)
- Proforma for future workshops (DF 0002A)

These were agreed with minor modifications, including the necessity to include **deadlines** and likely costs.

The following points were also made :-

- the subject of workshops should be announced at least three months in advance
- the announcement should include a clear statement as to qualifications and expertise desirable for those attending the workshops

- such prior notice is necessary since it in fact dictates who will be included in delegations to the symposium

**Action: Niederanven - to
finalise the proformas
and send to Oxelösund
Oxelösund - to place on website**

7. Further Development of the Website

As the inclusion of candidate countries is favoured by Brussels, it was agreed that the towns of Turi (Estonia), Susice (Czech Republic) and Chojna (Poland) be included on the Douzelage website.

Action: Oxelösund

As the site continues to improve and develop each town needs to appoint a moderator for the updating of information, the intention being that the website will become the main means of communication. **It is also vital that all e-mails are acknowledged.**

Action: ALL TOWNS

8. Presidency of Parallel Education Meetings

Confirming the resignation of Lynne Raddall as Chairman of Education, the President praised her outstanding contribution to the Douzelage. It was agreed that the choice of replacement should rest with the teachers and it was further noted that the chosen person would need to be able to rely on support from their own town.

B. Survey of recent events

All towns circulated written details of their many recent Douzelage activities with verbal reports on long established programmes.

Towns were requested to send Niederanven a list of groups and clubs, as well as dates of school holidays and exam times, these would be co-ordinated and put onto the website to facilitate arrangement of dates for youth activities.

**Action: Niederanven
Oxelösund
ALL TOWNS**

- Comenius programme: (Preveza, Judenburg, Sherborne, Karkkila, Chojna (Poland) and Massa e Cozzile (Italy))

The programme 'six.towns@one.europe' was reported as continuing to be highly successful, involving the sending of material between the primary schools. The pupils derive enormous pleasure from the arrival of packages containing photos, stories and videos and a CD-ROM is being prepared covering the first year's work.

The next Comenius teachers' meeting would be in Karkkila in October 2001, probably just before the conference, and then in Italy in March 2002. It was also

hoped that children could go skiing in Judenburg, experience summer in Preveza and also spend a week at the Preparatory School in Sherborne.

In view of the tremendous success of the Comenius programme, which has proved to be so enjoyable and yet simple to do without too much work, the President expressed his hope that all towns would become involved in such a programme soon.

- European Youth Week (Meerssen)

Douzelage towns were well represented in this project which was a good example of involvement with youth. It will be held next in February 2002 in Brussels.

- European Youth Week 2001 (Kötzting)

Details of this continuingly successful event were circulated to the towns.

- Douzelage Millennium Tree

Towns with special events to include the planting of their tree are as follows :-

BELLAGIO: tree to be planted in school garden on 26th May during the Mini-Parliament

HOUFFALIZE: planting during the Douzelage Symposium in 2002

SESIMBRA: 5th June - International Day of Trees

KÖTZTING: 15th July Flag of Honour. Visit of theatre group from Preveza and all Douzelage towns invited.

To mark the occasion of their tree planting Niederanven asked for poems on Trees from school children in the Douzelage partner towns - this proved to be a very popular and enjoyable exercise.

- Costa Blanca Cup 2001 (Altea) 8th - 14th July 2001

A video showing scenes from the successful event held in 2000 was shown. Partner towns are offered free entry and special rates for accommodation and food to compete for the Douzelage trophy. Entries close shortly.

- La Manche/Dorset Twinning Seminar - Granville April 2001

The third meeting of this organisation was held in Granville and included invitations to young people from all towns present as well as from Chojna in Poland and Judenburg. This proved so enjoyable that they will be invited to a special day in Cherbourg in September. The 2002 meeting will be in Brussels with invitations to all Douzelage towns to include two young people, **again all the Douzelage towns will be invited**

Action: ALL TOWNS

- San Felipé School Bus (Sesimbra)

Thanks to donations by Douzelage towns and Sesimbra a large sum has been raised towards the cost of purchasing a school bus. The new Mayor of San Felipé is

now seeking to raise the rest of the sum and it is hoped to give a concluding report in Karkkila.

Action: Sesimbra

C. Projects not yet finished or in preparation

1. Karkkila Symposium 4th - 7th October 2001 - Programme and Accommodation

Comprehensive details were circulated to the towns; delegates were reminded that accommodation would be limited and that there would therefore be no single rooms available. The request was also made for an English/French interpreter.

Action: Niederanven

- Workshops

The two workshops will be :-

a. Health and Social Care

b. Website teach-in

Although many towns expressed interest in the proposal of a third workshop on environmental issues it was agreed that this was too specialised a subject. It was therefore agreed that delegates could also go sightseeing in the town and forest.

2. Programme of future meetings

16th - 19th May 2002	Oxelösund
10th - 13th October 2002	Houffalize
Spring 2003	Sesimbra
Autumn 2003	Holstebro
Spring 2004	Judenburg
Autumn 2004	Granville
Spring 2005	Bundoran
Autumn 2005	Meerssen
Spring 2006	Bellagio
Autumn 2006	Sherborne

3. Holstebro Music Festival

This project has been cancelled.

4. Tennis during Symposia

Karkkila will not be able to hold a competition, Oxelösund will need to confirm following the change of date of their Symposium, Houffalize will be able to make arrangements.

Action: Oxelösund

5. Firaltea 5th - 10th October 2001

A new free site is now available to accommodate the Douzelage towns, of which at least six are needed to send representatives. Despite this attractive offer

delegates thought that the transport costs would be too high but would publicise the event in their towns.

Action: ALL

Deadline 30/7/01

6. Exchange of Town Councillors

This was a very successful event attended by councillors from Susice and Chojna but representatives from the Douzelage towns who had expressed interest had not been able to come. Holstebro may try to host a similar meeting in 2002 as it is a productive and worthwhile project.

Action: Holstebro

Sherborne

7. Exchange of Town Librarians

Kötzting has expressed interest in hosting a librarian from Sherborne. Other towns expressing interest were Meerssen, Karkkila and Oxelösund.

Action: Sherborne

Kötzting

Meerssen

Karkkila

Oxelösund

8. Updating of 'Douze villes pour connaître l'Europe'

Karkkila, Oxelösund and Judenburg have sent information on their towns. The proposal to make a presentation folder, which can be updated by the removal and addition of pages, was enthusiastically accepted. Towns were therefore requested to draft their own text, with English translation, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. EU funding would be sought and it was further suggested that the completed work be published on the website.

Action: ALL TOWNS

Holstebro, Preveza and Altea requested copies of the current booklet.

Action: Houffalize

9. Douzelage Banner

A proposed design was circulated by Sherborne and Meerssen undertook to contact a company in the Netherlands for a price which they would then email to the towns. Bellagio also undertook to contact a company in Italy.

Action: Meerssen

Bellagio

10. Creative Conservation

A site has been identified by Sherborne which they intend to improve. Other towns have regular projects which often involve schools and youth clubs in such undertakings as beach cleaning (Granville and Sesimbra), rivers (Meerssen and Houffalize) and roadsides (Karkkila).

11. European Sports Link

Although Sherborne had been intending to send several participants not enough other firm registrations had been received for this project to go ahead. Judenburg were encouraged to try again.

Action: Judenburg

12. Karkkila Youth Street Theatre

Details had been circulated during the Preveza Symposium of a group of young people, aged 18 - 23 years, who would like to tour the Douzelage towns during the Summer of 2002. No further information was available.

Action: Karkkila

Towns were informed that, following the huge success of the Douzelage Play a special performance will be staged in Meerssen under the direction of Cees Rullens.

Address by Mme Annemarie Bruggink

Mme Annemarie Bruggink, EC official from Education & Culture and with special responsibility for Twinning, outlined the history of town twinning from the end of the Second World War, and spoke warmly of the originality of the Douzelage organisation.

Mme Bruggink's small team endeavours to be flexible over the thousands of requests received by the department, but operates under strict Commission guidelines and it is therefore crucial that these requests meet the specifications. Conferences should feature priority issues such as xenophobia and, if possible, involve candidate countries.

It is hoped to publish on the website guidelines to the most frequent problems encountered, and any solutions found for them, and also to set out an ideal example of an application.

Address by Mme Viviane Reding

Commissioner Mme Viviane Reding informed the delegates that, as the foundations of Europe lie in its roots, she always considers how any decisions would affect her own community.

Community support for twinning began in 1989 under the initiative of the European Parliament and there are now targetted programmes on the euro, environment, young people and xenophobia. The focus is particularly on the youth of Europe at all levels and includes those from candidate countries. Youth groups have been to Paris to speak to the Commissioners on their ideas for future policies. It is important to listen to these young people and to let them know that it is their Europe which is being built, rather than one based on policies dictated and imposed from above, and the Council of Ministers will now include one young person from each country.

Mme Reding particularly praised the initiative of the Douzelage CommunityPlay as an example of involvement between several countries and further stressed the absolute necessity of learning foreign languages. For that reason 2001 has been designated the European Year of Languages and, under the slogans 'Mother Tongue plus Two' and 'Learn the Language of your Neighbour', aims to encourage the teaching of at least two foreign languages to children.

In conclusion Mme Reding confirmed the need for all people of all ages to be IT literate, otherwise a new social gulf will be created between those with the new technology skills and those without.

D. New Projects

1. Folk Dancing (Oxelösund)

A proposal to host dancing groups from the partner towns during the Symposium in May 2002 was well received, with the usual reservations over costs. It was agreed that Oxelösund should complete a Project Pro-forma and put it on the website.

Action: Oxelösund

2. Collection of Old Currencies

With most EU countries on the point of adopting the euro many West European currencies will shortly become obsolete. It was agreed to make a collection in Karkkila and that a donation could then be made to a youth project.

Action: ALL TOWNS

3. Student Travel Fund

The suggestion put to the Delegates was for the setting up of a fund to assist with travel in connection with Douzelage youth projects such as the Houffalize 'Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux' and the Bellagio Mini-Parliament. Towns were requested to discuss this at their committees and to inform the President of their opinions in order to draw up a proposal for the Karkkila Symposium. See Appendix C.

Action: ALL TOWNS

4. 'Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux' 11th - 15th June 2001

Following the initial success of last year a similar programme to include sport, IT and children's rights will take place in June. Some 70 young people as well as teachers are expected from Niederanven, Bellagio and Granville and other Douzelage towns can still take part.

**Action: Houffalize
ALL TOWNS**

E. Reports

- 1. Education Meeting - Appendix A**
- 2. Information Technology - Appendix B**
- 3. Student Travel Fund - Appendix C**
- 4. Douzelage Play - Appendix D**