



douzelage.org

European Town Twinning

ALTEA : BAD KÖTZTING : BELLAGIO : BUNDORAN : CHOJNA : GRANVILLE
HOLSTEBRO : HOUFFALIZE : JUDENBURG : KARKKILA : KÖSZEG
MEERSSEN : NIEDERANVEN : OXELÖSUND
PREVEZA : SESIMBRA : SHERBORNE
SIGULDA : SUŠICE : TÜRI : ZVOLEN

DOUZELAGE – European Town Twinning
"Kulturhaus Nidderaanwen"

145, route de Trèves

L-6940 NIEDERANVEN

Tel: +352 26 34 07 42 Fax: +352 26 34 07 47

eMail: douzelaq@pt.lu

ALTEA (E)
BELLAGIO (I)
BUNDORAN (IRL)
CHOJNA (PL)
GRANVILLE (F)
HOLSTEBRO (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)
ZVOLEN (SK)

31st Douzelage Conference

KÖSZEG

10th-13th May 2007

Minutes



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

ALTEA

NOT ATTENDING

BAD KÖTZTING

FRITZ BUMMER
SABRINA FISCHER
PETRA HOHAUS
AGATHE KERSCHER
WOLFGANG KERSCHER

WOLFGANG LUDWIG (MAYOR)
EVI MAURER
ANTON MEINDL
GÜNTHER PECHER

BELLAGIO

RAMONA BONFATTI
CATANIA FIORELLA

DONATELLA GANDOLA

BUNDORAN

TIERNAN BRADY
GERALDINE FOX
DANIEL MC GETTIGAL

PAURIC MC NELIS
JOE MCNULTY

CHOJNA

ANDRZEJ BĘDZAK
SŁAWOMIR BŁĘCKI

BARTOSZ FILIPCZAK
JANUSZ CEZARY SALAMOŃCZYK

GRANVILLE

CLAUDE BALAIS
ANDRÉ GENDRE
FAY GUERRY
JEAN-CLAUDE GUERRY

DAVID MARCHIX
MARCEL MICHEL
ANGÉLIQUE POJAGHI

HOLSTEBRO

NOT ATTENDING

HOUFFALIZE

MARIE DUBOIS

LUC NOLLOMONT

JUDENBURG

ANDREA KOBER
MIKE LANGGNER

WILLI SCHNEDL
MARTIN SIX

MINNA KARHUNEN (MAYOR)
SEIJA LAINE
SANTRA SAIKANMÄKI

KARKKILA

MARITTA SALO
MIKA TAPANINEN

HOST

KÖSZEG

LAURENS BOOMSMA
LOETY COHEN
JOOP HOSMAN
RICARDO OFFERMANN (MAYOR)

JAN SWANENVLEUGEL
EMESE SZABO
NICO VAN DE VLIET

CLAUDE BRAUN
MONIQUE BRAUN
JOS MOUTON

NIEDERANVEN

LILIANE MOUTON
ALBERT PAQUET

BRITA BERGSTROM
MATS ERICSSON
BJORN HALLBERG

OXELÖSUND

AGNETA RÖNN
MIMMI RYDSTRAND

NOT ATTENDING

PREVEZA

MIKE BALFOUR
JEREMY BARKER
PAUL CARLING
TIMOTHY DAWSON
CHRIS MACADIE
MICHAEL MORRELL
PAT MORRELL

SHERBORNE

JANET PARSONS
MEGAN PIERSON
SARAH WHITTICK
FREDDY WHITTICK
JOSHUA WHITTICK
MICHAEL WHITTICK

CRISTINA CONCEICAO
FELICIA COSTA

SESIMBRA

FRANCISCO FIRMINO
CÉLIA RIBEIRO

NOT ATTENDING

SIGULDA

JOSEF MUŽIK
ZDENĚK SEDLÁK
VERA SVOBODOVA

SUŠICE

KRISTÝNA VOLNÁ
JIŘI ZELENÝ

ELO KIBENA
KADRI-ANN MATSON
PEETER SÄRG

KAROL MRVA
MICHAELA MITASIKOVA

ED WEBER, PRESIDENT

TÜRI

AET SARV
KATRIN SOOMETS

ZVOLEN

ALBETA STANIKOVA (VICE-MAYOR)

PRESIDENCY

PATRICIA SALVATORE-MOES, SECRETARY

GENERAL MEETING

A) *Business matters*

Before the meeting went over to the official administrative matters, the president Ed Weber welcomed all the delegations, the visitors and especially the mayors and vice-mayors who attended the conference. He expressed the regrets of the towns of ALTEA, HOLSTEBRO, PREVEZA and SIGULDA who could not assist to the meeting due to different local commitments. He especially welcomed the delegates of ZVOLEN who attended this meeting as possible new candidates for the Douzelage.

The president expressed special thanks to the hosting town of Kőszeg for organizing this meeting in a year's time after the Project Meeting in 2006. He underlined the importance of the fact that they succeeded to invite as guest speakers Mrs Bogyay Katalin, the State Secretary for International Affairs at the Ministry of Education and Culture and Mr Miklós Barabás, the Director of the European House in Budapest.

The president specially welcomed the young delegates and thanked them for their commitment to participate to the European development by joining the Douzelage projects and meetings. Finally he thanked the delegates of SHERBORNE for hosting the last meeting in autumn and especially Mrs Janet Parsons for having done so much "pioneer" work for the Douzelage Youth Project and for the excellent minutes of the youth workshop.

1) **Approval of the Sherborne GM Minutes 12-15 Oct 2006**

As no comments or refinements had been proposed to the draft report of the SHERBORNE General Meeting, the Minutes have been unanimously approved.

2) **Approval of the accounts 2006-2007**

After a foregoing check by the two honorary auditors Chris MacAdie and Marcel Michel, in replacement of Bernard Husson, the accounts for the period from 1 October 2006 to 31 March 2007 had been signed and approved.

The current account actually shows a balance of 6 591.57 €. On the translation equipment account there are 2 112.94 € and the presidency account shows a balance of 4 478.63 €. The president thanked the treasurer Claude Braun for the excellent work he did during this last year.

3) **Annual Douzelage membership**

As the financial situation of the Douzelage accounts is very healthy, it was proposed to keep the annual membership fee at the fixed level of 300 €. Those towns that have not yet paid their fees for 2007 are kindly invited to do so as soon as possible. It was also agreed that the annual translation contribution should remain at 50 €.

4) **Simultaneous translation equipment account**

For the translation equipment account a financial research had been made after Sesimbra could prove that they had done their payment for 2004. This research helped also identifying the payment of Holstebro for the year 2004. Because some administrative inaccuracies make it difficult to prove the correctness of the accounts prior to 2004, the date when the actual treasurer took over the translation account, it is proposed not to claim the translation fees left open before 2004. (For 2002 in total 150€)

MEERSSEN asked whether the new towns pay their part of the 1100€ when they are accessing the Douzelage, as a delayed payment.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that all new towns regularly pay the fixed amount of 200 € a year as delayed payment of the total amount of 1.100 €, just as it had been agreed in the GRANVILLE GM in 2004.

TÜRI asked if there is a review of the accounts every year and how it can happen that it can take 5 years to find this difference. The PRESIDENT explained that in accordance with the statutes the accounts are

revised every year. For the translation account however, no detailed payment records were available when the actual treasurer took over the translation accounts in 2004 and this explains the actual situation.

5) Douzelage in the World Wide Web

The president apologised for some delays in the updating of the Douzelage website due to the overstraining to prepare the numerous events where the Douzelage had been invited. This update will be done in the next weeks. The Youth Committee is also kindly invited to communicate its needs for the new Youth Webpage to be added to the Douzelage Web site. [Action: Youth committee](#)

Towns were asked to bring some new and more recent photos that could also be added to the web by the towns themselves. He encouraged every town to try to manage their own information offer on the site. [Action: ALL](#)

The general contact addresses just as the education contact addresses had been updated and the president explained that an updated mailing list is available for town contacts and education contacts by one click. He reminded the delegates to keep the secretary office informed about every change of these addresses in order to keep the lists updated. [Action: ALL](#)

As the education group has an own special area it will be of their own competence to update their contact addresses. If an education site manager would be needed there are teachers in Niederranven who would be candidate to do this. Request of the education group are awaited. [Action: Education group](#)

6) Program for further meetings

The next General meeting is planned to happen in the town of TÜRI from 8th to 11th of May 2008.

CHOJNA was very pleased to invite the Douzelage to the 33rd Douzelage Conference in autumn 2008 (end of September probably).

For the year 2009 the meeting will take place in ALTEA. As ALTEA was not attending this meeting they were kindly asked to confirm their meeting and provide the date when it will take place in 2009. [Action: ALTEA](#)

In 2010 the meeting is foreseen to be in SUŠICE, probably in April.

KÖSZEG noted that from 21st-24th April they have many twin towns in Köszeg and if feasible, these dates should be avoided. Of course if this will not be possible they will try to find a solution to go to the Douzelage meeting.

MEERSSEN again asked that the holiday calendar should be updated and checked before deciding in which town the meeting will take place.

KARKKILA reminded that a couple of years ago the decision had been taken to only have one meeting a year.

The PRESIDENT confirmed this decision but underlined that the 2008 autumn meeting will be important because in 2008 the multi annual project program in the EU is starting. Probably by the end of 2007 it will be possible to apply for multi annual projects running in 2008. One of the main aims of the Douzelage should be to find new partners or organisations that could take over the leadership of such multi annual projects because the Douzelage has not the specialists to run this kind of important projects where a lot of money is involved and a lot of knowledge and experience might be necessary. This autumn meeting would be a good opportunity to discuss these multi annual projects. The Douzelage should try to find organisations interested to lead Europe wide projects in all our towns and eventually invite one or two specialists to attend this autumn meeting.

CHOJNA reminded that it had been decided to have one general meeting and that efforts should be made to have a second autumn conference related to projects or procedures. CHOJNA would like to have its autumn meeting like a general meeting because if it's decided to have a kind of voluntary meeting with six or seven delegations only, they are afraid that the meeting will not be successful. In this case they would prefer to apply for the General meeting in spring 2011. CHOJNA asked for a straight forward answer as soon as possible in order to allow them to start their preparations. [Action: ALL](#)

The PRESIDENT underlined that it should be clear that these autumn meetings are destined to an in depth discussion of the procedures and the possible problems in running our projects. Theme milestones like i.e. multi annual projects and Youth activities should be reserved for those autumn conferences. As the multi annual projects are of such an importance for the future of the Douzelage, this autumn conference should be used to prepare and discuss the possibilities linked to this new facility in all its details.

SHERBORNE absolutely supported this idea and confirmed its presence to this meeting.

The mayor of KARKKILA informed that they had the discussion in KARKKILA to step away from the Douzelage because the participation does not only take money but also working time. Because they do not have that kind of voluntary Douzelage committee, all Douzelage matters are run by the town that has a very spare budget. They have to make cuttings and do not have resources to participate to such meetings in addition to the regular meetings as they do not have the resources to assist to two meetings a year.

KÖSZEG informed that because of their very low resources they have set up a civil association in which all volunteers can join and discuss together what to do. Because all these volunteers do this in their free time they manage to share their activities. A civil society has also other means of getting funds for the programs. The actual meeting is a good example of cooperation between the municipality and the local committee. The KÖSZEG delegate underlined that it is very useful to set up this body of volunteers which could then apply for support.

TÜRI confirmed that they had also approved one general meeting a year but they fully agree with the idea to have project meetings during the year if necessity occurs.

CHOJNA explained that they will be organizing this meeting in 2008, as all the new European projects will be starting at the end of 2007 and that it will be an excellent opportunity to find new partners, new subsidies and new ideas.

The PRESIDENT insisted on the fact that such a meeting is not a general meeting but a “conference”, which means that the whole structure and subsidizing procedure is different. The general meetings and the conferences are to be considered of an equal importance on the Douzelage meeting schedule.

After CHOJNA had explained that for their meeting they would like to organize special workshops for young people and workshops connected to European Projects. The main topic will be the multi annuality of projects and the identification of new partners in working together to prepare this multi annual project. A vote was taken to see which town will be present at the CHOJNA Project Conference in autumn 2008. TÜRI, GRANVILLE, KARKKILA and SESIMBRA could not yet give a definite answer as they have to discuss this matter with their local authorities. All the other present delegations confirmed to be there. **Action: ALL**

The PRESIDENT said that the foreseen eventual meeting in Brussels for autumn 2007 will be postponed to 2009 as there are too many appointments on both sides. - Every delegation agreed to that postponement.

7) Douzelage enlargement

At the beginning of this agenda point the president announced the good news that Martijn Hosman from MEERSSEN and Triin Toome from TÜRI had their engagement on 16th of April. They will get married this year. On behalf of all the member towns the president expressed the congratulations for this wonderful event and the best wishes for their future.

Information letters had previously been sent out to different candidate towns and received one positive answer from the town of ZVOLEN (Slovakia), whose delegation was sitting with all the other present delegations. The president read this official letter to the delegations. In that letter the Mayor of ZVOLEN explained that their town agrees to the Douzelage charter, that it is familiar with the Douzelage activities and that they would be honoured to join the Douzelage association.

The president proposed to accept ZVOLEN as a new member of the Douzelage in an official ceremony and in presence with the Mayor of ZVOLEN next spring in TÜRI, during the General Meeting.

SHERBORNE asked why this decision could not be done immediately.

The PRESIDENT answered that he only thought that it could have been more “official” with the presence of the concerned authorities, but that he does not see a problem in doing it immediately if that is the wish of the present delegations.

After a short discussion finally every represented member town voted in favour of the assessment of ZVOLEN into the Douzelage and up from that moment the town of ZVOLEN had been officially declared member of the Douzelage. The due official ceremony to this event will happen during the next General Meeting.

The ZVOLEN delegation thanked the whole assembly for their confidence and said that ZVOLEN is honoured to be now a member town of the Douzelage. They declared that it would be with proud and joy that they will go home and announce this good news to the ZVOLEN town authorities.

The president reminded that the town of GEROSKIPOU from Cyprus did also show interest in becoming a Douzelage member town and that they will soon decide in their town council if they will send the official application form or not. He explained that especially this town would be very interesting for the fact that they have a long experience in participating to “Interreg” projects.

The other interested town in Lithuania is PRIENAI, whose delegation will probably be invited to TÜRI for the next General Meeting. Another town from Lithuania is DRUSKININKAI, who invited the president to an official visit from the 25th to the 29th of May.

The town of SLIEMA from Malta finally revoked their interest in the Douzelage, as they are already too much involved in other town twinning activities.

As for the town of PTUJ (Slovenia) they promised to present the Douzelage information documents to their town council for a decision.

The PRESIDENT said that as soon as a new application form has been sent in from one of these interested towns, every member of the Douzelage will be informed. All information related to the new candidate towns is available on the Douzelage internet site. He explained that contacts with new towns (as for Malta for example) are only taken one after the other in order to avoid that 2 towns from one country are applying and that a choice has to be done then.

There is even a town of Croatia, which showed interest in becoming a member of the Douzelage, which proves that the Douzelage has more friends than expected.

8) “Europe for Citizen” Program 2007-2013

As KÖSZEG did apply in the frame of this program already the president asked them if there had been any problem or if they have special remarks from their side of experience.

The PRESIDENT read the letter of Mr Marc Jorna, head of Unit of the EACEA (European Programs), contact where the applications have to be sent in. In the letter Mr Jorna expressed his thanks for the helpful comments the Douzelage gave on town twinning experience, suggestions that had been considered later on when setting up the program.

One of those new procedures is that event projects, workshops or other will be granted by the European Commission on a flat rate system, a fixed amount per participant per day. Those flat rates differ among the different member states.

As for the money, spent on communication and information (DVD, Website, booklets etc.), it is also paid back as a flat rate. The new calculator document is already available on the official EU website. The application forms still have to be sent as an original written document and delivered by post (no facsimile accepted) the day before the target date.

The PRESIDENT reported of a phone call he had from Mr Risto Raivio of the EU Commission, who explained that the negotiations around the rules of multi annual projects are coming to an end. After a discussion about the amount of work such projects will normally take, it was finally agreed that a half-task employed person would probably be necessary to administer multi annual projects.

The HOUFFALIZE ADEPS Project had been accepted into the new program system with all the possible support that goes together with such a project.

9) “Youth in Action” Program 2007-2013

In the frame of the new program BAD KÖTZTING had applied for their new project “Wilderness Camp”, an activity that had unfortunately to be postponed to 2008 because of a too short application delay.

SHERBORNE confirmed that the delays are quite short and proposed to ask to get the grant decision at least 6 months in advance.

The PRESIDENT explained that the new application forms are much easier to handle than the older and the fact that you do not have to present a final budget is also a big step forward. He promised to pass this suggestion to the authorities as soon as he gets the opportunity, as in fact such a step would be very helpful. Anyway the program 2007 is not yet definite and is running as a sort of pioneer system, so that the final results of the handling will only be available after a test period. As for the target dates for the Youth in Action program, he informed the delegates that all information is available on the Website.

CHOJNA remarked that the new application documents vary from country to country and that some are much longer than others. He confirmed that the delay of the 1st of April (target date) is quite short for a project that should be run in August. So he proposed to apply already in February (other target date) in order to have a definite answer more quickly. Anyway for them it would be impossible to run a Youth Project or activity without the EU grant.

MEERSSEN suggested finding other possibilities to collect money, like asking private enterprises for sponsoring or other activities engendering money profits (markets, lotteries...).

CHOJNA answered that this could in fact be helpful, but only in a certain way. For real projects it is absolutely necessary to have a strong and regulated granting support in order to guarantee the success of the action. He said that before a project is started, the first question will always be if it will be granted or not. This should be the fact that you have to know a long time in advance before involving people and their commitment.

SHERBORNE repeated once more that the grant promise delays have to be longer.

The PRESIDENT agreed that this is in fact very important. He added that for the sum of ±14€ you can make a sort of travel insurance contract that whenever the project is not granted you will be paid back for the travel ticket you paid already, a possibility that can be very helpful too.

CHOJNA said that if they run the project in August they must already present the referring bills and invoices at the first of July, which is absolutely impossible. They also reported that concerning their Leonardo da Vinci project in preparation they attended an information meeting mid February. Although the deadline for the application was 1st of March, they did not have any forms yet at this meeting that took place two weeks before the target date. It is clear that if you get the forms just one week before the deadline, it is extremely difficult for most of the towns to apply. Fortunately CHOJNA had a long experience in this programme, but for new applicants it is quite impossible to apply in such a short delay.

The PRESIDENT confirmed that he will present those purposes to the authorities whenever the first opportunity will occur and he added that also for the EU it was a difficult year and that the whole program was only launched recently and that all changes and affinities that need to be done will certainly be added in the next future. He emphasized once more that the applicants should absolutely pay attention to the target dates and that all the necessary information is available on the Douzelage Website or on the EU Website. If anyone would like to do an application via the EACEA and has a question to any specific issue, he suggested that towns should contact the Douzelage secretary office if they cannot get a satisfying answer in Brussels.

10) Douzelage's European participations

The PRESIDENT related that the Douzelage had been asked several times to participate in European activities and that probably this will go on in the future.

There had been the meeting ("Europe Direct Basse-Normandie" 21 November 06) in the Memorial Centre of Caen (France) where also GRANVILLE had been invited. There had been about 350 young participants debating on environments, employment and culture and the Douzelage was asked to present its activities in this domain. Unfortunately the culture part came a little bit too short on the schedule, as the other themes had been discussed very long, so that finally the Town Twinning part of the programme had only 20 minutes time to present the different activities, projects and plans. The debate had been broadcasted online and questions of the public audience could be treated as well. All the responsible authorities of the Normandy and the regional youth agencies had been on the scene too and it had been an excellent opportunity for the Douzelage to present itself.

André Gendre from GRANVILLE also confirmed the report of the president and gave some comments to this fruitful meeting. He read the very positive conclusion of a young participant from GRANVILLE about this meeting and the main questions interesting youngsters today.

Another important conference was the meeting of the "Thematic networking" in Brussels on 24th January 2007. The president of the Douzelage, Mrs Manuela di Pinto from HOUFFALIZE and Mr Carlo Sancassano from BELLAGIO had participated to this very effective meeting. Different administrative difficulties in organizing activities and projects could be mentioned and discussed. Many of the purposes had been considered, just as it has been mentioned in the letter of Mr Jorna from the EU EACEA authorities. Mr Barabàs who had been a lecturer in KÖSZEG was one of the speakers and he was the perfect advocate of the Douzelage purpose. He expressed himself absolutely in favour of this twinning

financing method the EU Commission is offering to the twinning organisations within the frame of the new program.

The European Conference for Cultural Heritage and Local Authorities in the “Peace and Friendship” Stadium in Athens from 30 March to 1 April was a very big event where at least 20.000 people took part. There had been stalls representing the entire region around Athens. PREVEZA as a Douzelage town, with its mayor Mr. Miltiadis Klapas and the Prefect of PREVEZA, Mr Vassilis Ioannou also participated in this important conference.

The PRESIDENT of the Douzelage had been invited by the European Organisation for Strategic Planning EOSP as a lecturer of this meeting. The different conferences running in the frame of this meeting could be seen on screens in the whole area of the location. The Douzelage had been called as one of the most excellent examples for European Citizenship.

At this occasion the president met one of the responsible persons of the Aegean University in Athens, dealing with bigger European projects. What the Douzelage needs for the future is some civic society organization able to take over the leadership in these kinds of projects. Schools and universities in the Douzelage towns should be asked for cooperation in future European projects. The message the president tried to pass in Athens was that the Douzelage is a well working network of twinned towns, offering its experience and services to those who are looking for such a network for their European projects. The message that should go to the universities and schools, is to use the presence of the 400.000 inhabitants of the Douzelage for their projects. The Douzelage networking should be promoted in every possible way in order to continue its way of success. Every gathering of information (firemen contact addresses, youth associations...) is a small part of a huge networking puzzle, able to bring the European citizens closer together.

The president underlined once more the importance of attending all the important European meetings, in order to get helpful contacts, to stay on the guest lists and be on the front side of the European action area.

That is why the vice-president Alphonse Henrard was attending at this moment on one of the most important European meetings in twinning matters in Rhodes.

The CEMR's Conference Twinning for tomorrows World in Rhodes from 10-12 May 2007 was one of the top events for the Douzelage to participate in. In fact a very select choice of lecturers was invited, such as

- Nicole Fontaine, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur for the creation of the community programme for twinning,
- Odile Quintin, Director General, DG Education and Culture, European Commission,
- Pierre Mairesse, Director of the Directorate of Youth, Sport and Relations with the Citizen, DG Education and Culture, European Commission
- Anders Knape, Chair of CEMR's working group on twinning,
- Christine Boon Falleur, Head of Unit, Youth, Sport and Relations with the Citizen, Partnerships and Visits, DG Education and Culture, European Commission,
- Marc Jorna, Head of Unit “Citizenship”, EAC Executive Agency,
- Miltiadis Klapas, Mayor of PREVEZA,
- Alphonse Henrard, Deputy Mayor of HOUFFALIZE (B), Vice President of the “Douzelage”.

To be invited to this meeting had been one of the very best recognition the Douzelage has ever got. This was only possible thanks to the excellent work of our partner towns and the European Commission, who put the Douzelage on its list of the best examples of the twinning activities in Europe.

The president encouraged the Douzelage delegations to continue on this way of success and recognition.

During these conferences Douzelage stalls had been installed in order to promote even more its projects, practices and ideas. All related documentation about these conferences is available on the Website.

As for the request for partners the Douzelage also met for example the responsible persons of ASEAL, a civil society, worth of being an excellent example of how civil societies can cooperate with municipalities. The contact with these people is very important as they can be very helpful in giving advices. All those civil societies (“Sans frontières Europe” in Malta, or “Innovation Circle” with members like TÜRI and DRUSKININKAI) can be helpful for the Douzelage in its work on European Level.

Another very important possibility is “Interreg”, an international program with important subsidizing means available. A co-operation in such a program is only possible for the Douzelage if professional project

leaders can be found. The secondary schools and universities of the different Douzelage towns could cooperate and offer their specialists to be at service. A perfect theme for such an “Interreg” cooperation could be for example “tourism” or “rural development”, as it is a relevant theme for every Douzelage town, and this kind of subject does not necessarily take influence on local politics.

The president proposed that every town should make their research in looking for eventual organisations interested to run such Europe wide projects. The Douzelage can offer all necessary networking, documentation, facilities, web-links etc. Such collaboration could run apart from the normal activities and it could be very profitable to all Douzelage towns. Action: ALL

11) Douzelage stalls for exhibitions

As the Douzelage had been asked several times already to participate in exhibitions on European Citizenship (Athens, Rhodes, Brussels...) the necessity of having good quality posters and photos, or other publicity material to present the Douzelage from its best side becomes pertinent. All towns were asked to send in their best photos and views in order to put together a portable market display (see Annex Q). Action: ALL

In fact this kind of flexible and easy-to-handle retractable display can be arranged as exhibition stall and is not too expensive (± 600 € per piece). It can be sent per post, by carrier or transported as hand luggage. ± 3 kg/pce. This system could even be used as a banner. Later on it could be “expanded” or/and being printed in different languages. The president proposed to purchase one to test it and eventually buy one more next year if its utility had been proved.

All the delegates voted unanimously in favour of such a purchase, in order to proceed to a real “corporate identity” of the Douzelage.

12) Douzelage Youth Committee Project

Janet Parsons from SHERBORNE presented the proposals and the youth issues following the Douzelage conference in SHERBORNE last October and the very fruitful workshop they had. She was pleased that there is a real continuation of the Youth issues that had been started in SHERBORNE during the last General Meeting. The conferences and discussions that had then been made between youngsters and experts should be continued and supported.

Themes like transport, commitment in social matters, mission of young people in democratic processes, facilities for young people...are ever important and can only but fit in the European democratic system. That is the reason why the set up of such a Youth Committee in the heart of a European Twinning Association can be of a major importance. The documents with all the details of the Youth issues are available on the Douzelage Website.

The PRESIDENT thanked Mrs Parson for her excellent presentation of the Youth issues that had been prepared with so much commitment.

KARKKILA welcomed that now so much is in preparation, especially in the Youth domain and expressed that they are very interested to participate in the upcoming tasks. They were also very concerned about the general rules of adapted behaviour during activities with young people (alcohol, security...) and asked to promote more the soft drinks in the future. The PRESIDENT underlined that the Child protection rules available on the Douzelage website should absolutely be respected when organizing youth activities.

BUNDORAN asked the delegates to consider that when organizing youth activities or meetings, we always tackle what we can do for the youngsters. In the future we should absolutely remember that the young people have also a role to play in our society and that we should also put the question: what can the young people do for the community. For example, very good experiences had already been done by hiring young people in SHERBORNE to do the translation.

The PRESIDENT asked every delegate to forward these issues to their local youth clubs, youth workers and schools, in order to motivate young people. He mentioned that on the Website there are the special Youth activity training kits available and that they might be very helpful for having all necessary rules and guidelines together. A European Regulation, dealing with all kinds of social questions (insurance, parental consents...) is also available on the Web. He further asked the new Youth committee to include the Website Youth domain into the general Douzelage Website. In fact the Youth Domain should not be separated from the general Douzelage information. It should become an important part of the Douzelage itself.

B) *Survey of recent events*

1) Projects not yet finished or in preparation

All towns had kindly been asked, prior to the meeting, to send a brief description of their activities since the last general meeting, together with their plans for the future. Those towns who haven't done yet should send in their activities as soon as possible. Action: ALL

MEERSSEN explained that they are working together with SHERBORNE on an historic project concerning the "Routes of the Romans". They have now an officially signed agreement with the "Stella Maris" school, which guarantees a stronger collaboration with the Douzelage.

KARKKILA informed that for the moment they are not having any Douzelage activities. The activities running in their schools are all running outside the Douzelage. The delegates were informed that the previewed Basket Ball tournament and workshop on drugs had unfortunately to get cancelled, because the team was too busy due to the advancement in a higher national level.

BAD KÖTZTING had no special event to mention since the last General Meeting. A school class from the Trade School in HOLSTEBRO came for an exchange to a school in Cham (close to BAD KÖTZTING). It was a very successful exchange, that had been kicked off by the Douzelage since more than 10 years now.

There are also regular school contacts between the Realschule in BAD KÖTZTING and SUŠICE, which are very fruitful for the involved pupils and teachers. BAD KÖTZTING also could send two youngsters to the BELLAGIO Miniparliament and they expressed their thanks to BELLAGIO for continuing to organize this successful annual event.

As for 2008 BAD KÖTZTING has planned to run the project "Mensch und Wildnis" camp in the Bavarian Forest, they showed a short PowerPoint presentation about the project details. The information will be circulated by October and the final decision will be needed by the 1st of December 07. The papers must be handed in by the 1st of February and the decision by the EU will be communicated by the 1st of May 2008. The time of the event will probably happen the first week of August 2008. The participants should be aged between 15 and 25. A preparatory visit will be done from 26th to 29th June 2008. Action: ALL

BAD KÖTZTING reminded that we should be careful not to be competitors with our projects. An exact study of the calendar of activities should be made prior to planning new projects. Action: ALL

TÜRI told about the successful participation of their Business Gymnasium in the Comenius project "Friendship" together with Polish, English, Hungarian, German and Czech schools. Four 6th Grade pupils and three teachers participated in the third meeting of the project in BAD KÖTZTING, Germany 18 - 21 October 2006.

The local Douzelage committee has set up groups in charge with the next general meeting in TÜRI. They had been discussing already themes, financing and accommodation possibilities. They have foreseen to send 5 students from Tartu University to the Birdwatch project II in CHOJNA, in case the project gets EU funding. The cycling club of KARKKILA will visit TÜRI in July and together with the TÜRI cycling club they will make a tour in the south of Estonia. This exchange takes place already for the 12th time.

BELLAGIO will send 9 pupils to the Adepts sports weeks in June in HOUFFALIZE. They will also participate to the CBC Youth project "Neighbours" in KÖSZEG in July. BELLAGIO started already the preparation of the next Miniparliament that will take place in August 2008.

As for the Miniparliament 2006, the president congratulated them once more for the very professional, well prepared and excellent carry-out of this event. Teatrinvaggio, the private company in charge of the organisation, did an excellent job. Everything had been running without any problem and there were enough participants as ever.

GRANVILLE announced 2 new projects for the near future: In July there will be a photo exhibition, initiated by Pierre Etienne, a member of the GRANVILLE photo club, who organized this exhibition in the frame of a project where all Douzelage towns could participate. As the local Douzelage committee is working in partnership with the GRANVILLE photo club, all the Douzelage towns were asked to send 10 photos about their home town. The main interest is here to promote the different Douzelage towns by the mean of pictures and all delegates were asked to pass on the information to their local responsible persons. Action: ALL

The second project running in GRANVILLE, is the Sailing Project III, where this year 5 towns are participating: ZVOLEN, OXELÖSUND, SHERBORNE, MEERSSEN and HOUFFALIZE. It will happen from 27 July to

5 August 2007, for students aged 14-18. 4 youngsters and one adult per town are invited (if possible 2 boys and 2 girls). There will be as usual many activities around the theme of the sea (sailing courses, hiking and sightseeing tours...). The main theme of the discussions will be "water quality", a very pertinent subject of these days.

The president also wanted to stress the importance of the Poetry contest for children aged from 6 to 12 called "Ecritures d'Europe", a project launched by Mrs Rosa Crochet-Neumann. This wonderful European idea should absolutely be supported and every town delegate was asked to remind the schools in their town to participate to this event, especially as the poems will be published in form of a European book, sponsored by the European Commission. No other than the Nobel price awarded Mr John Hume will probably write the foreword to this book. The presentation of this book will be in Paris in presence of the children and many important personalities and it would be a great honour for the Douzelage towns to be a part of this project. Every town can send 5 poems in their own language (which could eventually be translated later on). The posters and the prospects concerning this Poetry contest are shown on the stalls in Brussels and Rhodes. Action: ALL, Bundoran

HOUFFALIZE announced that the EU-Commission will visit the next ADEPS sports week activity (10-16 June), in order to show their employees what organizing Twinning activities means and what such an event implies and how the organization works. There will be pupils from PREVEZA, OXELÖSUND, BELLAGIO, GRANVILLE and NIEDERANVEN.

HOUFFALIZE also organized a concert meeting of their local music group "Royale du Hérou" and the Harmony of MEERSSEN in Nadrin (next to HOUFFALIZE). The president, who had been at this concert, told about the wonderful performance taking place in a perfect atmosphere of friendship and professionalism and he encouraged all other towns to organize more often such citizen exchanges, as they constitute the heart of European culture exchange on local levels. Action: ALL

HOUFFALIZE will send 4 youngsters and one adult to the GRANVILLE Sailing Project and had also planned to send a group of 10 students from HOUFFALIZE to participate in the Birdwatch Project in CHOJNA.

52 seniors from NIEDERANVEN went to a visit to HOUFFALIZE during the first week of May. They had been welcomed very warmly at the town hall and enjoyed very much this very nice stay.

The vice-president Alphonse Henrard, together with the mayor of PREVEZA attended the CEMR Meeting in Rhodes where they represented the Douzelage as lecturers.

The town of ZVOLEN said that they are going to send youngsters to the GRANVILLE project Sailing III. They are willing to participate in many school projects and they also have foreseen to participate in the GRANVILLE Photo exhibition. Contacts will be sent to GRANVILLE.

KÖSZEG informed that from October 1st there is new local government and it would be a great pleasure for them to announce that the new government supports Douzelage even more than the previous one. With Mr Bela Basthy, as the new vice-Mayor, the Douzelage will have a very strong personnel support on the municipal level.

There had been a "Hungarian Week-end" in JUDENBURG, where the Hungarian dancers performed and a huge Goulash Party had been organized. The citizens of JUDENBURG also had the possibility to buy special Hungarian products.

A group of 6 persons from KÖSZEG participated in the Miniparliament in BELLAGIO and István Mátrai expressed his deepest thanks to BELLAGIO for the wonderful and perfectly organized event.

10 students spent one week language training in the JUDENBURG Ideum School. They had learned a lot this week and spent a good time.

The music group Mladek Generatia from KÖSZEG took part in the English Song Festival in CHOJNA. István regretted that they were the only foreign group participating in that very high level festival.

There had been different Comenius Project participations, one of the kinder gardens with the participation of OXELÖSUND, PREVEZA, NIEDERANVEN and SIGULDA. A new primary school project has started with pupils from KÖSZEG and SESIMBRA together with some other towns.

KÖSZEG applied successfully for the last CBC Project "Neighbours" that includes a group of 60 youngsters from KÖSZEG, BELLAGIO, JUDENBURG, CHOJNA and SUŠICE. The program will take place from 28 June until 5 July 2007. This project was especially meant for "newcomer" countries of the EU. A preparatory visit to this project will be organized later on and a proper accommodation will be arranged.

KÖSZEG has foreseen to take part in the projects announced by PREVEZA and BAD KÖTZTING as well as the Birdwatch Project in CHOJNA. Unfortunately KÖSZEG announced that they cannot take over the Birdwatch Project in a next step in 2008.

The PRESIDENT informed that the participation in the Project “Ten stops in the Nature around PREVEZA” that PREVEZA did announce had unfortunately to be cancelled for the Douzelage towns, as the application delays had been too short. Hopefully this very interesting project can be repeated in the next years.

NIEDERANVEN did report on their participation with 3 pupils in the Miniparliament. The participants were extremely satisfied with this wonderful activity.

At the end of November 2006, the Douzelage president, Mr Ed Weber, had been honoured by the municipality of NIEDERANVEN for his re-election as Douzelage President and for his efforts on the European level concerning the subsidizing of the Douzelage Projects.

A young student from CHOJNA, Kasia Salamonczyk (the daughter of Cezary) did come to NIEDERANVEN to attend a training session in the well known Sheraton Hotel. The municipality of NIEDERANVEN organized a special reception for her.

In 2006, NIEDERANVEN sent 2 persons to the preparatory visit of the Sailing Project to GRANVILLE and teachers from NIEDERANVEN did go to SIGULDA in the frame of the Comenius Project.

In Luxembourg City the new Program “Youth for Europe 2007-2013” had been presented and the Douzelage was present with an information stall. The Birdwatch Project was represented there by its group leader Philip Birget, in presence of the Minister for Education and the brother of the Grand-Duke, Prince Guillaume.

End of May there will be the final meeting of the Comenius Project “Improve your mind in NIEDERANVEN and body by movement in Nature”. The delegated teacher of the different participating towns will be hosted in NIEDERANVEN for a week. An interesting frame program has already been set up.

The local football club of NIEDERANVEN will visit GRANVILLE in the frame of a youth tournament. One school class from NIEDERANVEN will participate to the ADEPS sports week in HOUFFALIZE and the association “Natur- a Reesfrënn” (friends of nature and travel) will go on a visit to BELLAGIO by the end of September. Youngsters from NIEDERANVEN will also take part in the Birdwatch project in CHOJNA.

It had eventually been previewed to launch a new youth project in the domain of photography this time. As the local Douzelage Committee has found a new member from the youth associations, the cooperation with the youngsters should improve in the time to come. A new house for Media and Youth has been inaugurated in NIEDERANVEN, so that there will also be a better office support of youth matters.

In 2008 there will be festivities of the 100th anniversary of the local brass band from NIEDERANVEN and they intended to invite the music groups from the Douzelage towns to come to NIEDERANVEN. All the details are being prepared and the related information will be forwarded to the towns as soon as the decisions are taken.

The PRESIDENT informed the delegates that the local Douzelage Committee of NIEDERANVEN had been re-elected (with the same staff) after some strong differences and discussions with the local authorities and after the abdication of the president. In the meantime every problem had been resolved and the new (old) staff is continuing its mission with even more energy and commitment.

The PRESIDENT welcomed especially the recent local youth associations’ participation in the Douzelage. As the local youth in this association are mainly university students, it is sometimes difficult to keep a regular contact with them, but their ideas are very good and their commitment in cooperating really seems to get stronger.

The president informed the delegates that the local Douzelage offices have moved to the new “House of Culture”, provided with brand new computers and facilities. He promised to put pictures of it on the Website as soon as the official inaugurations will be done (after the 29th of June).

He thanked HOUFFALIZE for the warm welcome of the elderly people from NIEDERANVEN, who visited HOUFFALIZE recently and who will probably also go to BELLAGIO and MEERSSEN in the next future. He encouraged those small exchanges, which can be officially considered as meetings of citizens.

SUŠICE has got a new town council and a new Mayor who assured that they will give their full support to the local Douzelage committee. They hope very strongly that the organisation of their General Meeting in 2010 will take place as foreseen.

Besides their participation in the Miniparliament, they also have some school projects running, together with BAD KÖTZTING. They are also involved in a Comenius Soprus Project, which will go on in 2007.

As for their future activities, by the end of May there will be a folk group from JUDENBURG coming to SUŠICE to participate in the Days of SUŠICE. In June and July a group of youngsters will go to KÖSZEG in the frame of the project "Neighbors".

In SHERBORNE SUŠICE had offered a new project called "e-Twinning". Nobody has applied yet so that the offer has been prolonged until next September. All information is on the Douzelage website. **Action: ALL**

The Children's Choir from SUŠICE is going to take part in the International Championship in Sligo (Ireland) in November 2007. SUŠICE regretted the fact that not enough young participants of these exchanges can be hosted in families. For them, hosting visitors is the only possibility in that way as all financial means to offer hotels are not available.

The PRESIDENT explained that it is often a fact of mentality of the different nations or regions of Europe (as for SHERBORNE for example, who also prefers family hosting).

OXELÖSUND participated in the Miniparliament and will go to the Adepts with 14 youngsters (7 girls and 7 boys). 4 Students will go to GRANVILLE Sailing III project. Some 50 students of the music school of OXELÖSUND went to HOLSTEBRO. As the idea of the music school is to make every student play an instrument, they like to go abroad to interest youngsters more in music as an exciting experience.

OXELÖSUND showed a little PowerPoint presentation about their town and explained that they have foreseen to start a new project, a kind of nature-and environment activity for next summer. The main topic of this meeting could be either multilinguism or the change of the climate. It should take place around the first week of August 2008 from Saturday 2nd to Saturday 9th.

As there has not yet been any similar project in the Douzelage, they try to realize this project especially for young disabled people in a kind of nature and environment activity. OXELÖSUND asked the delegations to address to them in case of further questions. Application must be made before 1st of September 07. **Action: ALL**

A preparatory meeting could be arranged around the mid of autumn. Conditions of the project should be similar to those fixed by GRANVILLE for the Sailing III: 14-17 years old, 4 youngsters and one leader, from 7 to 10 countries with a total of participants around 50 persons.

The president was pleased to hear about such plans and promised all support if contacts or administrative help is needed. He further reported about a mail received from a person working with disabled people in Malta. This message was received via the Douzelage Forum where the person asked to get in contact with one or the other Douzelage town and to see if exchanges could be made possible.

BUNDORAN said that last September their students moved to a brand new school and they also have a new school principal, who is much more interested in the Douzelage, so that hopefully there will be a higher participation and activities for young people. The school has already agreed to join a Comenius project that PREVEZA in Greece has undertaken. They also took contact with the local Northwest Photograph Club, who made a selection of photographs for the project in GRANVILLE. Their Mayor has been in touch with Mr John Hume, the Nobel Price Winner to write the foreword for the "Poetry Contest Book", which is composed by the best poems of the GRANVILLE Poetry project. BUNDORAN will report as soon as they will have information on that. Finally the Children's Choir from SUŠICE is visiting a town near BUNDORAN in order to participate in an international child choir championship. They will try to arrange a visit for the youngsters to BUNDORAN.

CHOJNA informed that they took part in the BELLAGIO Miniparliament, which was very successful as it has already been mentioned by many others.

Mr Salamonczyk from CHOJNA warmly thanked the NIEDERANVEN Douzelage committee and its president for their help in enabling the training session to the young student from CHOJNA in the NH Hotel (former Hotel Sheraton) in NIEDERANVEN.

A primary school from CHOJNA is taking part in the Comenius Project coordinated by SHERBORNE.

CHOJNA was very thankful for the precious help the Douzelage committee of SHERBORNE offered to make such exchange courses possible. CHOJNA already prepared the application for the year 2008 and they hope that this project will be continuing with the same success. Some of these students are also having this work experience in Germany in Angermünde, a small town next to the Polish border.

They also prepared the application documents for the Project "Follow the birds II" and they strongly hope that they will be able to run the "Follow the birds" project. Another Leonardo Da Vinci project "Europe-Hotel" allowing sending students for work experience to Hotels in SHERBORNE is running. Special thanks to Jeremy Barker and the Douzelage Committee of SHERBORNE for their help.

CHOJNA made a general remark concerning the communication prior to the BIRDWATCH project which was perfect. All documents and all responses were received in time and therefore CHOJNA expressed special thanks to the towns involved in this project.

For the future, CHOJNA will participate in the "Neighbours" Project in summer 2007 in KÖSZEG.

In August 2007 there will be the "Days of Integration" in CHOJNA and they hope very much that the actual president and the former president of the Douzelage will be present at these celebrations.

In 2008, probably from 11th to 12th of April, CHOJNA will be celebrating the 15th anniversary of the "English Song Festival" (for foreign visitors it will be from Thursday 10th until Sunday 13th). They hope that many Douzelage citizens will attend the performances. The festival is aimed at young people aged between 16 and 26, but if there are younger or older they are very welcome too and can participate as a kind of special guests. There will be a full media support (TV, radio, newspapers...) with audience of about 400 people, representing quite a challenge for the performing youngsters. The project is financed by private sponsors and the Town Council. As CHOJNA is not far from Berlin, the only travel costs that have to be paid by the participants, are the tickets to Berlin. Up from there they will be picked up and accommodation, video or free activities are offered by the organizer. Action: ALL

For the Douzelage autumn meeting in 2008 in CHOJNA, green light had been given already.

CHOJNA asked GRANVILLE why the condition for participating in the Photograph Project is that the photo club has to be a member of the association of the Polish Republic photo clubs. GRANVILLE assured that this official condition could also be ignored if necessary and that CHOJNA is of course welcome to participate, even if the photo club is not member of the national association.

CHOJNA declared that they are very much interested in participating in the foreseen project in OXELÖSUND and would also like to cooperate in an Interreg III-C project as it had been mentioned by the president before. The president confirmed that a possible cooperation with the Interreg would indeed be very interesting and important for the Douzelage.

SHERBORNE made only a quick review over their activities, as they had distributed a detailed version of their events to the delegates before this meeting session.

Mr Barker thanked all the people and especially the local Douzelage committee for the support they spent during the last SHERBORNE meeting, which unfortunately had not been financed by the EU Commission. He also thanked all the people who had contributed in all kinds and ways to the success of their meeting.

He reported about the 25th anniversary between SHERBORNE and GRANVILLE happening last February. At this occasion a group from SHERBORNE went to the "Carnaval de GRANVILLE" in February. There will be a group from GRANVILLE and SHERBORNE who is going to Brittany for three days of festivities to celebrate this 25th Anniversary.

As for the educational projects, the main Comenius Projects are going on. Another important activity is certainly the visit of 8 students from CHOJNA who are coming to SHERBORNE for a work placement and another 8 who are coming in the summer to improve their English and earn a little money on the site.

These activities are partly financed by the annual "Polish Film" evening in SHERBORNE. The "Wessex Morris Men" are going to the KÖSZEG Wine Festival. There are some other future activities planned and the details can be found on the activity list. The coordinator of the Douzelage Play, John Sutherland-Smith from SHERBORNE, is thinking about having another attempt of this. This event happened in KARKKILA where 180 young people took part in 6 performances of that play and it had been a quite remarkable event. The obvious place to organize it one more time would be the courtyard of the Jurisics Castle in KÖSZEG, just there where the general Meeting took place. Action: SHERBORNE, KÖSZEG

SHERBORNE hopes very much that the proposed Roman Project, coordinated probably between Luc Nollomont, Jan Swanenvleugel and Jeremy Barker, will take place and preparations will start soon. For this project the best would be that every town would contact 2 or 3 of their citizens being interested or even specialized in history and capable to go round in the Douzelage and have an eye on the local history facts of the different towns. Mr Barker asked every town, which had been under Roman occupation in the

past to participate to that interesting project. Details will be communicated as soon as they are worked out. Action: ALL

The president thanked SHERBORNE once more for hosting the last General Meeting and he gave his special thanks to Janet Parsons, who did so successfully prepare the Douzelage Youth section project.

JUDENBURG reported that in last December a group of pupils of the KÖSZEG Grammar school had a German language course in Ideum Institute in JUDENBURG.

High ranking representatives of the European Commission informed our Mayors about EU subsidies and the local Douzelage Committee had been invited to special workshops about the new “Europe for Citizens” Program.

A folk music group from JUDENBURG will take part at the Folk Music Festival in SUŠICE. JUDENBURG informed that the mountaineering and mountain bike camp for young people had been postponed to 2009. Further information about this adventure camp can be given during the TÜRI General Meeting in next spring.

The students of the JUDENBURG Commercial High school will take part in the project “Neighbors” in KÖSZEG in June.

SESIMBRA will forward their list of activities on a later date.

The other towns that have not yet sent in their list of activities were kindly asked to do so. Action: ALL

C) *Provisional Agenda for the TÜRI General Meeting*

Peeter Särg, on behalf of the mayor and the town of TÜRI invited all the Douzelage towns to the R General Meeting 2008, taking place in TÜRI from 8TH to 11TH May 2008. Mr Särg explained that he is a member of the organizing team and that he has in fact not a real political background, but rather a technical and logistic one (architecture and project coordination). He assured that the administrative support from the Municipality of TÜRI is very strong and that they are very proud to welcome delegates from so many different European towns in TÜRI, a first experience and a big challenge for them.

They will of course follow the general policy of a Douzelage General meeting, meaning having the official representatives of the town present as well as a representation of the young generation of the town. With reference to last mentioned he explained that this year in June there will be a special seminar of several “old” twinned Estonian towns, dealing with the activities of young disabled young people today (called “horsepower” for young disabled people) and he thought that this theme could be a very good preparation to what may be chosen as a theme for the TÜRI GM. Anyhow this theme would meet one of the prior objectives of the European Commission, meaning “Equal opportunities for all”.

Mrs Katrin Soomets gave a detailed overview about the upcoming meeting:

On behalf of the TÜRI Douzelage committee she said that they are proud to be hosting the next Douzelage General Meeting from 8th to 11th May 2008. TÜRI, one of the greenest towns in Estonia, is situated in the centre of Estonia on the shore of the River Pärnu. Their 80 years old town, situated 100 km from Tallinn and 300 km from Riga, is communally known as the “spring capital” of Estonia.

They are inviting 5 delegates from each member town to attend as official delegation: 2 people to attend the General Meeting, 1 educational delegate to attend the Education Meeting and 2 young delegates to attend the Youth Meeting and workshops. Action: ALL

The arrival of the delegations will be on Thursday 8th of May and the meetings will take place on Friday and Saturday morning. A social program will be provided to all the guests. Before all they would like to show their schools, culture, museums and entertainment to the delegates. As for the accommodation they will not have so many single rooms available as necessary, which is why some delegates will have to share rooms. As for the youngsters, they will mainly be accommodated in host families. Special wishes will be arranged. Towns are asked to communicate their wishes as soon as possible. Action: ALL

They are very willing to accept every practical hint from KÖSZEG for example, in order to be able to offer an similar perfect organization as KÖSZEG did for this meeting.

The contact person for the visiting delegates in TÜRI will be Mrs Katrin Soomets herself. She invited every town to choose one contact person in charge of their own town to communicate with TÜRI for this general meeting, by the 1st of September 2007. Action: ALL

As for the different themes and procedures, the local Douzelage committee from TÜRI will have a meeting the week after this meeting in order to discuss about these details. The first newsletter will be emailed in June 2007. Anyway the final choice of the treated subjects also depends on the results and comments of the Youth Workshop and the Minorities Workshop here in KÖSZEG, way of knowing what are the main interests or planned issues of the future Youth committee for example. Towns were reminded to follow the deadlines in their newsletters; making the organizing process much easier. Action: ALL

TÜRI expressed its satisfaction about the upcoming event and said they are pleased to welcome every town of the Douzelage.

The president thanked TÜRI very much in advance and informed that for the year 2008, the proposed theme of the European Commission is “Cross cultural Dialogue” and that it would be much recommended to follow the ideas of the EU Commission, in order to have financing guaranteed for example. This would be especially valid for the organized workshops.

As for the transport of the translation equipment, it will probably be financed, as for the year 2008 the applications will run under the new networking system. Translators and transport of the equipment must therefore be integrated in the conference budget.

With these words the president thanked all the delegates for their commitment and officially closed the General Meeting session of the Douzelage and handed over the chair to the Youth Section of the Douzelage.

II) Youth Workshop Report

Before the youth workshop report Mr Mike Langgner from JUDENBURG explained shortly the “German Master Course”, offered by the Ideum Languages Institute in JUDENBURG. If somebody is interested in these language courses, please contact Judenburg directly. The information can be found on the Douzelage website.

Mike Langgner (JUDENBURG), Martin Six (JUDENBURG), Nora Kappel (KÖSZEG) and Angélique Pojaghi (France), presented the report of the Youth Workshop in a detailed and very interesting PowerPoint presentation. They explained what could be the issues of such a committee and where they could be active. They asked every town to propose to their local youth to participate in this new project and become an active committee member or to contact one of those members in order to set up a strong and effective Youth section in the Douzelage. There will also be established a special Youth Project Fund and EU funding will be claimed. Action: ALL

After the presentation, the delegates of the Douzelage towns unanimously voted in favour of the foundation of the Douzelage Youth Committee. As for the persons in charge, definite names will only be decided later on, when all applications from the different interested persons and towns are studied.

A new Douzelage Youth Committee was founded and its role is to represent the young European generation in the Douzelage and participate actively and with a great commitment in the upcoming discussions, projects and plans.

On behalf of the Douzelage member towns, the president expressed his congratulations and thanks to the young people, who have worked so hard to prepare this very important step in the youth work of the Douzelage. Based on the important preparation work of Janet Parsons in the Douzelage Youth Project paired with the enthusiastic contribution of the young people, a first important milestone in the youth work could be achieved.