

ALTEA : BELLAGIO : BUNDORAN : CHOJNA : GRANVILLE : HÖLSTEBRO
HOUFFALIZE : JUDENBURG : KARKKILA : KÖSZEG : KÖTZTING
MEERSSEN : NIEDERANVEN : OXELÖSUND
PREVEZA : SESIMBRA : SHERBORNE
SIGULDA : SUSICE : TÜRI



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ALTEA (E)
BELLAGIO (I)
BUNDORAN (IRL)
CHOJNA (PL)
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HÖLSTEBRO (DK)
HOUFFALIZE (B)
JUDENBURG (A)
KARKKILA (FIN)
KÖSZEG (H)
KÖTZTING (D)
MEERSSEN (NL)
NIEDERANVEN (L)
OXELÖSUND (S)
PREVEZA (GR)
SESIMBRA (P)
SHERBORNE (GB)
SIGULDA (LV)
SUSICE (CZ)
TÜRI (EST)

29th Douzelage Conference

MEERSSEN

22 - 25 Sept 2005

Draft Minutes



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

BUNDORAN

JOE MC NULTY

DENISE CONNOLLY

CHOJNA

JANUSZ CEZARY SALAMONCZYK

MACIEJ KOTOWICZ

KATARZYNA SALAMONCZYK (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

GRANVILLE

JEAN-MARC JULIENNE

FREDERIQUE HEURGUIER

BERNARD HUSSON

JEAN-CLAUDE GUERRY

ANGELIQUE ALARY (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

HOLSTEBRO

METTE SOERENSEN

KARIN ELKJAER

LAERKE ELKJAER (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

ANNIMARI MALLING

NIELS NIELSEN

MRS NIELSEN

HOUFFALIZE

MANUELA DI PINTO

LUC NOLLOMONT

MARIE DJBOIS

PAUL GEORGE

PAUL NIZET

CHRISTIANE NIZET

JUDENBURG

WILLI SCHNEDL

MANFRED HOFFELNER

ANDREA KOBER

ISABELLA PAUMGARTNER

DANIELA RAFFALT

MARTIN SIX

MICHAEL LANGGNER

KARKKILA

EINO HUOTARI

MATTI KUUSELA

KÖSZEG

ISTVÁN MÁTRAI

AGNES DEMETER

KRISZTIAN SCHLÖGL

GERGELY SZABO

MATÉ MORICZ (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

KÖTZTING

GÜNTHER PECHER

PETRA HOHAUS

EVA MAURER

DANIELA STEIDL (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

THOMAS ZACHH (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)



NIEDERANVEN

MODESTO SALVATORE
JOS MOUTON
LILIANE MOUTON

JEANNOT POIRE
CHRISTIANE POIRE
MARIE-ANTOINETTE PAQUET-TONDT

OXELÖSUND

BENITA VIKSTROM
EMIL CARLSSON

MATS ERICSSON

SHERBORNE

LIN ASHBY
ALAN ASHBY
MOIRA WESTERN
CHRIS NOYCE (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)
MIKE MORRELL

PAT MORRELL
CHRIS MAC ADIE
PAUL CARLING
KARIN ROBSON
JEREMY BARKER

SIGULDA

SANDRA KIRULE

DIANA KONDRATENKO

SUŠICE

VERA SVOBODOVA
ANEZKA NOVA

JIRI RASEK
TERESA BUZKOVA

TÜRI

KATRIN SOOMETS
LII LAANEMETS
JANELL LOHVART (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

AIVAR LUSTE
VALMAR AMMER (YOUNG PARTICIPANT)

PRESIDENCY

ED WEBER

PATRICIA SALVATORE-MOES

Comments to the different agenda points

I) General Meeting

1) Speech of welcome by the President.

Mr Ed Weber, acting as the president of the Douzelage, welcomed all delegates, especially Mr Ger Kockelkorn, mayor of MEERSSEN in the historical location, where the Maastricht treaty (formally the Treaty on European Union) was signed on 7 February 1992 between the members of the European Union. He gave special thanks to the Province and the government of Limburg to make it possible that the meeting could take place in this historical site. He thanked the town of MEERSSEN, especially the Mayor, Mr Ger Kockelkorn and the local Douzelage Committee, namely Mr Nico Van de Vliet, Joop Hosman and Martijn Hosman for the warm welcome and the excellent work they have fulfilled in organising this meeting and for having succeeded so well in the subsidising procedure. He congratulated them for having succeeded to have Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene, one of the EU-fathers, as a guest-speaker on the first day of the conference. He regretted that the towns of ALTEA, SESIMBRA, PREVEZA and BELLAGIO could not attend this meeting. Finally he thanked the delegates of BUNDORAN once more for the wonderful stay all the Douzelage delegates had been offered during the spring meeting in the town of BUNDORAN. Finally the president informed that for the first time in its history, the Douzelage has contributed to a marriage: in fact two members from the HOLSTEBRO team, Jette Hingebjerg and Knud Ager, who had met at the occasion of the Douzelage social care workshop in 2003, have married recently. The president expressed in the name of all towns his congratulations to this promising event.

B) Business Matters

1) Approval of the BUNDORAN GM Minutes 14th Apr – 17th Apr 05

As no comments or suggestions had been made to the BUNDORAN Meeting minutes and the Education Workshop report published on the Douzelage Website they were agreed unanimously.

The Education Minutes of Mrs Barbara Zandraveli have been published under the same format as the GM Minutes. They will be agreed on the occasion of the next Education Meeting in SHERBORNE next year. Suggestions or remarks to these minutes should be prior to the next education meeting in SHERBORNE. The president noted once more the retirement of Mrs Zandraveli in her function as the chairman of the Douzelage Education committee that is now in the hands of Mr Paul Carling. He wished a lot of success on his new duty to the new chairman.

2) Cancellation of the General Meeting in BELLAGIO

As Dott. Carlo Sancassano had explained during the last meeting in BUNDORAN the town of BELLAGIO has problems to host the 30th Douzelage General Meeting in their town in spring 2006. The confirmation of the cancellation entered on 25 May 2005. The president expressed his hope that the BELLAGIO Douzelage Committee will manage to regularize their situation and continue their Douzelage participation with the same commitment they were known for since the very first days of the Douzelage..

In the same letter it has been confirmed that the Miniparliament however will take place from the 26th to the 29th of April 2006 in BELLAGIO.

3) Nomination of a new Honorary Auditor

In order to give to the Douzelage accounts a maximum of transparency it had been agreed in JUDENBURG GM 13-16 May 2004 [para 5 of the minutes] to nominate two Honorary Auditors among the delegations. Due to the fact that Mr. Christer Wargert from OXELÖSUND left Douzelage on the 1st of July, he has to be replaced as honorary auditor.

The president expressed his regrets about the retirement of Mr Christer Wargert, and sends him greetings and thanks for the excellent work he did in the Douzelage. On behalf of all the delegates he wishes him

and his wife by this occasion all the best for their future. The president welcomed the new person in charge from OXELÖSUND, Mr Mats Ericsson, and expressed his hopes on a good cooperation in the future.

The next check of the accounts will only be done during the SHERBORNE meeting. Mr Chris Mac Adie from SHERBORNE was proposed as the new Honorary Auditor. GRANVILLE suggested choosing a candidate from the new accessed towns, but nobody was interested. Finally the proposal of electing Mr Chris Mac Adie was unanimously agreed.

4) Douzelage accounts

[a] Presenting of the Interim Balance 1 Apr 05 – 30 Aug 05

As the annual balance cannot be agreed in next spring meeting, the actual situation of the accounts and presumable expenses were explained. It has been agreed on an extension for the approval until the SHERBORNE meeting in autumn 2006.

The president said that the financial situation is very good for the moment (a credit of 6.755.68 €) as nearly every town had paid their membership fee. The translation equipment account has a credit of 662.94 € and the presidency account 6092.74 €. The president promised OXELÖSUND to send them a new bill in order to be clear about what they finally have to pay (regularization of their fees at their accession year)

[b] Simultaneous Translation equipment Balance Sheet.

The translation equipment balance has a credit of 662.94 € and the president asked those towns who did not yet pay their fee to do so in the next future.

Nico van de Vliet from MEERSSEN, responsible until now for the translation equipment, thanked SHERBORNE and especially Alan Ashby for transporting the material four times now by his own car. This saved a lot of transport costs.

As Mr van de Vliet affirmed the question of the president asking if he really would retire from the MEERSSEN Douzelage committee and his job as a manager of the Douzelage translation equipment, the president asked for a new candidate to take over this duty.

It was proposed and agreed that a young delegate from KÖSZEG will take care of the equipment together with Mr Martijn Hosman. It was underlined that it was important to have a MEERSSEN member in the management group of the equipment because the material is of the Dutch brand "Philips" and it may be easier in case of technical problems or warranty questions to have Dutch speaking people to handle it. Mr Nico Van de Vliet thanked the new responsible for their commitment and assured his assistance if there would be problems in the future.

On behalf of all the Douzelage member towns and as a sign of gratefulness, the president offered Mr van de Vliet a little present for his commitment all over these years.

The president explained that a new recording system is being tested for this meeting and that he proposes to agree on the purchase of that system for the sum of 1.050 € if it shows itself of being helpful, now that enough financial means are available. Every delegate agreed on this matter.

5) Provisional Program for further meetings

Spring	2006	BELLAGIO	meeting cancelled
Autumn	2006	SHERBORNE	12-15 October 2006
	2007	KÖSZEG	20-23 April 2007
	2008	TÜRI	to be confirmed
	2009	ALTEA	to be confirmed

In order not to skip the opportunity to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the Douzelage in spring 2006, KÖSZEG proposes to organize a kind of project meeting instead of the General Meeting cancelled by BELLAGIO. (They did already send out an explicative note by e-mail prior to the meeting). This meeting will be a "seminar" in the frame of the European Youth Program 2000-2006 and at the same time it could also be a preparatory visit for other KÖSZEG Youth projects like the "Politeens" or a new project in elaboration.. Approximately 60 persons (trainers included) can be invited and up to 70% can be reimbursed by Brussels.

Mr István Mátrai asked every interested town to communicate their participants before the 20th of October 2005, as all administrative documents have to be sent in by time. All the forms to be completed will be sent by e-mail shortly after the MEERSSEN meeting. If it would be too time taking or too difficult for a town to fill out those application forms, Mr Mátrai proposed to fill them out himself as long as they communicate him by time the data of their participants. He suggested that especially the towns far away in distance from KÖSZEG should apply for this meeting in order to gain a lot on the travel costs. He invited Mr Nico Van de Viet and Christer Wargert (retiring from the Douzelage) to feel free to participate too and of course Mr Karl Majoor, the first Douzelage President, whose presence at the 15th birthday would be very much appreciated.

Mr Mátrai explained that considering the anniversary character of the meeting, they would like to do this meeting around the 20th of May (a Saturday), as the Douzelage Charta had been signed in 1991 at the same date. By this occasion Mr Mátrai reminded every town delegate to look in their towns for youth leaders willing to participate or even giving lectures on youth project procedures for example.

The president thanked KÖSZEG for so much commitment and initiative and reminded that during the directors' meeting in June this year, he had the opportunity to meet the Hungarian national representative of youth affairs Mr Balint VANYI, Acting Director of MOBILITAS (Mr Mátrai confirmed that this was exactly the person who signed the "Politeens" Project) and that KÖSZEG should not hesitate to get in contact and invite personally Mr. VANYI. The president underlined that this "project meeting" can be a perfect example of how in the future the Douzelage can run with only one General Meeting and one Project Meeting per year, as it had been discussed during the BUNDORAN meeting. In this case it is even better to put this "small meeting" in the frame of "Youth for Europe" as the subsidising can go up to 70%, what is a very attractive fact of course.

SHERBORNE reminded that the Education Meeting will take place during the autumn meeting in SHERBORNE as it has been decided and already planned and prepared. KÖSZEG confirmed that holding the Education meeting in autumn could only be but financially profitable, as it would better fit into the EU-Comenius program subsidising procedure. This would allow having more time to organize preparatory visits and in case teachers could not be subsidised in the frame of a seminar they could at least get money in the frame of the Comenius program. The president confirmed that it could be a very good idea to run the Education Meeting besides the General Meeting in the frame of the Comenius Program, this in order to get independent from town twinning financing. This should be an item to be put on the agenda of the next education meeting.

The Project Meeting in KÖSZEG has been agreed to take place in the third week of May in 2006 and the next Education Meeting will take place in SHERBORNE in October 2006, parallel to the General Meeting.

6) Meeting in Brussels

As the Douzelage had asked an appointment with Mr Jan Figel, the new EU-Commissioner on town twinning matters; it had been invited for the 18^h of May 2005. A delegation of the Douzelage, composed by the representatives of the Benelux towns Mr Ed Weber (president) and Jos Mouton (NIEDERANVEN), Mr Alphonse Henrard (vice-president), Mrs Manuela di Pinto (HOUFFALIZE), Mr Ger Kockelkorn and Joop Hosman (MEERSSEN) had a very successful meeting with the representative of Mr Jan Figel, Mr Pierre Mairesse, Acting Director of the Directorate for Youth, Sport and Relationship, together with the Mr Risto Raivio, Programme Manager in the European Commission. Mr Mairesse, who had studied our association by looking at the web-site and read a lot of reports, congratulated the Douzelage for its extraordinary commitment and activity in different but crucial domains. He promised to include the Douzelage in the new European Citizenship programme 2007-2013 as a kind of adviser or flag association in this domain and in order to control our financial problem, he proposed that the Douzelage, as in a kind of partnership, could carry out those EU-projects with the themes chosen by the commission and that in the frame of Youth for Europe for example. Discussions on partnership between the European Commission and the Douzelage, covering multi annual projects will be held start October, when the town-twinning EU-responsible Mr Risto Raivio will be in Luxembourg. The presidents remarked that now the Douzelage, for the first time, could get a special recognition from the EU-side and this involvement in the 2007-2013 programs can only but strengthen the association's position within all the European town-twinning.

SHERBORNE congratulated the president for this excellent work that had been done engendering this positive situation and they declared their interest in participating to the meeting with Mr Raivio. The president thanked once more Mr. Alphonse Henrard, Mr Ger Kockelkorn, Mrs Manuela Di Pinto and Mr Joop Hosman and Mr. Jos Mouton for having participated to that meeting.

Mr Ger Kockelkorn confirmed the fruitfulness of this meeting and said that he can only but encourage the development of the Douzelage to a unique and effective town-twinning association. He said that the Douzelage, special and recognised for its continuity on every level had, by this meeting in Brussels, been involved in the new town twinning regulations of the EU and above all had been guaranteed a better financial support, which is vital for a town twinning association like the Douzelage. The concerns of the Douzelage had lead to a certain sensibilisation of the EU-officials towards town twinning organisations in general.

SHERBORNE asked if there had also been a discussion about positive discrimination, as a kind of wider financial support in favour of the countries recently come in the European Union. The president and Mr Kockelkorn answered that this subject had not been a discussion item and that the meeting only focused on the concerns of the Douzelage itself. Because of the success of this meeting and steps that had been undertaken in this direction, it was agreed to continue further discussions with the EU-officials in that way and the president confirmed that it is of a vital importance to involve those people in charge in Brussels as much as possible in further work-outs. Nevertheless the discussions will be going on in October when Mr Risto Raivio will visit Luxembourg. This meeting should already have taken place in July but it had to be postponed because of the problems, engendered by the referendum.

7) EU-Consultation on the future program for European Citizenship

A lot of problems, like the difficulty of filling out the application forms or the delays in subsidising for example had been studied and considered by the EU officials. . [\[ANNEX J2\]](#) and [\[ANNEX K\]](#)

After consultation the EU-authorities inform us that for the coming procedures they prefer multi-annual projects, that a special town-twinning network is being made available, that the application forms procedure is being made easier, that in the pre-project phase you do no longer need to indicate the names of all the participants and finally that a special "youth" department at the disposition of the towns, will be set up. The president asked the delegates if they agree to continue in the way the EU-Commission has proposed to proceed. Every delegate approved, as it can also be financially interesting to proceed in the proposed way. By this occasion the president suggested once more to all the town delegates to read the analysis of this EU-consultation on future programs and European Citizenship (Annex B2 and Annex C). Even if one of theses documents has about 200 pages they are worth to be read, as they exactly reflect the concerns the Douzelage has.

8) Meeting of National Directors

In the frame of the EU-presidency and the pertaining discussions on the Youth-education and -culture development, that took place in Luxembourg from 2nd to 6th June 2005 and where 30 countries were represented. [\[ANNEX L\]](#), all the national directors of these countries met to discuss about the possibilities in their domains for a better collaboration. The Luxembourg national representative of the Youth Department offered to the Douzelage a possibility to present the Douzelage at this meeting and meet at the same time all the European representatives in charge of Youth and Education affairs. The Douzelage president, Mr Ed Weber and a representative of the local NIEDERANVEN Douzelage committee Mrs Marie-Antoinette Paquet-Tondt organised in the conference centre a stall on which, amongst other documents the map of the Douzelage and the documents "Douzelage – Who we are" and "Douzelage – What we do" were exposed. The list of the various Douzelage town contacts had been distributed to all the delegates. Personal discussions took place and many of the representatives invited the local Douzelage committees to take contact with their offices. Especially the Hungarian representative Mr Balint Vanyi offered his spontaneous help in the new "Birdwatch project", recently launched by NIEDERANVEN and the "Politeens project" launched in KÖSZEG. The Irish director Mr Desmond Burke was also interested in the "Birdwatch project" in the way he is absolutely interested to organize this event in BUNDORAN if it will be decided to continue this project in another Douzelage town later on. In all cases he promised his help when needed. The discussion with the Italian directors had been on the "Miniparlament" the yearly event that until now could not benefit from the "Youth for Europe" program as the students are a little bit too young to fit into the frame (age from 15 up to 25). Nevertheless they promised to look after a solution of this case.

The president encouraged every town to get in contact with their local youth director, all the more so the complete contact list of those European representatives has been published on the Douzelage web-site. The fact that projects can easier be launched and subsidised within the "Youth for Europe" frame as in "town twinning" matters, should incite all towns to make use of this facility and adopt their future projects to this criteria if possible. The president explained that if there are more than 4 different participating

countries, the subsidising application for all the participants can be done in the country that launches the project, which can facilitate the effectiveness of the subsidising procedure. This fact leads to the conclusion that in the future the projects should either be put in the frame of Youth for Europe or Education, as it seems to be easier to get subsidised than in the frame of town-twinning matters of the EU. CHOJNA asked if it could be useful to mention in the application forms to be associated to the "Douzelage" association, now that the directors know us. The president confirmed that hopefully now the Douzelage will no longer be put in the same basket as all the other thousands of European town-twinning applications and that if ever possible the application should reflect the fact that the towns are member of the Douzelage. Towns were once more invited to get in contact with their national youth agencies in order to stay in touch with them and involve them as much as possible in the Douzelage projects.

9) Douzelage enlargement

During last meeting in BUNDORAN, [[BUNDORAN 05 Minutes, page 6, para B\) 6 and page 7, para B\) 8](#)] [[a](#)], conditions for joining new members were discussed. The enlargement policy had already been discussed and worked out in HOUFFALIZE in 2002 and had also been sent to the attention of all the towns. A draft online application form has now been published on the web-site where the candidate will have the possibility to fill out a kind of pre-application form directly by internet.

The president said that the opportunity to discuss this in detail before taking eventual further steps of the extension [[ANNEX M](#)], [[ANNEX M1](#)] and [[Draft Application](#)] and the finalization of the application form, should be taken during the SHERBORNE meeting in autumn 2006. Also the size of the new towns and the facilities they should offer should be defined at that moment. Maybe, if this was decided in SHERBORNE, enlargement process could start then in 2007.

SHERBORNE underlined that the ideology of the Douzelage is to have one town of every European Union country and that actually the Douzelage is not fulfilling this aim. Therefore SHERBORNE expressed its will to accelerate the enlargement procedure discussions and wants to invite to their meeting observer towns, especially from the Maltese town and the town of Lithuania. Michael Pearth, the former Ambassador to Lithuania, who is chairing the SHERBORNE conference committee actually, will invite a possible town which might be suitable from there too,

The president said that SHERBORNE is absolutely free to invite other towns to their meeting but the fact to figure in the conference room and observe gives these town absolutely no advantage or special statute in the frame of the accession procedure. They will attend the meeting as "observers" only and will possibly be subsidised as those by the EU if this is mentioned on the application.

On the question from JUDENBURG on the participation of the town of SIGULDA, the president welcomed the delegates of this town. In deed SIGULDA had not been present to the Meeting in BUNDORAN but confirmed its participation in the Douzelage without reservation. The delegates explained that there had been some communication problems which might be resolved now.

GRANVILLE expresses its concern about the absence of four cities to this meeting and wonders how one will be able to continue to widen whereas one has a very important lack of cities to this meeting it is true that it is necessary to widen and to extend on the 25 cities but at the same time GRANVILLE does not see how to make this while not having the other cities present.

MEERSSEN warned not to do the same mistake as three years ago. Before any city is invited to be present at a meeting as an observer, this should be discussed in the forehand in order to avoid having the situation again lived when searching for a Hungarian town.

KARKKILA underlined that the Douzelage should be very careful with its decision to enlarge. Actually some towns have a union or association taking care of the Douzelage, others have their town administration taking care of the Douzelage matters. The Douzelage should therefore be careful and make sure that the accessing towns are fitting into the criteria frame (on the political and economical level).

The president confirmed and said that the future official EU-position towards the Douzelage recognition should also be taken into account when deciding to enlarge.

SHERBORNE said that their argument is that these people know that being purely observers has nothing to do with an eventual accession. People in SHERBORNE who are very involved in Douzelage, have contacts to those countries who are very interested and inviting those towns purely as observers would be a way of continuing at least some activities, involvement and interest you may need to proceed successfully.

NIEDERANVEN remarked that also the question of the possibility to host a meeting should be considered before deciding to enlarge. Some towns have already expressed their fear that they will have problems to accommodate this high number of delegates. The president underlined that towns should be conscious about their decision and saying yes to enlargement means automatically saying yes to host a meeting with 25x5 delegates. Towns should therefore first study their own facilities and eventually find solutions to the questions "Can our town accommodate more delegates? Are the catering costs affordable?" before taking a binding decision.

CHOJNA added that the support of the town authorities should also be a very important aspect when selecting new members.

It was agreed that the final accession documents should be prepared and that the decision about the further steps in this matter should be taken at the SHERBORNE meeting.

10) Action points of the last meeting in BUNDORAN

[a] Proposed purchasing

Concerning the creation of new stickers and posters of the Douzelage association, the president informed the delegates that a new offer with the actual prices came from the town of TÜRI [\[ANNEX PJ\]](#). The participating fees for every town would be of 70€. As the presidency account has enough funds for the moment the president informed that the production of the stickers and posters will be paid by this account then. GRANVILLE spontaneously ordered 10.000 stickers instead of the 250 foreseen and proposed to pay the price difference themselves.

As for the new Douzelage folder, the president thanked SHERBORNE for the text taken from a folder produced by them and asked them not to hesitate to correct eventual language related mistakes, due to the fact that English is not everybody's mother tongue.

As it had been foreseen to produce the flyer in English, the official language within the Douzelage, Mr Pecher from KÖTZTING thought that their citizens might not understand enough English to be inspired by the folder and that it could be a good idea to have some German written copies, if it will not be too expensive to produce them.

It was proposed that every delegation wishing to produce the flyer in their own language are free to do so or can send the text in their language to the secretary, in order to produce a personalized version of the folder to have them printed to their own costs. Nevertheless a price for the flyer produced in more languages will be asked.

SUŠICE asked if there is a deadline for sending the text in. After everybody agreed to order 10.000 flyers and stickers in English, the president assured that before the final printing a mail will be sent out soon, asking how many flyers every town would like to have.

[b] Douzelage in the Worldwide Web

The president informed the delegations that the new web-site www.test.douzelage.org is nearly finished and will be in use up from the 1st October 2005. The old site will still be available for six months. Until then everything will be transferred to the new one. If there is any document not transferred all delegates have been asked to inform the webmaster as soon as possible. The new web-site designed with the help of the three students from JUDENBURG (graciously hosted by MEERSSEN during this meeting) but mainly the webmaster John Pettersson and the president Ed Weber made it possible to have in such a short delay this working web-site. What is new is that there are now 2 areas: one public (page header in blue) and one only for members logged in (page header in green). On this member area all the towns can easily update, add, change or create their own photographs, texts or menu items. They can of course ask for help if they have problems, the presidency office and John Pettersson will be at their disposition. In a colourful and interesting session the president showed and explained the new web-site with all its details. and especially the log-in procedure. All members were invited to register on the soon as possible in order to allow the building of mailing lists.

[c] Member to be honoured in MEERSSEN

As agreed during the GRANVILLE meeting [ref.para5, subpara f) page11 of the GRANVILLE minutes] on the first conference day, Karl Majoor, founder member and first Douzelage president was honoured for the years of commitment he devoted to the Douzelage. He has been conferred the title of Honorary President

of the Douzelage. When he received the official document from the president and Mr. Jean-Luc Dehaene during the opening meeting he was very moved as he was not prepared for so much attention. By the same occasion Mr Nico van de Vliet received a present as a sign of gratitude for his work as translation equipment manager and for his commitment. The next person to be honoured during the SHERBORNE meeting in autumn 2006 will be Mr Jeremy Barker, former president of the Douzelage.

[d] Tourism Board

As agreed in the BUNDORAN meeting, when PREVEZA proposed to develop once more the idea of promoting the Douzelage on the tourism level, this subject is worth being discussed in more details. As shown in [\[ANNEX O\]](#) many efforts had already been done in the past. The president suggested to make a project out of this effort to recall the tourism theme, so tightly linked to economy. This form of treating the subject can avoid superficial discussions at every meeting and could bring real results. Every delegate was asked to look in their region for students, interested to develop and study such a project, which could easily be supported by the EU-Commission, as it would perfectly fit in their frame of projects.

KÖSZEG suggested that it may run under the EU-"Leonardo or Sokrates" programs, as the theme of tourism is often treated on high school level. As there is so much money to be subsidised on this level, it would be an interesting idea to discuss. Even the publishing of a sort of booklet with the results later on could be supported in the same "Sokrates" frame. Even if the project would extend over 1 or 2 years, it could contribute to underline the diversity and all present concern of the Douzelage in the European every day's life. The president asked every town to do their best to find candidates for this project, as it can be fruitful for every Douzelage member town to have their touristic situation studied and to find eventually solutions. A final result document could then be published and serve as a guideline for all the towns. He suggested to all the delegates to have a look at the annex O with all its references and related documents and consider the tourist proposal in a serious way.

C) B) Activities reports

1) Survey of recent events

[a] Activities report

Due to a lack of time, all the towns had been asked to send in their activities' reports to the secretary office, in a paper copy or as a Word document. No detailed verbal reports could be done, but important events were however discussed (see below). The president asked all towns once more to send in by mail their activity lists as soon as possible in order that the complete list on the Web-site can be updated.

[b] ADEPS sports week event from 5-11 June 2005

The ADEPS sports week took place from 5 – 11 June 2005 in the Adeps Sports Centre in Engreux. HOUFFALIZE welcomed, among their own participants, students from NIEDERANVEN and GRANVILLE and BELLAGIO could unfortunately not join them this year. All the participants were happy to have this annual event on their list of experiences. By the same occasion Mr Luc Nollomont thanked GRANVILLE for having hosted their students and teachers during their stay for the "Sailing n GRANVILLE" event. The ADEPS 2006 will run from 5 – 9 June 2006.

[c] SHERBORNE Festival 24-26 June 2005

Delegations from NIEDERANVEN, KÖSZEG, GRANVILLE, SUŠICE, HOLSTEBRO, JUDENBURG, CHOJNA and TÜRI went to SHERBORNE to participate to this extraordinary event, taking place from 24 - 26 June 2006. Mrs Lynn Ashby from SHERBORNE said that even if the subsidising of this activity had been changed shortly before the event, they were very happy with the result. She thanked every participating town for their commitment and their wonderful contribution to this event. She thanked especially BUNDORAN, who offered a free holiday week and participated to a special Irish evening in order to raise funds for the event. JUDENBURG reported about the absolute wonderful flower decoration in the Norman Gothic Cathedral and was very impressed by the extraordinary British hospitality. The president thanked SHERBORNE for that excellent activity and congratulated. It was generally recommended to travel via Bristol Airport to SHERBORNE.

[d] "Politeens" in KÖSZEG 30 June – 07 July 2005

The "Politeens" event took place in KÖSZEG from 30 June to 07 July 2005 was an absolute success, as professionals like university professors and specialized teachers and group leaders took care to handle this new project. The "revised" report (revised as they are officially supported by the EU) can be seen in the project description. The discussed themes were political and took place in the City Hall, the County Hall and the Houses of the Parliament. One important matter was the meeting with the Hungarian representative of the EU-Parliament, **Georg Schöpfl**, professor at the university in London, who promised to join the next Douzelage meeting in KÖSZEG. Mr István Mátrai thanked all the teachers and group leaders who took the students to KÖSZEG and acted with a lot of responsibility. By the same occasion Mr Mátrai thanked JUDENBURG for having hosted their football team and GRANVILLE for the students of the "Sailing Project".

It has been decided to repeat this event in 2006 and the application dead line is the 1st of November. The application document will be sent to every town, so that everybody can enrol on time if they are interested and also to finalize at the same time the definite seminar participations for spring 2006. The total costs of the project will only be 30% of the travel costs. All other fees will be subsidised.

There was another new project, running under the "Youth for Europe" program, announced by Köszeg. It is about environment protection all in discovering by hiking the Köszeg region and is called "HUNgATURE". All details were being distributed; interest from Kötzing, Sherborne and Granville had already been shown. Mr Krisztian Schlögl explained that they need the application forms before the 1st of November again and that the financial conditions are the same as for the "Politeens" project. As for the dates, the event is planned to happen only a few days before the seminar, so that the last day may be during the meeting (around 15 May 2006). The exact dates will be communicated shortly. The president asked every delegate to answer to Köszeg in the best delays after having received the application details.

[e] Sailing in GRANVILLE

Mr Jean-Marc Julienne from GRANVILLE thanked HOUFFALIZE for hosting their students during the ADEPS week, SHERBORNE for offering its wonderful festival (the Twinning association "GRANVILLE-SHERBORNE" was also participating to the event) and OXELÖSUND (especially Mr. **Anders Bergström**) for having welcomed the young football players in the frame of a sports exchange. The annual GRANVILLE Sailing week took place from 19 to 27 August 2005 and was much appreciated by the participants and successful as ever. The president thanked GRANVILLE for this activity and expressed his hopes that this project may continue next year in 2006.

D) Projects

1) Projects not yet finished**[a] Mayors Meeting in PREVEZA (Annex Q)**

Unfortunately this meeting, planned to happen end of October 2005, cannot take place as the subsidising was not granted by the EU-officials. But in his letter the mayor of the town of PREVEZA, Mr Miltiadis-Elias Klapas confirmed his high interest in the Douzelage association and he will support the idea of promoting the Touristic theme among the member towns.

[b] BELLAGIO Miniparliament 2006

The Miniparliament 2005 could unfortunately not take place this year, due to the known changes in BELLAGIO. However in 2006 the event will take place again. The planned dates are from 6 – 9 April 2006. The president informed that as soon as the calls of proposals are issued, they will be sent to every town. Unfortunately the age of the participants is too young to be able to profit from an EU-subsidy in the frame of "Youth for Europe" but possibly another Eu-Program can be identified.

[c] Study-project for all the Douzelage towns in preparation by TÜRI

The project is called "Let's make fiends – the towns of the Douzelage" and will start in September 2005 until August 2006. All the details have been published on the on the Web-site. It was mentioned that this is a very interesting project and an excellent example of how we can involve the youngsters in the European

Citizenship spirit. The idea will be supported and every town should try to find candidates as soon as possible.

[d] Birdwatch project by NIEDERANVEN

The NIEDERANVEN project's title is "Follow the birds through Europe and discover new environments" and is meant to stress the importance of maintaining the natural balance around the city areas, in order to protect and keep a healthy environment. As it is an educative and interesting project in the frame "Youth for Europe". The participants should be aged from 15 to 25. For one week they will learn how bird ringing can procure important data on the environment; they will discover natural reserves around NIEDERANVEN and discuss on possibilities to be active in their own local environment protection. This project can be continued on a yearly basis as there are some very interesting natural reserves to visit in other Douzelage towns. As for the subsidising, the project will be granted up to 70% by the National Youth Agency in Luxembourg, in the frame of the "Youth for Europe" program. The NIEDERANVEN Douzelage Committee decided to ask only 70€ per person for food and accommodation in youth hostel. There have to be at least 4 different member towns and a minimum of 16 persons participating to get the subsidies. So every delegation was asked to inform their local schools about the event and try to find participants before the 20th of October, as the deadline for the enrolment is the 1st of November.

The project will happen begin August, as for the exact dates the member towns will be informed by mail. The president repeated the importance of enrolling by time and expressed his hope that this project may start its way in NIEDERANVEN 2006, so that it may eventually continue in other Douzelage towns later on. Every detail of the project, as well as the application forms can be found on the new Web-site under the projects list. KÖSZEG wanted to know about the travel costs and Mr Poiré from NIEDERANVEN proposed to use cheap flights eventually, as the airports of Frankfurt-Hahn and Charleroi are very close to Luxembourg. If needed pick up of the students at these airports could be arranged. He reminded that all the travel costs will be reimbursed by 70 %.

[e] Development of the new technologies in the Douzelage

This suggestion of a project is offered by a young man of NIEDERANVEN and is meant to become eventually a border crossing project to study and develop the new technologies facilities within Douzelage (cyber cafés, education on the it-level...). This person, Mr Pedro Coutinho, who is a free student of the university of Nancy and working in NIEDERANVEN, suggested to make his editing work on the subject "Development of the new technologies in the Douzelage". All the details will be put on the Web-site and are meant for It-interested people, willing to optimize the use of the new technologies in their town and make those tools easily accessible for everybody. A questionnaire concerning this project is going to be elaborated and will be sent out after this meeting. The president asked all the delegations to read the documents related to this project and inform the presidency office as soon as possible if they are interested in this project or not.

[f] SHERBORNE School project

This project was running by end 2004 and was not a classic Douzelage but an internal school project, meant to bring the European idea closer to the youngsters. The 13 year old pupils of the secondary school in SHERBORNE (12 teams) did suspend the academic time table for five days in order to concentrate on a study, meant to discover one Douzelage member town per group. They focused on different themes like drama, literature, geography, history, art, modern design and technology within the Douzelage frame. At the end of the study each group had to give a presentation to the public and the material was put on their own web-site and published in their magazine (which was distributed among the delegates at the meeting). The winning team had won an exchange trip to the town they studied. In this case it was the group who studied TÜRI and so 12 students and 2 teachers will travel to TÜRI in order to discover the town they had been researching. This project was thought so interesting and educative that it will be renewed in 2006. Alas the internet or phone contact between the other Douzelage secondary schools had not been very easy to establish (with the exception of PREVEZA, who had been very cooperative on that level). After all this kind of activity could be an example of how the European idea can be brought closer to students of that age.

In a former local meeting SHERBORNE had found that it might be useful to promote establishing a kind of professional work link exchange between dentists, doctors and lawyers in order to study and to learn about different work processes in different countries. It might be difficult to set up but the idea is thought to be worth just to start by exchanging the information and trying to find links and professionals in the different countries. The details and the project form and contact addresses had been put on the Web-site.

Mr Jeremy Barker underlined that this was a very initial idea of Mr Haffray at the beginning of the Douzelage and that this way should absolutely be continued. The president encouraged every town to participate to this excellent idea by sending in as much professional information as possible. He further encouraged Paul Carling, the education chairman, to send to the secretary all the information necessary to put up an education part on the new Douzelage Web-site, if this was expected.

[g] Football World Championship in Germany 2006 "Schools playing in the World Cup" by KÖTZTING

Mr Günther Pecher from KÖTZTING explained that an e-mail message had already been sent out before the meeting in order to inform all Douzelage member towns about all details of this youth project. The town of Cham, close to KÖTZTING organises together with the town region of Bautzen (near the Polish border) in order to strengthen the "east-west" links within Germany after the reunification. They decided to organize a football tournament with reference to the Football World Championship 2006. After the organisers managed to get the patronage of the President of Germany they stressed the EU-character of that project and proposed to include the Douzelage member towns in this event. Pupils from all over Europe should come and participate to this football tournament. Every team should represent another European country and try to identify itself with the chosen nationality during the event and play in the name of that nationality. This will help to bring every nationality closer together and sharpen the conscience of accepting each other in their difference all in playing football. A representation of each group about the "played" country at the end of the event will underline the educative character of the project. The dead line of enrolment is the 14th of October..

GRANVILLE remarked that the participation fees of 40 € per participant are very high for the football clubs. SHERBORNE asked if there can be more than one team per town participating. Mr Pecher thought that it would probably only be one team per town, able to participate. The president showed by example that every detail of this activity can be found on the Web-site.

At the final tour of the table following comments were made:

CHOJNA again invited to the English Song Festival in April. The documents concerning this event had been distributed before. They further informed that they just finished together with SHERBORNE, KARKKILA and Cherbourg in France a Lingua project: "Language and Culture through Community Networks". They are also in the last of the project "Be different, be tolerant" with MEERSSEN and SHERBORNE.

On the proposal of M. Antoine CHATTA from KARKKILA, the Finnish delegation had brought along new Finnish 2 Cent coins for all who collect coins. Luc Nollomont will take care of these coins and everybody who would like to have some of these coins should address to Luc. By this opportunity the president that the Douzelage has among its friends a collector of used phone cards in SUŠICE. Delegates are invited to bring their phone cards to the next meetings.

KÖSZEG reminded their projects announced already in BUNDORAN, like the Politeens project under "Youth 2000-2006" that is being organised again with the same conditions as last year. Mr. István Mátrai explained on how the forms should be filled in and sent to KÖSZEG by the 1st of November latest. The total costs for the participants will only be 30% of the travel costs. All other costs, i.e. insurances or accommodation will be financed by the subsidies of the Youth 2000-2006 program.

Krisztian Schlögl as the organizer of a project presented already last year explained the details of this environment protection project to be organized in the KÖSZEG area. They are expecting participants from Germany SHERBORNE GRANVILLE BELLAGIO. The same forms as explained before are needed for this project too. Deadline will be 1st of November. The conditions are also the same as for the Politeens project. The date is not yet quite clear but it should be around the 15 of May 2006.

NIEDERANVEN expressed their special thanks to SIGULDA for welcoming Marc Ernsdorff, a young student in politics from NIEDERANVEN who went to a University seminar near SIGULDA. The young man was welcomed and accommodated by the town of SIGULDA and they also had delegated some young people to show him the SIGULDA town and region. He really appreciated the warm welcome and asked the NIEDERANVEN delegation to express his personal thanks to SIGULDA.

Sherborne explained that a possible new Comenius project is being built up by Mike Balfour and will include TÜRI, CHOJNA, KÖSZEG, KÖTZTING and SHERBORNE. Another possible History Exchange is going to be negotiated with the help of Sherborne, Judenburg and Köszeg. Jan Swanenvleugel has come up with a nice idea for a possible new project which will be to associate all those towns having ancient Roman sights.

Precise details still have to be worked out. Finally Sherborne is going to cooperate with Chojna who have a new catering course and find work placements for their students. Mr Barker also explained his idea to make a kind of Art program funded by the European Union that would further the cultural exchange between art galleries. The different ideas are being thought through and discussed in the next future.

SUŠICE invited every town to participate to the "Ottawa Cup" as well as to the "**Days of Sušice 2006**" where dancing or music groups would be welcome and could perform on an open air stage. The event will probably happen in May.

TÜRI expressed their thanks for the performance of the Web-site, promoting their town and helping to link them with their European friends. This new site allowed them to include the information in their project and could by this put at the disposal of their student the information on all the Douzelage towns in English language. The president promised TÜRI all assistance in their project and underlined the supplementary facilities the new website can offer. In case of need, TÜRI should address to the Douzelage secretary.

KÖTZTING thanked the president for the creation of the new website. All the other towns joined these thanks. The president answered that without the help of OXELÖSUND hosting the site and Mr John Pettersson as site manager, this work could never have been realised. He thanked the Web-team for this result of an effective teamwork between John Pettersson, the youngsters from JUDENBURG and the president himself.

E) Provisional program of the SHERBORNE GM 12 – 15 Oct 2006

The dates of the SHERBORNE General Meeting in 2006 are: from 12 to 15 October 2006. 5 delegates from each town are invited, presumably one for the general meeting, one for the education meeting, 2 young people (up from 17 years old) and 1 professional specialist of the treated theme. Unofficials will, of course be very welcome and SHERBORNE hopes that the accommodation will probably be in host families, as they want the citizens of SHERBORNE being involved as much as possible in this event.

As observed during the international festival, activities in the street (dancers, musicians...) did involve a lot the local population. Mr Jeremy Barker remarked that a participation of one or two performing groups would be more than welcome, in order to stress on the importance of promoting the Douzelage among the citizens. Interested groups should address to SHERBORNE. As for the arrival airport, he suggested Bristol Airport, as Ryan Air is landing there and as their prices are more than cheap. Pick up at Exciter Airport, will also be possible.

The SHERBORNE committee has been in a lot of discussion with their local authorities in the hope that they will get the funding for their meeting. They also hope that Mike Pearth, former ambassador of Lithuania, in charge of the organisation committee, can attend the meeting in Luxembourg, and get the best advice himself. Unfortunately Mike Pearth at the moment is not here nor is Mike Balfour because they are actually in PREVEZA with a visiting group from SHERBORNE Rotary.

The theme of the symposium will be: "Rural communities today and tomorrow" and relating and detailed document had been handed to all the delegates. It's a very sophisticated document and it may be suspected that at the moment it is little bit over the top and may have to be made a little bit less ambitious when the time comes. It has been modelled on the "Social care and welfare" theme which KARKKILA ran and which was so impressive, maybe this was the most impressive document the Douzelage has yet produced, and on that excellent one on "Renewable energy" from the JUDENBURG meeting. SHERBORNE wishes their rural theme to become of a similar quality and hopes that this theme will fit in the continues funding scheme the Douzelage delegation had discussed in Brussels.

The "Rural communities today and tomorrow" is meant to study the surviving possibilities of the rural communities in the modern economy and globalisation. There is an enormous pressure on the rural communities as their traditional sources of income and economic activities have changed dramatically as a question on how on earth you can keep any kind of a balanced community in a small town. Maybe organisation of our societies, reliability of labour and so on always put great pressure.

The thought is that because most of the Douzelage towns are small and are surrounded by rural areas they do actually form an excellent possibility to study how the forces which are listed in this document on the background put all pressure on our communities and how they are responding to it. Particularly the problem of younger people is important, as SHERBORNE finds it more or less impossible to keep the younger people in the town as they all go off once they got their University places. Unable to stay within

their town of origin, we have to ask who replaces them when they leave. In SHERBORNE for example this is very critical, because the answer is – people get older and older and older. It is not how our commune is coping with this changing age structures and SHERBORNE discussed this with their local and regional authorities and they were very sympathetic to them taking this particular turn of events as theme. It is question of the community that how community will survive and how it's changing and how that can be controlled. Our young people losing loyalty and attachment to their places of origin, how does this affect our local community?

The project presented and which will be fine-tuned and put on the website, will be the subject of the SHERBORNE symposium. Each partner is kindly invited to look at the issues which are outlined between now and that symposium and draw up some kind of description of the problems in your town. SHERBORNE suggests having inputs from a range of organisations, schools, youth groups, local authorities or others. They hope that each town will produce some short of however short descriptive piece on the subject. Once these case studies will be available they will have a very interesting project, that might be interesting too in the eyes of the European Union.

All towns are asked to identify two young people (aged 17-25) to join the delegations and who could then join in two working studies associated with that theme. These studies will be under the lead of professional specialists. The county council in Dorset has confirmed its complete support for this project.

Depending on the outcome of this work SHERBORNE would like to suggest that the Douzelage should continue to watch in depth the development in each of the towns in the years to come, encouraging information exchanges between community development professionals. That could perhaps be time allocated for an update during each autumn meeting of the Douzelage. SHERBORNE believes that this is central to the spirit of the Douzelage and believes that it will be a real positive value for the future.

The president thanked SHERBORNE for having chosen this theme as it affects a multitude of towns in the European Union and at the same time is very close to the document about Economy and Tourism, [Annex O to the agenda] one of the possible new vital themes to be developed in the future actions of the Douzelage.

Mr Ger Kockelkorn confirmed that these subjects have become the most important to be treated in the western world, having to find a balance between the general globalization and the conservation of the own roots of every country in the EU. He pointed out the town of MEERSSEN which is unfortunately a perfect example of the leaving of the young generation under the pressure of economic development and that the problem is to be found all over the Netherlands already since years.

F) The MEERSSEN Resolution

As a consequence of the discussions and the speech of Mr Jean-Luc Dehaene in the government centre of Maastricht about the European Citizenship after the referendum, the Mayor of MEERSSEN had worked out a sort of "Resolution", a document distributed to all the present delegates. (Annexed to these minutes)

Mr Ger Kockelkorn presented this document as being non-political with only a suggestive character. He read the different proposals to the assembly. The different points tell us about the difficulties the outcomes of the referendum has brought over the European conscience, the new ways of motivation that have to be found, the strength and commitment of the "yes" candidates to maintain and strengthen the benefit of the European Union development.

Mr Kockelkorn counted the Douzelage among one of those new "pioneers" and declared he, as the Mayor, was proud and happy that the town of MEERSSEN is a member of the Douzelage twinning association. He declared the resolution to be "a sort of appeal not to loose the momentum to react."

NIEDERANVEN wanted to have the word "ultimate" changed. SHERBORNE proposes to replace it by "determined".

SHERBORNE wanted to add "apolitical" before the word "network".

GRANVILLE explained to be surprised to have this resolution for decision at this moment and wanted to underline that because it has not been discussed in their committee before, the delegates at this meeting agree on it in their personal name. NIEDERANVEN joined the remarks of GRANVILLE.

KÖTZTING suggested sending this document out to the national MEPs too.

Finally the resolution was unanimously accepted as being a resolution taken by the delegates of the 29th Symposium at MEERSSEN with the comments cited before. A final corrected version is to be handed out by MEERSSEN.

G) Guest speakers' speeches
