

ICOM-EUROPE

(www.icom-europe.org/)

Minutes of the Second General Meeting Term 2003 - 2005

Held on 6th October 2004, 4.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

At the COEX Conference Centre, Seoul, Korea

Present

Members:

Hans-Martin Hinz, ICOM-Europe (Chair)
Ebba Brännback, Finland
Agrita Ozola, Latvia
Michel von Praet, France
Alla Stashkevic, Belarus
Josef Brülisauer, Switzerland
Joao Castel-Branco Pereira, Portugal
Merete Ipsen, Denmark
Barbara Woroncow, UK
Vitaly Remizov, Russia
Nicole Gesché-Konig, representing Staf Thomas, Belgium
Katerina Tlachova, Czech Republic
Alberto Garlandin, Italy
Virgil Stefan Nitulescu, Romania
Lila de Chaves, Greece

In Attendance:

Ignacio Acosta, Spain
Oliver Rump, Germany

Executive Secretaries:

Johanna Westphal, ICOM-Europe
Katja Rossocha, ICOM-Europe

The President of ICOM-Europe, Hans-Martin Hinz, welcomed members of ICOM-Europe to the General Meeting in Seoul and declared that a majority of members were present (**Rules:** “The quorum for the triennial General Meeting of ICOM-EUROPE shall be one quarter of the number of National Committees which are members of ICOM-EUROPE, represented at the meeting by a member of that Committee in person or by proxy.”). He explained that the members of ICOM-Europe had received an invitation to attend the Annual Conference 2004 through a letter from the Chairman, dated August 2004, which included the relevant documents.

After a few words of welcome, Hans-Martin Hinz introduced himself and other members of the board who were present. He reported on a meeting of the Regional Organizations and the relevant ICOM representatives (Yani Herreman and Garry Edson) which had taken place on Monday, 4th of October 2004 at COEX. It was made clear that the Regional Organizations are

indeed very important within the ICOM family and they should play a stronger role in the future, comparable to the National and International Committees. At the next General Conference of ICOM there will be a meeting organised for the Regional Organizations as part of the official programme. Also, during meetings of the Advisory Committee, the Regional Organisations should have the opportunity to meet and have a fixed time on the agenda. The president of ICOM-Europe had already spoken to the chair of the Advisory Committee and the wish of the Regional Organization had been fully accepted.

Returning to the agenda for the Annual Meeting:

Agenda Item No 1: ICOM-Europe 2004 Activity Report

The Chairman presented ICOM-Europe's Activity Report 2004 and highlighted the most important activities of the Regional Organisation as described in the report (see documents attached and on the home page: www.icom-europe.org/).

The first activity initiated by the elected board had been a workshop series with the National Committees of Russia, Belarus and Germany about "Museums in the post-Communist Era", held in Moscow/Tver (April 2003), Minsk (September 2003) and Berlin (April 2004). With the support of ICOM-Europe's partnership, all participants were able to learn from each other, as well as about the recent situation, advantages and problems of museums in the three respective countries, which are still undergoing dramatic changes. The Chairman explained that another workshop was planned co-operatively on a similar basis between ICOM-Belarus, ICOM-Ukraine and ICOM-Lithuania – under the patronage of ICOM-Europe – on the topic *Shifting Borders, Changing Identities*.

ICOM-Europe had also been a partner in the first international Baltic Museology School 2004, which was held in Sigulda/Latvia, a town not far from the capital Riga.

ICOM-Europe, as well as ICOM-Russia and ICOM-Germany, had been partners in a three-month fellowship programme for Russian colleagues in Germany during March, April and May 2004.

In 2004 two official meetings had already taken place between ICOM-Europe and ICOM-Arab in order to prepare a first joint workshop for February 2005, to be co-organised by ICOM-Arab and the Nubian Museum in Aswan. The aim of this activity was to promote better cultural understanding between Europeans and Arabs and, therefore, the first workshop would deal with the question of what young museum visitors learn at museums in general and, in particular, about the culture of the European and Arab world and vice versa.

Regarding EU-Europe and the expected co-operation with the Network of European Museum Organisations (NEMO), there had been a first meeting during the annual conference of NEMO in Berlin in November 2003. Both organisations are willing to work together to prevent duplicate structures when it comes to talks with representatives of the European Union.

Discussion: Following a suggestion from Michel von Praet, the meeting recommended that ICOM-Europe should normally only give patronage to multilateral activities involving at least three partners.

Michel von Praet stated that, even though one focus for ICOM-Europe lies in Eastern Europe, we should also strengthen our ties with Southern European countries. Hans-Martin Hinz replied that Southern European ICOM-countries are particularly involved in the Europe-Arab project.

Alberto Garlandin pointed out that ICOM-Europe should also get in touch with other Regional Organizations such as AFRICOM.

Katka Tlachova requested to know more details about a) the Baltic Museology School (which Agrita Ozola answered with a verbal report) and b) which countries are involved in the project *Shifting Borders, Changing Identities* in 2005.

Hans-Martin Hinz replied that Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine are planning the project under the patronage of ICOM-Europe. The general idea for this project had come up after the successful workshop series between ICOM-Russia, -Belarus and -Germany (on the topic: "Museums in post-Communist times"). He explained briefly the main points of the project outline that he had written. A brain-storming paper had already been accepted by the three respective National Committees and would be discussed further in October 2004 by the chairpersons of the committees involved.

All members of ICOM-Europe were invited to bring up themes, projects, questions and topics in which they are interested. The board made clear that it would welcome initiatives from any members of ICOM-Europe.

Agenda Item No 2: Rules of ICOM-Europe: Amendments

Following discussion, members of ICOM-Europe accepted the two changes in the Rules which had been recommended by the board of ICOM-Europe:

Rules of ICOM-Europe, 4. Membership

In order to accept all National Committees of the region as members of that respective Regional Organisation the following paragraph is to be omitted:

"All applications shall be made by the National Committee in writing to the Secretary-General of ICOM who shall, after consulting the existing members of ICOM-EUROPE, submit the application to the Executive Council of ICOM for determination."

Explanation: The reconstituted board of ICOM-Europe and the Secretary-General of ICOM decided in early 2003 to accept all National Committees of our continent automatically as members. The application system – as written in the rules – seemed too bureaucratic and time-consuming. The new membership policy is a great success since those National Committees not officially members until 2002, are now very much engaged in the work of ICOM-Europe.

Rules of ICOM-Europe, 6. Management of the Regional Organisation

The following paragraph is to be amended as follows:

„The Chairperson and the elected members of the board shall be individual Members, or designated representatives of Institutional Members of ICOM, and be chairman (**NEW: „or former chairperson“**) of the board of any one of the National Committees forming the Regional Organisation ICOM-EUROPE (**NEW: „or an active representative of any other body of ICOM provided they also have the support of the respective National Committee“**).

Explanation: Whether an elected board works successfully or not, does not, in general, depend on the status of the member. More important is the engagement of the person. Other regional organisations, such as ASPAC and LAC, are also represented by colleagues who are not, or are no longer, chairpersons of national committees. And they do a good job. Bad experiences of former boards of ICOM-Europe in the past indicate that we should not limit the activities of experienced members of ICOM who are in close contact with their organisational bodies of ICOM.

Therefore the third paragraph of section 6 is to be omitted:

“Any person who is a chairman in good standing of a National Committee that is a member of ICOM-Europe may stand for election to the Board of ICOM-Europe.”

Agenda Item No 3: Confirmation/Re-election of the current board of ICOM-Europe for the period 2005-2007

Since the current board was not elected during a General Conference of ICOM, but at the end of 2002, in order to come into the rhythm of board elections during General Conferences of ICOM, the board recommended the confirmation of the recently-elected board by the Annual Conference of ICOM-Europe for a new three-year term, although the full three-year programme-period ends in late 2005 (see papers).

An objection to this course of action was raised by Merete Ipsen of Denmark. There then followed a discussion among the members of ICOM-Europe as to whether it would not be better to have a re-election instead of a confirmation for the current exceptional situation, as a re-election would be more democratic than just a confirmation.

In the end, the Annual Conference of ICOM-Europe agreed that it wished to retain all the existing members of the board to continue their work. It was thus formally resolved that the period of office of the currently-elected board would be extended exceptionally for an additional 18 months beyond the usual 3-year term in order to enable the next elections to take place at the ICOM triennial in 2007.

Barbara Woroncow from the U.K. was elected as a replacement for Nick Merriman who had had to resign from the board owing to pressure of professional commitments.

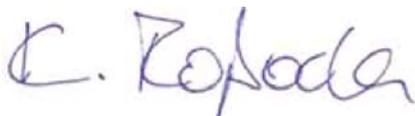
Agenda Item No 4: Any Other Business

None.

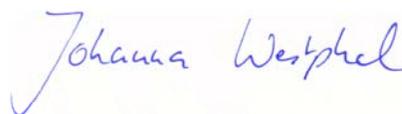
Berlin, 15th November 2004



Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz
Chair



Katja Roßocha, M.A.
Executive Secretary



Johanna Westphal, M.A.
Executive Secretary