



Minutes

Steering Committee SPP/ICA, Meeting d.d. Friday, April 20th, 2007;
Parliament Building, Vienna, Austria; Lokal IV.

Agenda:

1. Next conference of SPP to be held on the subject "Access to Information: Cooperation between Parliamentary and Party Archives and their Neighbouring Institutions" (working title) in Corfu
2. Internal discussion on the future of SPP
3. SPP regulations
4. Enlargement of SPP
5. SPP website and weblog
6. Financial issues
7. SC membership issues
8. Other issues

Attendants:

Günther Schefbeck (president), Marietta Minotos (vice-president), Reinder van der Heide (secretary), Claus Brüggmann, Włodzimierz Kucner, Mateo Maciá, Béla Pálmányi, Michael Schneider, Reinhard Schreiner

Absentees:

Vincenzo Arista, France Bélisle

The meeting took almost the entire day: from 10.00 a.m. – 6.45 p.m., and it was only interrupted by a one hour lunch.

Günther Schefbeck (GS) welcomes the attending Steering Committee members.

He informs the SC that their fellow member Vincenzo Arista has announced his retirement from his job, and subsequently has to retire from his SC membership as well. GS will write him a letter, also on behalf of the other SC members, in which he will thank him for his 3-year efforts as an SC member.

To introduce his report, GS speaks about the ICA framework within which the SPP is operating. He attended the Reykjavik meeting of the ICA Executive Board and wants to bring us up-to-date as far as the wider organisation is concerned.

Reykjavik was the first occasion after Curaçao (where the SPP was represented by its Secretary) at which section chairs came together. GS expresses his feeling and conviction that the sections seem to constitute the most active parts of the ICA. The professional activities of the ICA itself are currently focusing on preparing the CITRA meetings and the International Congress on Archives at Kuala Lumpur in 2008. It has been GS's impression that the major part of the time at the Reykjavik meeting was spent on organisational and procedural matters, e.g. in connection with the succession of the Secretary General of the ICA. The minor part of the attention only was turned on substantive issues: In particular, David Leitch (Senior Programme Manager/ICA Secretariat) has made and presented in Reykjavik a draft strategy paper for the ICA, 2007-2017.

One result of the organisational discussions was that the government cycle for the ICA will be changed into a two-year cycle; in particular, the ICA President will change every two years. For the sections, the 4-year cycle will remain.

Secretary General Joan van Albada will retire next year, the vacancy note will go out in May. The vacancy is open until September. In the mean time a 'head-hunting' committee will be established, constituted by one representative from each continent, and be put to work: looking for possible candidates. The 'interview committee' will invite the most promising 3 to 5 candidates for the Executive Board meeting in Quebec, at which the final decision will be made. There has been a discussion about whether the candidate should or should not be an archivist; the vacancy note anyway stresses the managerial qualification demanded from the future Secretary General. The new Secretary General will take over after 'Kuala Lumpur', and have a six-year post, renewable.

Some other items at Reykjavik:

Membership fees

Another item discussed was the membership fees. Some uncertainties have arisen in connection with the ICA secretariat's proposal to arrange the amount to be paid on the ground of some kind of 'self-taxation', which would cause legal difficulties for public bodies underlying budgetary acts distinguishing between payment obligations and subventions. Finally, it was agreed to fix the obligatory contribution for category 'C' members at € 150,- for 2007. For 'C' members from countries with a lower national product, the opportunity would exist to pay € 100,- or even € 50,- in case of smaller institutions in smaller countries.

Website issues

A U.S. based enterprise has been commissioned with constructing the new ICA website. At the Reykjavik meeting it was confirmed that the new ICA website will host the sections' websites. When this will be the case is not yet known. For the time being, just the old ICA content will be presented in a new design.

CITRA

The next CITRA meeting will be in Quebec, Canada, in November. It found great attention among the Executive Board members that the next SPP conference will deal with a similar subject as the next CITRA meeting. Therefore, GS, in case of being able to attend the Quebec meeting, will present the results there.

XVIth International Congress on Archives

The XVIth International Congress on Archives in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) will take place from 21th to 31th of July 2008. GS conveys the admonitions made by the Malaysian colleagues that it would be wise to book flight and hotel at least half a year in advance of the Congress, meaning in December 2007/January 2008.

GS expects at least the members of the SC to attend the Conference, new elections will have to be held there during the meeting of the Plenary Assembly of SPP.

The conference fee will be € 450,-, lunches included.

Claus Brüggmann (CB) asks if accommodations will be recommended. GS affirms that hotels near the congress building will be recommended by the organisation.

[Watch your e-mail inbox! And/or go regularly to the (new) web site of the ICA:

<http://www.ica.org>, and <http://www.ica.org/en/node/1314>].

GS judges the content of the Kuala Lumpur Conference as extremely general so far. The ICA bodies have been invited to organise workshops, within the framework of the Congress, to present their current activities there. Our section might be able to give a presentation about website archiving, in cooperation with the Section for Archival Education (SAE). This

subject, which has been dealt with at the Bonn conference, found utmost interest with the representatives of other ICA bodies at Reykjavik.

Celebrations

The ICA will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2008. The ICA was founded on June 9th, 1948. Therefore, it was decided to recommend the 9th of June to be the International Day of Archives and to be celebrated at the national levels. The formal ICA celebration of its own anniversary will take place in Kuala Lumpur.

Sections

The section chairs' meeting gave the opportunity to report in detail on the sectional activities, which turned out to be quite comprehensive, and in many cases of mutual interest; this also applied to the subjects of the SPP conferences held in 2005 and 2006, i.e. the general issue of long-term preservation of digital information and the particular issue of website archiving, which was identified by the section chairs as one of the most significant lackings in the archival community. Making available a standard for website archiving would therefore be something warmly welcomed by the community; a workshop at the Kuala Lumpur Congress, which might be organised together with the SAE, could be the appropriate opportunity to present such a standard at a global level.

Another subject in Reykjavik, as it was at Curaçao, was the sectional budgets. Finally, the sections can dispose of their own budget. At the Curaçao meeting, the section chairs however decided not to distribute the whole amount of money, which the sections are entitled to, among them but to put half of it together into a 'fund' from which projects would be supported. Since, however, no procedure was arranged according to which the decision on supporting particular projects was to be made, in Reykjavik it was decided, for the year 2007 only, this time to distribute the whole amount among the sections. The total amount for 2007 is € 50.000,-. This sum is divided according to a key, which in principle was agreed on at the Curaçao meeting; this key takes into account the size of the sections, beyond a basic amount equal to all sections. The SPP budget amounts to € 5000,- for 2007 (see also agenda item 6). Another subject that came up in Reykjavik (as already before in Tokyo) was the draft model for sectional regulations made up by the ICA secretariat. The idea of attributing a binding character to this draft model was rejected by the chairs, who agreed on the principle that every section, within the framework of the ICA Constitution, should have regulations of its own. These regulations will be circulated among the sections, thereby giving and receiving some input from other sections' regulation(s).

1) Next conference of SPP/ICA to be held on the subject "Access to Information: Cooperation between Parliamentary and Party Archives and their Neighbouring Institutions" (working title) at Corfu

GS, for this item on the agenda, gives the floor to our colleague and Vice-President of the SPP/ICA Marietta Minotos (MMi), who, as the Head of the Historical Archive of the Konstantinos G. Karamanlis Foundation (<http://www.karamanlis-foundation.gr>) in Athens (Greece) and as a lecturer in the Department of Archival and Library Sciences at the Ionian University in Corfu (Greece), has already worked hard in preparing the next SPP conference. MMi presents us the (preliminary) program: 1. agenda; 2. practical issues. She tells us that the conference will take place at the end of October/the beginning of November 2007, at Corfu. The subject, as has already been decided in Bonn, will be: "Parliamentary, party, and politicians' archives and their neighbouring institutions". 'Neighbouring institutions' refers to other bodies dealing with information management, such as 'libraries', 'documentation

centres', etc. The 2007 SPP conference is to be organised in co-operation with the Ionian University in Corfu.

MMi elaborates on the theme: the archives, libraries, documentary collections, etc. have a function and even a mission in common: meeting a universal need 'to know', the information needs of people: historians, researchers, journalists, and, last but not least, citizens. Archives and libraries/documentations have to co-operate with each other in the field of information management. The basic aim that all the (at least three types of) 'neighbouring' institutions are serving is to provide 'access' to 'information'. After all, both archives and libraries in their cultural dimensions, as well as other bodies like documentations, contribute to the dissemination of high value information to the public and their representatives. As Corfu University offers training for both archivists and librarians, this venue would prove to be particularly appropriate to discuss this particular subject. MMi mentions the fact that in Greece only the Ionian University has a Department having a chair in Archival and Libraries Sciences each. Students can and will participate in the conference.

The following three specific items will be addressed at the conference:

1. Political, cultural, and educational responsibilities of archives, libraries, and documentation centres;
2. Training requirements for archivists, librarians, and documentalists;
3. Organisational issues (how to give form to co-operation between archives on the one hand, and libraries and documentation centres on the other).

1st day:

This day will be devoted to item no. 1: Political, cultural, and educational responsibilities of archives, libraries, and documentation centres.

The first keynote speaker will be Prof. John Mackenzie Owen, University of Amsterdam, who will present a general theoretical approach: Information flood – Information desert: Plenty of information but not the information we need. How to manage the selection of information, etc. Reinder van der Heide (RvdH), having consulted with Prof. Owen, confirms that he is willing to attend our conference and is looking forward to giving a presentation at Corfu.

Another speaker needed is an expert to elaborate on the subject of long-term preservation of the information selected. Prof. Luciana Duranti (University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada) who will be requested to speak on this subject. If Prof. Duranti is not able to attend, a co-worker of hers, Prof. Jim Suderman, who already successfully participated in the SPP conference in Vitoria-Gasteiz, will be invited.

As the next speaker, Günther Schefbeck will focus on the particular responsibilities of bodies responsible for information management in the political environment.

Finally, Mateo Maciá will present the practical experiences of the Spanish Parliament as a case study; he mentions the matter of how archives and library in the Spanish Parliament(s) are combined as a possible point of attention.

The 1st day after lunch, SPP members will have time to ask give short presentations regarding the state of affairs in their own organisations concerning the conference theme.

Later in the afternoon there will be guided tours.

2nd day:

Item no. 2 will be the main subject: training requirements for archivists, librarians, and documentalists. Two professors from the Ionian University (Prof. Kolyva, Prof. Bokos) will give contributions. Another invitee will be Prof. José Ramon Cruz Mundet (University of Madrid, Spain) and . Since the Archival School at Potsdam has a reputation in the field of current documentalistic approaches, it is envisaged to invite a representative of it to present

these approaches. CB will try to find out who is willing and able to present a keynote speech from the perspective of documentalists.

After lunch, item no. 3 (organisational issues) will be discussed: This session will deal with the question in what way the organisational framework may support information management; what are, e.g., the experiences with combining archival and documentalistic approaches within one organisational unit, or what are the experiences with libraries performing as central ‘clearing houses’ for information management. Invited speakers will be Dr. Jean-Marie Palayret, Director of the Historical Archives of the European Union (Florence, Italy), Evridiki Abatzi, Director of the Library of the Hellenic Parliament (Athens, Greece), and Alfredo Caldeira, Mario Soares Foundation (Lisbon, Portugal).

After the conference, the annual meeting of the Plenary Assembly of the SPP will be held.

For keynote speakers at the conference, flight and accommodation expenses will be paid; CB makes us aware that the keynote speakers are to be explicitly informed about reimbursement of flight expenses being limited to economy rates.

2) Internal discussion on the future of the SPP

First issue: the questionnaire, filled in at Bonn. RHvdH will take another good look at the results, answers and remarks and hopefully will be able to distil some indications as to what members expect from the SPP.

Second issue: how do we attract new members? GS reminds RvdH of his promise to produce some leaflets, some fact sheets about the SPP. They might win over potential members. RvdH seems to remember having made them and sending them some time ago to GS for review. He’ll sort this out back in The Hague.

Béla Pálmányi (BP) asks a question about the possible ‘splitting’ of the section in the future. Mateo Maciá (MMa) considers the chance for this to happen at Corfu very small. The ‘Spanish group’ and Mrs. Limiti have come together on Nov. 21st 2006 in Oviedo (Spain) to discuss these matters on the basis of a proposition from the Spanish group (MMa handed out a document called ‘Proposal from the Spanish Group’ during the meeting), among other documents. The outcome seemed positive regarding future cooperativeness within the section. BP says that the program at Corfu seems to confirm the willingness to co-operate. GS proposes to discuss the Spanish proposal under agenda item 3 (SPP regulations).

3) SPP Regulations

Four different papers are distributed among the attendants:

- draft amendments by Mr. Jacques Schouller;
- draft amendments by Claus Brüggmann;
- the Regulations in English and
- id. in French

Another paper now to consider is

- the proposal by the ‘Spanish group’.

It is agreed that the amendments of the Regulations, as accepted by the SC, will be distributed to the members with the draft minutes.

CB doesn’t consider it necessary to follow Mr. Schouller’s proposal to explicitly exclude category ‘D’ members being no longer in active service from taking office in the SC. This

possibility never presented itself and besides, the issue is covered by art. 14, which states that SC members must be working in the field of the administration or preservation of records and archives, etc.

E contrario, it is decided to explicitly insert the phrase “or having worked” after the word “working” in art. 2.c.

Further, the discussion primarily revolves round the proposal by the ‘Spanish group’.

CB considers the possibility to have three working groups, instead of just two of them, as the Spanish proposal suggests.

Michael Schneider (MS) would not tie the functions of the vice-presidents to the standing working groups.

GS: If the proposal intends to formalize the representation in the SC, e.g. the ‘head’ of a standing working group is ex officio member of the SC, I would in principle agree with CB. However, we must find a way to show the ‘Spanish group’ that they are welcome in the section, and able to develop their activities within the section. We must find some compromise.

RvdH: It’s going to take time to find a wording for a compromise everyone can live with.

GS: It should be a compromise unanimously accepted.

- L U N C H B R E A K -

GS (taking up agenda item 3 where we left it before lunch, and summing up):

The SC members prefer to remain flexible. The ‘Spanish group’ wants to establish a link between vice-presidents and standing working groups.

A possible compromise? GS asks MMa: Would it be sufficient if we add to art. 14 a provision of the following kind: chairs of standing working groups are ‘ex officio’ members of the Steering Committee?

MMa: I’m not sure.

GS: The purpose of this addition would be of course that the Spanish accept the Regulations formally and ‘by heart’. This is the reason for discussing this clause. It has been the tradition that the vice-presidents represent the two ‘branches’. In art. 14 we can omit the words ‘up to’ in the phrase ‘up to two vice-presidents’. The vice-presidents can be elected in a way that they would be taken out of the groups of members being active in different standing working groups.

Extensive discussion about pro’s and cons follows.

Conclusion/compromise:

Two new paragraphs shall be added to art. 14:

“(2) One Vice-President is to be elected out of the members representing archives services of Parliaments. One Vice-President is to be elected out of the members representing archives services of political parties or politicians.

(3) If the President or a Vice-President resigns in the course of the electoral term, the Plenary Assembly at its next meeting elects a successor for the remaining part of the electoral term.”

Accordingly, “up to” is to be deleted in art. 14 para. 1, and the parentheses are to be deleted in the title of art. 20.

Art. 20 shall be supplemented by two new subparagraphs:

“c. The Vice-President elected out of the members representing archives services of Parliaments chairs the meetings of the Standing Working Group of Parliamentary Archives.

d. The Vice-President elected out of the members representing archives services of political parties or politicians chairs the meetings of the Standing Working Groups of Political Party Archives and of Archives of Politicians.”

GS refers to the circumstance that, after some years of budgetary and auditing difficulties within the ICA, there has been achieved a budgetary consolidation that for 2007 allows it to assign to the sections budgetary funds, in accordance with their entitlement under art. 62 of the ICA Constitution. A lump sum of € 50.000,- has for 2007 been allotted to the sections; the SPP will receive € 5.000,- from this as a sectional budget. We ourselves will be responsible for administering the sectional budget, as well as for establishing an auditing procedure. This implies, on the one hand, the practical requirement to establish an SPP bank account, which is not as simple as it sounds; on the other hand, the Regulations have to take into consideration budgetary management in a more detailed way. To create a clear system of accountability, the functions of a Treasurer (inside the SC) and of an Auditor (outside the SC) are to be established.

Decision:

Two new chapters shall be inserted:

“VIII THE TREASURER

22. The Treasurer

- a. Is responsible for the management of the budget at the disposal of the section (under the supervision of the ICA Treasurer).
- b. Reports to the PA/SPP.
- c. Submits the accounts of the SPP for annual audit to the Auditor.

IX THE AUDITOR

23. The Auditor

- a. Reviews the accounts submitted by the Treasurer;
- b. Reports to the PA/SPP;
- c. Applies to the PA/SPP for exoneration of the Treasurer.”

Accordingly, the listing of the organs of SPP in art. 4 is to be supplemented by two new subparagraphs:

“e. the Treasurer;

f. the Auditor;”

The following two subparagraphs are to be reindexed.

Art. 13 and 14 para. 1 are to be adapted, as well:

In art. 13, the phrase “and the Auditor” is to be inserted after “[Steering Committee]”.

In art. 14 para. 1, “, the Treasurer” is to be inserted after “Secretaries”.

Since the President, in accordance with the establishment of the new functions, will be relieved of administering the budget, subparagraph g shall be deleted in art. 19, and the following subparagraph reindexed.

Finally, the chapters VIII-XI and the articles 22-26, resp., are to be reindexed, as well.

Until the adapted Regulations will be adopted and in force, the Secretary will act as provisional treasurer, and the President will perform the auditing function.

After a lengthy discussion on the proposal to assign to the PA the power to fix its agenda, this proposal is not adopted, in particular because in such a case a quorum would be necessary. In the future, e-voting might be a solution; currently, the technical options are not yet satisfactory. The SC therefore decides to stay with the provisions in the Regulations as they are, in particular with the provisions of art. 9, according to which until 21 days before a meeting, motions can be submitted, and will appear on the agenda.

The English version of the Draft Regulations taking into account the modifications as proposed by the SC are enclosed with the Minutes. France Bélisle will be asked to translate the modifications into French.

4. Enlargement of the SPP

BP tells us that he has done his best to collect as many data of potential members as possible, but the 5-6 days he devoted to this work (browsing the www for parliamentary archives) were not sufficient for a satisfying result. He went –among others– to the website of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) – from Afghanistan till Zimbabwe – but found only some ten meaningful data. A way of collecting more data would be to approach each and every Parliament and obtain from them the data regarding the archives (name, address, organisational affiliation, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address).

A second possibility is approaching the UNESCO. They have an archives' portal.

RvdH hands BP a list of Dutch political party organisations/foundations, c. q. potential SPP members. [He thinks, that if every SPP member would do the same: collect the data of institutions/foundations within his/her own country, we would have a lot more institutions which could be approached.]

GS thinks we should send a survey with questions about the 'archival' ins and outs of the different parliaments. He proposes to send a letter to the National Archivists (via their e-mail addresses available in the ICA) as contact persons. An information request sent to the ECPRD correspondents might provide some information for the European Parliaments. He mentions the fact that the old survey of addresses made about 6 years ago is not up-to-date but nevertheless could be a starting point for a new one. Perhaps MMa can once more ask Maria Angeles for the old list. Taking into account the number of supra/international, national and regional Parliaments, as well as the possible number of archives of political parties and politicians, we are talking about several thousand archives.

BP will try to get as much information as possible.

MMi will prepare a draft letter and send it to BP.

A possible mid-term solution could be to make this a project, with some financial assistance from the ICA.

5. SPP website and weblog

GS: The ICA, through the enterprise commissioned, is preparing the new ICA website, which also will offer the possibility to host the websites of the different ICA bodies, including the sections.

CB discusses some preconditions the hosting site should allow: content in HTML and PDF files; permission to alter, to correct content, to link to other sites; a link to the old e-mail address: <http://wad426ar.homepage.t-online.de/spp>. Explicitly: there should be a possibility to enter, e.g., the SPP logo in the overall design of the ICA site.

GS: On the basis of the requirements formulated, the section will address its requests to the ICA secretariat, when it comes to having the opportunity to have the SPP site hosted at the ICA website. Among the required features will be:

- access rights for the section's webmaster enabling him to edit content (probably, a password-based solution will be chosen)
- overcoming possible design limitations in order to also graphically represent the section's profile within the ICA environment
- interactivity (currently, a major lacking)
- organisational e-mail address (in 2005, an attempt to obtain an organisational e-mail address for SPP hosted at the ICA server failed, since the mail account was not usable in practice)

6. Financial issues

With regard to the requirements of administering the sectional budget available as of 2007, several legal and economic questions have to be settled in advance: What is the legal situation with regard to establishing our own account, in the different countries of the Euro zone? (Since the ICA has its accounts and makes its payment in Euro, this should go for the section, as well.) What is the fee for an account, what is the fee for an international money transfer?

CB: Is a sub-account of the ICA possible?

GS will ask other sections how they manage their sectional accounts.

How about an EU giro account? RvdH will try to find out more about it.

Provisional structure: the Secretary (RvdH) will act as provisional treasurer; the President (GS) will act as provisional auditor.

Once again, the question whether there are options for finding additional sponsorships is raised and discussed.

7. SC membership issues

Mr. Arista will resign by the end of May. The question is: shall we co-opt another member into the SC, or not? No, is the unanimous view. But maybe, depending on the intrasectional developments, later it could be put on the agenda again.

8. Other issues

GS refers to the ICA policy of organising its activities in the form of projects. He, however, mentions the fact that only 8 projects from all over the ICA are currently running.

One project proposal having the potential to raise interest within other ICA bodies and the whole archival community is website archiving. GS states that at the Reykjavik meeting everyone was impressed by this concept. Will it be possible to develop a reference model?

A possible strategy for dealing with the subject could be threefold:

- preparing a publication of the proceedings of the Bonn conference
- developing a reference model
- organizing a workshop at the International Congress on Archives in Kuala Lumpur, possibly in cooperation with SAE/ICA, in order to make known the reference model within the archival community, in particular to make the necessary knowledge available for smaller institutions

MS mentions a colleague of his has observed that readiness to develop a reference model for web archiving in his environment is not very large, due to lack of time. As far as the available set of guidelines is concerned, they should be adapted to the needs of parliaments and of political party and/or politicians' archives.

GS and RvdH promise to make their contributions to the Bonn conference available. They will send them to MS.

GS and RvdH also volunteer to help editing the complete draft of the Bonn proceedings.

Resuming:

- Website archiving is a subject to be dealt with by the section, due to the needs of its members as well as the interest of archivists outside the section, making it a subject appropriate for inter-sectional cooperation.
- A publication of the Bonn proceedings will be prepared.
- The SPP will prepare a workshop on website archiving for the Kuala Lumpur Congress.

Another idea brought up by Ms. Traoré Nassa is the construction of ‘twin archives’, or ‘partner archives’, similar to what some cities have created among themselves: twin cities or partner cities. The idea is, of course, to help and inspire each other. In an e-mail to the Secretary by Ms. Traoré Nassa, she lists and explains the advantages of such arrangements. GS applauds the idea of such structured bi-lateral contacts; he thinks this could well be an improvement and a stimulation for archives, especially in third-world countries, to get (more) involved in the SPP by exchanging ideas, knowledge, experiences, and people. The concepts includes an option to enlarge our section by establishing an infrastructure, developed by developed countries, approaching less developed countries inviting them to become member of the section as partner of another member. The SPA has a somewhat similar project in mind: ‘Archivists without borders’. Perhaps twinning sections is an option as well...

Question: what could be the contribution of ICA?

Answer: establishing a ‘program’, exchanging experiences, knowledge, etc.

The basic function would be: promotion of the section and its activities.

A second function would be the providing of funding from other/additional budget (think ‘Soros’). In that case reciprocal ‘visits’ will perhaps be possible.

A proposal in that direction will be drafted – and subsequently sent to Budapest.

A starting point would be the organising of a conference in Africa (somewhere, perhaps Burkina Faso?).

The proposal will involve two steps:

- first sharing it with the ICA Program Commission;
- a second step could be the exploring of interest from an organisation like the Soros Foundation.

A third idea for a project, the deploying of voice recognition techniques, isn’t very promising yet, so it is dismissed.

Another idea for a project is to establish a directory of the holdings of politicians’ papers scattered over a lot of different archives:

- State archives
- Municipal archives
- Business archives
- Foundations’ archives
- Etc.

A cooperation with the European Archives in Florence might be useful in developing such a project.

At Corfu the kick-off for such a project will take place.

GS thanks the attending members for their contributions, especially MMa for his ‘mediating’ and MMi for her endeavours, past and future, for ‘Corfu’. He expresses his hopes that things will turn out for the good (of the section and all its members) and we’ll all be brought together again at a successful conference at Corfu.

