

**TWENTY-FIRST DOUZELAGE
CONFERENCE**

KARKKILA

4th - 7th October 2001

PRESENT

Altea	Mr Tomas González Mr Gregorio Cortés Mrs Feli Navarro Mrs Josefa Perles Mrs Inmaculada Cortés Mr Felipe Coello
Bellagio	Mrs Maria Angela Mr Simone Cattaneo Mr Alessandro Nettuno
Bundoran	Mr Joe Mc Nulty Mr Michael Mc Mahon Mr Eamon Barrett Mrs Denise Connolly
Granville	Mr Jean-Marc Julienne Mr Bernard Husson Mr Marcel Michel Mrs Michel Mr André Gendre Mr Herman Montreuil
Holstebro	Ms Mette Grith Sörensen Ms Mette Mörk Andersen Mr Peter Högsberg Ms Jette Hingbjerg Ms Hanne Rahbek
Houffalize	Mr Alphonse Henrard Ms Manuela Di Pinto Ms Donate Huet Ms Denise Hansenne
Judenburg	Mr Gerald Dobnigg Ms Margit Ergert Mr Manfred Hoffelner Ms Andrea Kober Ms Michaela Eisbacher

Karkkila

Mr Kari Korkiakoski
Ms Riitta Huovinen
Ms Tuire Lehti-Chatta
Mr Erkki Saarinen
Ms Helena Palm
Ms Seija Laine
Ms Nina Saikanmäki
Mr Ari Sundberg
Mr Jarmo Mäkinen
Ms Tuula Hakala
Ms Aila Ollila
Eila Pitkonen
Anna-Liisa Riekkinen
Minna Karhapää
Pirjo Hölttä
Lillemor Öhman
Pirkko Hynynen
Outi Kulla
Päivi Rinne
Ritva Kupiainen
Reino Immonen
Paula Pyykkönen
Anne Virta
Ira Broman
Ms Kristiina Kairamo
Ms Eeva-Kaisa Nikkilä
Ms Eija Suutari

Kötzting

Mr Günther Pecher
Mr Wolfgang Kerscher
Mr Herman Kumpfmüller
Mr Philipp Maimer
Ms Evi Maurer

Meerssen

Mr Nico van de Vliet
Mrs W. van de Vliet
Mr Martijn Hosman
Mrs Irene Raedts

Niederanven

Mr Jeannot Poiré
Mr Ed Weber
Mr Nico Hilbert
Mr Jos Mouton
Mr Albert Paquet
Mrs Marie-Antoinette Paquet
Mr Arnold Kess

Oxelösund	Mr Christer Wargert Mr Sören Carlsson Mr Göte Eriksson Mr John Pettersson Mr Kenneth Rodrick
Preveza	Mr Georgios Alisandratos Mr Georgios Patrozos Mr Spiridon Karabitianis Mr Kostas Sofianos Mrs Barbara Zandraveli
Sesimbra	Mr Cristóvão Rodrigues Ms Ana Teresa Martins Ms Dinora Sa
Sherborne	Mr Jeremy Barker Mr Chris MacAdie Mrs Lin Ashby Mrs Penny Thomas Mr David de Mattos Mr Mike Balfour Mrs Karin Robson Mr Alan Ashby
Chojna	Mr Kazimierz Kostanski Mr Edward Piotrowski
Sigulda	Mr Talis Pukitis Mrs Dagnija Mezavilka
Türi	Mr Ervin Jürisoo Mrs Katrin Soomets

In welcoming the delegates the President expressed especial pleasure that representatives from Sigulda (Latvia), Türi (Estonia) and Chojna (Poland) were attending. Emphasis on the involvement of youth and the need to include young people in the delegations was particularly stressed.

Kari Korhikoski, Mayor of Karkkila, commented on the active role played by Karkkila since becoming a member of the Douzelage in 1997. The Douzelage Play had been a great achievement which had generated much publicity and international goodwill.

A. Business Matters

- 1. The Minutes** of the meeting held in Niederanven, 10th - 13th May 2001, were approved.
- 2. The Accounts** for the period 1st April 2001 - 24th September 2001 were received. Although well within budget, several towns were listed as not having yet paid their annual subvention; however one payment had been received without indication from which town.
- 3. Simultaneous Translation Equipment**
With money still available in the account it was agreed that three more units and some headsets should be purchased whilst still available for the system. The price would be in the region of €300.
Action: Nico van der Vliet
- 4. Organisation of Meetings**
Towns were reminded to use the project forms for all new proposals.
Action: ALL TOWNS
- 5. Development of the Website**
Delegations were urged by Christer Wargert to have representatives attend the IT workshop so that at least one or two people from each town could use and access the website.
- 6. Communication in the Douzelage**
The problems which Sesimbra had encountered with email are now resolved.
- 7. Refunding of delegates' travel costs**
For travel exceeding 250 kms in total Brussels now pay €0.05 per km. These monies are now paid directly to each town rather than to the host and a formula for easier distribution will be drawn up. Those for Karkkila will come under this formula, always assuming that they will get a grant in the first place.

Nico Hilbert, Niederanven, undertook to approach Mme Annemarie Bruggink over payment to Karkkila for the Douzelage Play.

B. Survey of recent events.

Reports were circulated by all towns with details of their many recent Douzelage activities. Verbal reports were given on long established programmes.

Towns were again 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: ALL TOWNS
Niederanven**

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

The six towns are now in the second year of the three year programme involving children aged from six to thirteen years. The first year's topics - school day and home life - has progressed to cover the schools themselves and the third year will feature the environment. Both teachers and children are equally enthusiastic and a CD-ROM and book will be produced at the end of the project.

Sesimbra, Preveza and Bundoran are now in the third year of a programme with two other non-Douzelage towns.

As the Douzelage is an ideal set-up for starting programmes, those towns which had not yet participated were urged to get involved: March 2002 being the deadline for the next new projects. The Douzelage education website should provide a database for contact addresses of all interested people and schools.

- Millennium Tree

Meerssen will plant their tree in their new park and Houffalize will be planting their tree during the symposium in October 2002.

Karkkila has already planted a millennium tree and a Douzelage avenue will be planted during the Symposium.

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

A successful programme of cultural and educational activities was enjoyed by young people including some from Bellagio, Bundoran and Niederanven as well as from the candidate towns.

Details of this well established and popular event, which will be held next year on 10th - 14th June, were circulated to the towns: the deadline for application is **31st December 2001**.

Action: ALL TOWNS

San Felipé

The towns of Sherborne, Bundoran, Niederanven, Meerssen and Kötzing, who had contributed to the bus project, agreed that the money collected should now go towards new computers for the school. Sesimbra were requested to send information.

Action: Sesimbra

- Preveza/Sherborne Youth Exchange

For the fourth time young people from Sherborne travelled to Preveza and had an enjoyable time, which included studying the history and ecology of the region, but as a result of problems encountered in finding Greek host families no young people came back to Sherborne. Discussions would be held to reorganise the planning.

**Action: Preveza
Sherborne**

- Mini-Parliament

No less than nine of the Douzelage towns were represented at the sixth session of the Mini-Parliament, under the theme of environmental protection. An engineer was invited to talk on waste management and a visit was made to a water treatment plant. Despite the continuing success of this project, due mainly to voluntary work undertaken by private individuals, funding is still not forthcoming from Brussels. Mme Annemarie Bruggink has promised help for 2002 and both the President and Nico Hilbert undertook to assist. It was also noted that Houffalize did not receive EU help for the Séjour à l'Adeps à Engreux.

**Action: The President
Nico Hilbert**

- Preveza/Karkkila Student Exchange

Following the successful and enjoyable visit by the Greek students to Karkkila this year, the return visit to Preveza will be in Spring 2002 and is keenly anticipated. The Finnish host families liked their guests very much and the students were equally enthusiastic over Finnish hospitality.

- Kötzing Week of the Young

Difficulties were again experienced in getting young people from the Douzelage towns but six came from Karkkila and two from Houffalize as well as three from Susice. The programme was very varied with trips to Nürnberg and Kötzing and included a talk from an MEP. Details for next year will be sent on by the Waldmünchen Youth Hostel by the end of February 2002 and towns were asked to pass the information on to their schools as soon as possible. The information would also be put onto the website.

**Action: Kötzing
ALL TOWNS**

All these established and hugely enjoyable events reflect the key role played by the Douzelage in the promotion of friendship and co-operation throughout Europe. The host towns and families often cement lasting friendships with their guests and the visitors invariably return to their homes with reports of wonderful warm receptions during their stay.

Those towns which had not yet supplied Niederanven with a list of groups and clubs, as well as dates of school holidays and exam times, were requested to do so as soon as possible. These will be co-ordinated and put onto the website to facilitate the arrangement of dates for youth activities.

Kötzting Flag of Honour

Amongst those attending the ceremony on 15th July, held in the Douzelage Stone Circle, were the President, Jeremy Barker, a theatre group from Preveza and representatives from Chojna. The flag was handed over by a member of the European Council and during the occasion the Millennium tree was planted.

Information on how to apply will be circulated and it is hoped that all towns will take turns to apply, with Sherborne taking the initiative.

C. Projects not yet finished or in preparation

1. Oxelösund Symposium 16th - 19th May 2002

A preliminary budget has been drawn up and details on travel and accommodation were circulated.

Workshops

The theme of lifelong learning for children and adults is proposed for the parallel education meeting. It is hoped to host the teachers with families and to invite Swedish Trade Unions to visit.

Another website workshop will be held to follow up the work in Karkkila and an environmental workshop is proposed with the focus on water treatment. It is hoped that a Swedish Commissioner from the EU will attend.

Kenneth Rodrick, attending a Douzelage symposium for the first time, hopes to start music exchanges.

2. Programme of future meetings

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

Sesimbra undertook to check the suitability of dates for the parallel education meeting. Houffalize will circulate details of their meeting in Oxelösund.

Discussions with regard to the difficulties encountered by some of the towns to host large numbers of delegates took place, particularly in view of the future enlargement of the EU in June 2004 and then of the Douzelage.

It was agreed that this should be discussed at Oxelösund but the President expressed his reservations over reducing the number of meetings to one a year for fear of lack of continuity.

3. Tennis during Symposia

Oxelösund will make a decision for May 2002 but one proposal was for Douzelage delegates to play amongst themselves rather than have an organised tournament. The Houffalize meeting would be too late for outdoor tennis.

4/5. Exchange of Town Councillors and Librarians

All contacts have been very successful and these projects are definitely worth encouraging.

6. Primary Health and Social Care

A report on the workshops in Karkkila will follow.

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

With the exception of Sesimbra and Preveza all towns still need to send their details in their own language with English translation. Houffalize undertook to circulate the precise requirements for a **December** deadline and hope to have the book ready for the Symposium in October 2002.

Action: Houffalize

ALL TOWNS

8. European Youth Week

This event was organised in the Netherlands in 2000 and will take place in Belgium in 2002. Although not a specific Douzelage event the Stella Maris School will participate again and other partner towns may do so as well.

9. European Sports Link

The original inline skating event proposed by Judenburg had to be cancelled through lack of participants and a new event 'Snow & Fun' is planned by their Winter Sports organisations. Details will be put on the website.

Action: Judenburg

The delegates agreed that it would be necessary to take more active steps to promote future youth projects. The compilation by Niederanven of a website list of the groups and clubs in the partner towns, together with dates of school holidays and exams, would offer a major advance. Other suggestions included more help from the EU, assistance in funding by the municipalities (such as the Sherborne Youth Travel Fund, Meerssen Lottery money) and a contact name for each town for youth events. It was also vital to convince the schools to get involved and to promote the events well in advance (Sherborne School Noticeboards) with clear differentiation between those aimed at primary or secondary schools.

Action:

ALL TOWNS

10. Folk Dancing

Delegates were requested to contact their local dance organisations and to determine the level of interest. This project would then be presented at the Oxelösund meeting.

Action: ALL TOWNS

11. Collection of old currencies

Many of the partner towns reported that local charities and high profile national organisations had already arranged collection of the currencies which would be replaced by the Euro in 2002. It was agreed, however, that a collection would be made in Oxelösund and that the sum raised would be put towards either youth travel or a youth project such as the Mini-Parliament.

Action: ALL TOWNS

12. Douzelage Flag

Bellagio has obtained a special price from a small factory for the production of a flag, 2.90m x 3m, to feature the stitched coats-of-arms of each of the towns on a European blue background, with the word 'Douzelage' woven in gold and the second letter 'O' worked as the Community twelve stars. The total price would be €2,355 which would therefore entail a contribution from each town of €157.

Meerssen had also obtained a quote for a printed flag at about half the price but it was agreed to go ahead with the flag from Italy - "a quality flag for a quality organisation".

Action: Bellagio

ALL TOWNS

D. New Projects

1. Douzelage Play

A new production is being planned, probably in either Holstebro or Judenburg, on a simpler scale and with perhaps only two or three people from each of the towns. It should therefore be possible to involve all fifteen partner towns as well as representatives from the candidate countries. The directors will meet in Oxelösund.

2. Douzelage Orchestra and Choir (Appendix D)

Full details were circulated to all the towns by Altea for this project which was enthusiastically endorsed by all the delegates. It was agreed that a small working party should be set up, along the lines of the Douzelage Play, and that therefore each town should enquire at local level to find a contact name who would be interested in participating. A report would be given in Oxelösund so that plans could then be drawn up. future plans. It should be ascertained whether EU funding would be available.

Action: Altea

ALL TOWNS

3. Douzelage Towns CD-ROM (Appendix C)

Sesimbra circulated full information, prior to the meeting, for the proposal to compile a CD-ROM (at no charge) which would contain detailed information on all the towns, in their own language and English, and which would then be available at all the Douzelage schools public places such as libraries.

It was agreed that this was a very worthwhile project as an effective method of promoting the Douzelage, particularly for those without ready access to the website.

Action: Sesimbra
ALL TOWNS
Deadline 1/02/02

4. Dorset Opera

An outline of the principles behind Dorset Opera was given together with some slides from a previous production. Young people are invited to Sherborne to participate in the production of an opera over a short period involving professional musicians and amateur singers - either as singers or as part of the production team. The next opera will be staged on the 16th/17th August 2002 with meetings and rehearsals commencing on the 5th August. The costs would be £250 per person which includes accommodation but not travel costs: however for those interested in the production side the cost would be approximately half. It is hoped to get European funding for this and full details will be put on the website www.dorsetopera.com.

Action: Sherborne
ALL TOWNS

5. Dorset/La Manche Twinning Seminar (Appendix B)

Ten places are available for representatives from the partner towns to attend the Seminar in Brussels on 13th - 15th April 2002. The cost will be approximately €120 per person. Details will be put onto the website.

Action: Sherborne

6. Culture 2002

This is a Brussels sponsored European project which features a touring exhibition of 17th and 18th century artefacts in 2001; the topic in 2002 will be songs and music with at least three towns needed for participation.

Action: Preveza

7. National Press Conference: Houffalize (Appendix A)

A short Power Point presentation of about three to four minutes is requested from each of the towns during the National Press Conference on 16th and 17th November. This is an ideal opportunity to publicise the activities of the Douzelage as well as the partner towns.

Action: ALL TOWNS
Deadline 15/10/01

Address by Mme Riitta Myller MEP

In a comprehensive speech Mme Myller informed the delegates of the need for world-wide environmental legislation to ensure a healthy and safe environment for future generations.

The sixth Environment Action programme for Europe is being prepared to cover the next ten years with the aim of preventing climate change, protecting biodiversity, protecting the environment and health and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and waste.

It is vital to remember that everything affects everything and therefore agriculture, transport, energy production and urban development should all liaise. Noise pollution and planning need to be taken into account and the enlargement of the EU will require rapid technological development to upgrade environmental protection, social welfare and economic growth.

Fundamental to sustainable development is the struggle against poverty both in Europe and throughout the rest of the world. The well-being of people depends more and more on a clean and healthy environment.

E. Reports

Primary Health and Social Care