



Minutes

Steering Committee ICA-SPP, Meeting d.d. Thursday, Oct. 6th 2005;
Hotel Páramo, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Álava, Bask Country, Spain

Attendants:

Günther Schefbeck (president), Marietta Minotos (vice-president), Reinder van der Heide (secretary), Mateo Maciá, Michael Schneider

Absentees:

Mariona Corominas i Noguera (vice-president), Vincenzo Arista, France Bélisle, Claus Brüggmann, Inaldo Marinho Jr., Béla Pálmányi, Reinhard Schreiner

Due to the fact that the planned General Meeting on Saturday 8th couldn't proceed because no interpreters would be available on that day, the Steering Committee decided to schedule the General Meeting where originally the Steering Committee Meeting was planned: Friday 7th, 17.00 – 18.00 (or longer if necessary; and in fact it started earlier in the afternoon); this Steering Committee Meeting took place in the evening at the Hotel Páramo, Okt. 6th, 21.00 – 22.00 p.m.

Günther Schefbeck (GS), president of the Steering Committee (SC), welcomes the attending members of the Committee with a few remarks, regarding the agenda he had sent before by e-mail.

1) Membership of the SPP Steering Committee

The SC has a membership question: Some SC members have had to retire or are planning to retire from the Committee for similar reasons:

Mr. Mario Tonelotto has retired from his professional function and therefore from the SC membership, as well.

Mr. Inaldo Marinho has announced that he has another job apart from parliamentary archives which allows him to become but a category D member of the Section and raised the question of the consequences regarding SC membership.

GS also mentions the imminent resigning, only informally known to him at this stage, of Mariona Corominas as vice-chairperson of the SC and as member of the SPP. She has a job now in governmental spheres, which is incompatible with our Section's membership requirements.

Proceeding from Mr. Tonelotto's resignation and the practice forcing Mr. Marinho to resign from SC membership, the SC decides to co-opt just one new member, for the time being, and decide on additional co-optations at one of the next meetings.

There is a discussion whether Mr. Tonelotto's successor at the European Parliament, Mr. Donato Antona, could succeed him here in the SC of the SPP as well. Problem at this moment

is his lack of experience in the Section, so co-opting him now is no option. Perhaps later on however this would be a possibility, to have the European Parliament represented in the SC again.

After some debate the SC decides to invite Mr. Wlodek Kucner (Senate of Poland) to join the Committee. Mr. Kucner is an experienced member of the Section and would strengthen the representation of Central Eastern European parliamentary archives, those being an area for further enlargement of the Section. GS will approach him tomorrow.

2. Publication of the results of the 2005 conference

During the talks three issues surfaced:

- The Bask parliament is able to provide us with a transcript of the tape recorded records of the conference sessions;
 - The authentic records of all the speakers will thus be available;
 - Question is: who will take the responsibility for this publication?
- It will appear in print in a simple, not too expensive way, GS will take care of that; it will also be made available on the SPP website (subject of agenda item 4, see below).

3) Work program 2005/2006

Will it be possible to organise an SPP conference in the year 2006? We have already a theme for such a conference: "Internet Archiving". This conference would continue and deepen the subject matter of the 2005 conference, focusing on one particular of the new media, sc. The Internet. Within this framework, it would deal with two particular aspects: a) webcontent as matter to be preserved by parliamentary and party archives; b) web presentation as a media for parliamentary and party archives to address their dialogue groups.

After some exchanges of opinions one option emerges: to hold a 2006 SPP conference in Bonn, to be organised by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation. The catch however in this offer by Michael Schneider (MS) is the possible consequences of the electoral results in Germany: The possibilities of the F.E.-foundation to organise such a conference would depend on funding of the party foundations under the federal budget to be drafted by the new federal government. The SC decides to leave this matter open till our General Meeting tomorrow, in which a more certain host could arise (to the occasion).

Marietta Minotos (MM) then offers to organise a conference in 2007 in Corfu or Athens, Greece, which is of course an offer we can't refuse, and the SC dearly thanks her for it. GS then turns to the subject of finance. He talked to the ICA president, Mr. Lorenz Mikoletzky, who made it clear to him that there is only one way money is going to flow from ICA headquarters to an organisational part of the ICA. The ICA focuses on 'projects'. A project 'is, simply spoken, something with an output'. A publication of the results of a conference (speeches, lectures etc.) is an output. So, in other words, we will have to try to have some funds flowing in our direction by publishing the Vitoria-Gasteiz Conference results (see agenda item 2 above).

The SC agrees to ponder on other ideas that could lead to 'outputs'. The matter shall be put before the tomorrow General Meeting as well. The SC will use the possibilities of e-mail contact and of the future SPP website to exchange ideas.

4) SPP website (relaunching, improving and expanding it)

GS: Our SPP website, hosted by a Spanish provider is no longer in the air, due to misunderstandings regarding the annual payment by the ICA secretariat. It had nothing to do with the amount of money, it being no more than just about 100 €. This of course is quite regrettable but such are the facts. What are the options?

The ICA as ‘mother’-organisation would be the ideal provider for the websites of all organisational parts of the ICA. In the Washington executive board meeting this infrastructural possibility has been on the agenda and everyone agreed this would be a good if not the best idea. However all sorts of setbacks have since been going on at head quarters in Paris: Mr. Kammerhofer had already resigned, so there was no treasurer; Ms. Saskia Brown’s working contract has been dissolved, etc. This easy solution for hosting the SPP’s website will probably not materialise soon, so in the mean time we temporarily need an alternative approach to tackle the problem. Mr. Mateo Maciá will contact the Spanish provider in order to have the website relaunched, as an intermediate solution We do already have a possible ‘webmaster’, at the last SC meeting Mr. Claus Brüggmann volunteered for the job.

The subject ‘SPP-members discussing in a forum on a bulletin board’ surfaced again. There was general agreement that in the meantime technology hasn’t stood still, and it is now quite possible to assign to each member of the section a so-called weblog address. Discussions can be held via these weblogs in an easy way, so as soon as our website problem has been solved, the discussions and the exchange of ideas and opinions can fire away. First however we need a host, prepared to host weblogs of all members. GS will contact an acquaintance of his who is very handy with these matters, and he will try, with a little help from this friend, to establish a weblog structure in good time.

5) Budgetary issues

Everyone is asked to look for possibilities of additional funding. We shouldn’t expect much from ICA head quarters, they have their own substantial budgetary headaches.

The Soros-venue that came up during the last meeting, somewhat explored by Béla Pálmany hasn’t yielded any results yet, as far as GS has understood; he’ll ask Mr. Pálmany about it.

6) Other issues

Mateo Maciá, referring to a paper sent to the Secretary General of the ICA in Paris (a resolution made by the Spanish group of archivists with the support of Italy in Pamplona 14-15 April at their annual meeting) with a copy conform to the SC, informs us of the desire of many of his Spanish colleagues to speak about the issue of dividing the SPP in two sections, one for parliamentary, one for political party archives and archivists. He prepares the SC that during the General Meeting tomorrow this item will surely play an important role. GS reassures him that he is quite aware of this issue and that there will be ample time and occasion to discuss the matter in pleno under agenda item 5.

It is agreed upon that the next SC meeting will be held in Vienna. GS will be our host. He ends the meeting by expressing his gratitude for each and everyone’s open and constructive contributions to this meeting, expressing the hope that the General Meeting tomorrow will proceed in a likewise atmosphere.

