



## Minutes

General Assembly SPP/ICA, Meeting on Monday July 21<sup>th</sup>, 2008;  
Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia),  
Room 407.

**Attendants:** Khayrou Cissé, Reinder van der Heide (Secretary), Marietta Minotos (VicePresident], Günther Schefbeck (Vice-President]) Harry Scholz (Treasurer); Mateo Maciá, Béla Pálmányi, Reinhard Schreiner, Stephen Ellison, Harry Scholz, Rudolf Schmitz, Nassa Traoré, Sara Tedebrand Frant, Alfredo Caldeira, Egil Borlaug, Christine Gohsmann

### **0. Welcome**

Our President, Günther Schefbeck (GS), opens the last Plenary Assembly of the SPP under his presidency and welcomes the attending members.

GS: It is also the Electoral Meeting, because this PA of the SPP is held during the annual meeting in association with the (4-yearly) International Congress on Archives which in accordance with the ICA-Constitution particularly serves the purpose of electing the Bureaus of the sections for the next turn (2008-2012). Because of that the elections take the central position on the agenda today.

There is only a small difference between the agenda you were sent 8 weeks ago and the current agenda, namely in the list of candidates, since Mrs. Campochiari has declared her readiness to stand for election. She has been included in the list.

### **1. Report 2004-2008 by the President**

GS: In 2004 I was honoured by being elected as President of the SPP. The section at that time was not sure if it would continue as it was, as a section of Archivists of Parliaments and of Political Parties' Foundations and Politicians' Archives. There were arguments that had led to the formation of the section as it was, in particular the argument that one of these two groups would be too small for forming a section of its own, whereas two groups together would form a critical mass. So now we have 93 members and it seems that this is a useful amount of members for a section like ours. We have made the experience in the past years that we have 20 á 25 members present at our conferences, so that together with guests, for instance in Corfu from the university, we are able to organise events that can deal with the issues of these events in a thorough way.

I have distributed a brief quadrennial report along with the agenda. I will focus on a few issues.

1. The conferences; we have been able to organise three conferences, every year since 2004 except of course this year of the ICA-Congress; but we did organise a workshop here in cooperation with the ICA-SIO.

The 1<sup>st</sup> conference took place in Vitoria-Gasteiz in 2005: 'From Archive to Information Management'. We obviously were aware of the new challenges facing the archival world, organisational changes and particularly technological changes and developments. In 2006 we held a conference focussing on a 'small' example of the new environment: how to deal with websites, as a new medium, how to archive websites. This conference could build upon the work of a working group of the German Party Archives before and was able to draft guidelines for website archiving. We discussed these matters and tomorrow we will be able to present the results in the workshop for the attendees of the International Congress I mentioned before. In 2007 our vice-president Mrs. Marietta Minotou organised at Corfu a conference, focussing on the new organisational challenges.

How to deal with 'neighbouring' institutions: libraries, documentation centres, etc. Cooperation, training, education, these things played an important part in that conference. So, during the last three years we have worked on some of the most challenging issues that our members are facing.

We have available now the reports and results of the conference in 2006 at Bonn. They will be presented tomorrow in our workshop. We do not have the publication of the conference in 2007 at Corfu but Marietta has told me that a publication in the Corfu University series will appear. A publication of the conference at Vitoria-Gasteiz seems less likely, because we have not got hold of the transcripts of the proceedings.

2. The projects we have started; the Twinning Project, proposed by our colleague from Burkina Fasso, Mrs. Traoré, aims at stimulating bilateral cooperation between archivists and archives of parliaments (or political parties' foundations or politicians' archives). We will present this concept, fitting very well in the ICA's general goals, to the Program Committee of the ICA in order to gather some support for that project.
3. Another is the idea of establishing a directory of parliamentary, political parties' and politicians' archives in an electronic format. We started out with sending a questionnaire.

## 2. Report by the Secretary

Reinder van der Heide (RHvdH) has not very much to add to the extensive treatment of the past four years by the President. He asserts that a lot of work has been done, especially on the very interesting and fruitful conferences.

RHvdH: The Twinning Project promises to be a valuable contribution to the disseminating of archival knowledge and experience from the more developed countries to developing countries and new democracies. I will try to get the support of the PCOM by filling out the form with all the relevant data and the proposal itself and have every hope that the committee will give its support to the developing of this concept that has proven its usefulness in other fields as well.

The directory project could in my opinion benefit from input by all the members of at least the data they can muster from their own country, after all, every little bit helps.

I have had a very interesting time as a secretary, learned (of) a lot of new things and take the opportunity to thank the President and the other SC-members for their kind cooperation. He expresses his trust and expectation that the new SC will operate at least as fruitful and rewarding as this one.

## 3. Elections

GS announces that now the time has come to choose, as Plenary Assembly, a new Steering Committee/Bureau.

GS: There are no alterations since the last list has been sent, it is a balanced list in terms of candidates from parliamentary archives and from political parties' foundations archives, and from the North, the South, the West and the East. There are no other candidates, no one from Spain, which is a pity since from Spain the largest membership group originates. However, maybe the Mrs. Emilia Campochiaro and Marietta Minotos, both from other Mediterranean soil, can compensate such loss somehow. I am glad that Marietta Minotos will stand for President. I want to stress that all groups within the SPP are equally important. In both the substructures of the SPP are experienced members, able to integrate the work of both into the overall work of the section.

RHvdH: I might add and affirm that in this way the very needed continuity within the SPP is in good hands and well served.

GS: I have to mention that there is a the new function in the SC: the Treasurer. Later, in connection with the agenda item 'Budget' this function will be elaborated on some more. The budget issue isn't settled yet within ICA, and it is not easy to deal with this subject (in spite of the fact that it should be easy because it is such a modest budget). Another new function is that of 'Auditor'. The auditor however is not a member of the SC. Everyone has a list of candidates in front of him or her. I propose to the Plenary Assembly to vote 'en bloc'.

The members agree with that in principle but assert that before the voting takes place there should be ample opportunity for candidates to present themselves.

GS: For instance Mrs. Traoré (NT), present, did not send a written address, so she now can take the opportunity to address the present membership 'live'.

Marietta Minotos (MMi): Can I ask you (NT) to send me the text of your presentation later? NT affirms this.

GS starts: why standing as Vice-President? As I said: the new organisational structure has to come alive. There are now substructures within the overall program activities. – What happens in the substructures should go back into the whole structure; – because of my experience within SPP I think I could, as VP, make a useful contribution to that.

Reinhard Schreiner (RS), next on the list, candidate as the other VP is not present, the Assembly however has his written address;

RHvdH, candidate for a second term as Secretary, paraphrases his written address, available to the membership.

Harry Scholz (HS): Prof. Schneider did me the honour of suggesting to me the candidacy for Treasurer. I am very interested in the budgetary affairs of the ICA and the SPP and hope to be able via that route to be able to further the worthwhile goals of the section.

France Bélisle, not present, has written an address, which is read aloud by GS (available).

Claus Brüggmann (CB) idem.

Emilia Campochiaro, idem, but text not (yet) available.

GS introduces Khayrou Cissé. He is the Head of the Archives and Documentation Centre / the Parliamentary Archives of the National Assembly of Senegal. He has been granted permission by his S.-G. to organise a SPP-Conference in 2010 in Dakar (Senegal). Him being a member of the SC will be very good for everyone, it will make the cooperation and preparation for the conference much easier.

Vida Kisuniene (VK), always attending our conferences, could, as a representative of Eastern Europe, perhaps host a conference in 2011 in Lithuania.

Wlodzimierz Kucner (WK) from Poland: always a loyal and active attendee of our meetings and conferences.

Sara Tedebrand Frant (STF) from Sweden will be a very welcome new member of the SPP since after the death of our Anders Norberg in 2003 no one from Northern Europe has been represented in the SC-SPP.

Finally the position of Auditor, for which Wouter Steenhaut, Head of the archives of the Belgian Workers Movement, is willing to stand. GS expresses on behalf of all members present a strong confidence in his candidacy.

GS: the list of candidates also represents a good balance between continuity and the new. I thank very cordially and extensively those members who are stepping down as members of the SC: Mr. Schneider (MS), who organised 'Bonn' in such a very professional and fruitful way; Béla Pálmányi (BP), active member since 1992, so for 16 years now, never tired, a one time VP, member of the SC since 2003, a man who brought his vast experience to the SPP; Mateo Maciá (MMa), who had the most difficult job of all in the SC, having the demanding task to act as a 'bridge' between the diverse members of our section who sometimes had or have such amazingly different outlooks and /or perspectives on all sorts of things. In particular I have to point out, that Mateo's efforts prevented us to lose, and actively helped us to keep, the basis for our SPP-future together, and all of us hope for a reconciliation among members in future, as a reward for his efforts. I thank everyone present very, very much for what all of them have done for a high profile of the section.

GS is applauded. RHvdH: thank you Günther, for all of the things you have done for all of us, for the section and for its survival and thriving.

GS explains the proceedings: the proceedings for elections are as follows: voting has to be done in person and in the meeting. I would personally have preferred a safe electronic voting system by which absent members could vote as well. Software from Austria, specifically for small organisations is, available but, sorry to say this, the S.-G. (Joan van Albada) did not accept such kind of voting. The Steering Committee decided not to revert to another system (e-mail etc.), due to some instability and

to the fact that if communication problems arise, members would be unable to cast their votes properly. In this context the Steering Committee suggests to keep the old voting system for the moment. There are no demands for changing such proceedings. and a further proposal of GS: I propose to cast the votes 'en bloc'. All members present agree with that and GS then calls out the names of the respective candidates. All of them were elected unanimously. The new Steering Committee consists of the following persons:

President:	Marietta Minotos (MMi)
Secretary:	Reinder H. van der Heide (RHvdH)
Vice-President:	Günther Schefbeck (GS) Reinhard Schreiner (RS)
Treasurer:	Harry Scholz (HS)
Members:	France Bélisle (FB) Claus Brügmann (CB) Emilia Campochiaro (EC) Khayrou Cissé (KC) Vida Kisuniene (VK) Włodzimierz Kucner (WK) Sara Tedebrand Frant (STF)
Auditor:	Wouter Steenhaut (WS)

After the elections the new President, Marietta Minotos (Mmi), takes the chair.

MMi: [I hope that all of you understand English.] Thanks to all of you. I'll do my very best as President and will work hard to further all the interests of the SPP and its members in their professional field and to achieve our common goals.

Dear Colleagues, I would like to welcome you to our newly born Steering Committee. First of all, I would like to express my warmest thanks for your trust. Our Committee is very well balanced. Both old members and new members, will work together for the fulfilment of the future aims: the promotion of SPP abroad and in Greece, with a view to promoting its aims and mission and to preserving its unity.

My basic principles are the continuation of the good atmosphere in the framework of the Committee and the systematic work to promote the SPP and its activities. Regarding the effective way our Committee will work, I propose to encourage all members of the Steering Committee to offer their contribution (help) and also organize some teams with specific targets. I will explain this to you later extensively in connection with the working program. So lets move to the next items of the agenda:

#### **4. Working program 2008-2012**

MMi: A few members of our Committee are here in KL and are attending the XVI International Congress on Archives. Nevertheless, we had a very important presence in the scientific works of the Congress by the participation of our members at the workshop "Archiving websites-a new challenge to archives". The contributions were made by Gunther Schefbeck and Rudolf Schmitz. So I am thinking that it will be necessary to include the speeches in our website and make a relative reference.

We can also create a directory which will contain photos taken here and a short notice regarding the work of the Conference. If you agree we can create a link to the ICA-website or finally include some speeches which are of specific interest to SPP, for example the paper about Presidential Archives. I ask Guenther to cooperate with Reinder and Claus for the implementation of this aim.

As far as future scientific meetings are concerned I am very happy to announce to you that our next annual scientific meeting will be held in Vienna, hosted by the Austrian Parliament and organized by Mr. Schefbeck. The subject is "Archives and Democracy" and it will be held early in November 2009. At the next meeting of our Steering Committee in Athens, Guenther will present a detailed program of this conference. We had already discussed it and Guenther, in the framework of the International Conference in KL, has made some very useful contacts. Would you like, Günther, to later tell us about this?

In this context our colleague Caldeira will be organizing a seminar in Lisbon in 2009 related to "Archives of Politicians and Political Parties". A detailed program will be at our disposal at the next Steering Committee meeting

For 2010 we have the proposal of our colleague from Senegal to organize a conference hosted by the Senegal Parliament. I asked Mr. Cissé to provide me as well as our Secretary with more detailed information regarding this event.

For 2011 we have already discussed the prospect of organizing a conference in Lithuania, but I have not yet detailed information about it.

Has any of you any comments or amendments to this program?

MMa: I want to say to all of you that I had a very good experience here in this section during the past years. Now I have new responsibilities, not compatible with the SPP, I regret it very much not to be able to go on. I tried to find a Spanish candidate for the SC. Some Spanish colleagues sent me letters against some candidates on the list, I'll give the papers to the Secretary. Thank you, thank you again very much for your contributions.

Stephen Ellison (SE): Thanks Marietta, and I wish you all the success in the world as our President.

HS: Michael Schneider asked me to convey his greetings to all of you and his regrets for not having been able to participate in this meeting.

## 5. SPP Website

MMi: The enrichment of our website will be a very important issue during the years ahead, and also the creation of a newsletter, which circulates twice a year. We should also include the contributions of our past conferences.

## 6. SPP enlargement and Directory of Parliamentary/party/politicians' archives

MMi: We hope to be able to expand our membership in the years to come, amongst other things by creating and subsequently being able to use a Directory with extensive data of as many as possible parliamentary, political party, and politicians' archives.

## 7. Financial issues

MMi: I would like to ask our new Treasurer to submit a short notice concerning the present situation of the Section's budget. Also it will be useful to establish a stable communication with the Treasurer of ICA's. All these papers should be sent to me and to our Secretary to be collected at a first level and then to set up our Section's archive.

HS then explains a few matters regarding the difficulties in connection with an own SPP-bank account and the interplay with the ICA-board in this respect. HS: I hope and expect to be able to establish a good working order and co-operation model with the central ICA management.

## 8. Co-operation with other Sections

MMi: In future we, as a section, will try to co-operate with other sections if and when the subjects we're dealing with are of interest to one or more of these sections, like for example SAO, SAE, etc.

## 9. Closing

Our new President, Marietta Minotos: I thank the attendant members for their co-operation during the last four years and everyone's contributions, especially Guenther! GS then is thanked likewise by the SPP- and his fellow SC-members. MMi closes the meeting after expressing her hopes and expectations that next Friday, the new Steering Committee will continue to do all the good work.

