



Minutes

Steering Committee SPP/ICA, Meeting on Friday, May 15th, 2009;
Palais Epstein, Vienna (Austria), Room E5.

Attendants:	Claus Brüggmann, Reinder van der Heide (Secretary), Marietta Minotos (President), Günther Schefbeck (Vice-President), Włodzimierz Kucner, Harry Scholz (Treasurer), Reinhard Schreiner (Vice-President)
Absentees:	France Bélisle, Emilia Campochiaro, Khayrou Cissé, Vida Kisuniene, Sara Tedebrand Frant
Minutes	Reinder van der Heide (Secretary)

0. Opening

Our President, Marietta Minotos (MMi), welcomes the attendant SC-members and thanks our host, Günther Schefbeck (GS), for his invitation to host our Steering Committee Meeting here at the Epstein Palace in Vienna. She adds that she hopes to be able to welcome us for a similar reason next year in her country, Greece.

MMi has a few announcements to make, some preliminary remarks:

Some members of our Committee didn't manage to come. Mrs. Emilia Campochiaro, due to other commitments, unfortunately, wasn't able to attend our meeting. Also Mrs. Vida Kisuniene regrettably couldn't attend this meeting. The same goes for Mrs. Tedebrand Frant and Miss France Bélisle couldn't attend the meeting. Finally I got the information from Mr. Günther Schefbeck that Mr. Cissé Khayrou has contacted him to tell that he missed the flight. It's unfortunate because he wrote me that he would participate in the meeting because it would give him the opportunity to discuss our next scientific meeting at Senegal.

I propose to start now with the first item on the agenda.

1. Working Programme 2009-2012

MMi: I am in the pleasant position to be able to inform you that we have already a very well organised schedule regarding our next scientific meetings. Our first scientific meeting will be held in Vienna. It will be organised by the Austrian parliament. We have now the specific data, I received a note from our Vice-President, Mr. Günther Schefbeck, with all the details. I found that it is very well organised. I exchanged with him some views, but later I'll give him the floor to present to us in detail the plan, the organisation.

Unfortunately Mr. Khayrou is not here today, so he wrote me two month ago, that he will organise our scientific meeting in Senegal in 2010, but now we have lost the opportunity to meet in person here to exchange more news, so I think that I'll ask him in the future to submit a more detailed plan and I will forward to you his general view on things. Regarding 2011, we finally managed to organise a scientific meeting in Lithuania, because I received an official letter from the Secretary General of Seimas Mr. Gintautas Vilkelis some days ago. He announced to me that the Seimas will organise our scientific

meeting in 2011 with great pleasure. So, I'll begin with giving the floor to Günther to tell us more about our next scientific meeting and after that we'll have the opportunity to exchange views about this.

GS: Thank you Mrs. President, and I take the opportunity to welcome you here, once again, in the Epstein Palace, perhaps later I'll have the opportunity to tell you more about this building and its history, which is very interesting. We'll anyway meet later and have ample opportunity to delve into Austrian parliamentary history in the framework of our conference in the autumn. I'm very glad to have the opportunity here to present to you my first draft of the programme of our conference. It's a first draft so it is open for any proposals and any changes of course, so I hope that during the discussion we'll put together all our ideas about the conference in order to improve this first concept-programme.

The conference will be organised around a very general theme, namely under the title 'Archives and Democracy'. The idea for such a conference originated with our colleague and friend Mr. Caldeira, in Portugal, of the Mario Suarez Foundation. It proved quite difficult to come to terms with him to organise a conference of that kind in Lisbon. We're not sure if he has organised or will organise a (small) conference there, but if so we'll try to get him involved and ask him to present his results during our conference. We'll try to get in contact with him, and our President in particular has expressed her intention to ask him about his event.

The subject 'Archives and Democracy' is quite a general subject, it's going beyond the borders, the limitations set for a section like ours. Though, of course, a section dealing with archives of parliaments and politicians alike, is focussing on democracy issues, nevertheless, democracy issues are going far beyond these particular kinds of archives. Any archives, to some extent, can or, in any way, have to deal with issues of importance concerning the development of the present and the future of democracy. That's what we would like to address at this conference and that's why we also should try to extend the scope of people, the scope of participants in the conference beyond the limitations of our section. We will try to involve some representatives of other sections in the list of speakers, key note speakers, I will contact them in detail later, but we also should try to invite people from other sections, people from other fields of activity such as universities, other educational institutions, to our conference, partly from Austria, but also from abroad. Please feel all free to think of who to invite, and in what way.

Let's go into details. First of all the date, the 29th – 30th of October 2009. This is the proposal, I hope it'll be OK with you, if not, please, tell me. Originally we intended to do it one week earlier, 22nd – 23rd October, also for better reasons, because usually in Austria, the weather is less good, there's a decreasing in temperatures and a general worsening of the weather in the end of October, but it's never sure. Usually it's pleasant in May, and you can see what is like, now, but tomorrow it will be better. So, if it's OK with you we would have to take the 29th – 30th of October, because the week before it'll be a plenary week in our parliament. This means that on the evening before the first conference day a Steering Committee Meeting will be held, it's a useful tradition to have such a meeting on the first day in advance of the conference, so that there is some more time to discuss some issues with other members of the section besides the conference, and at the end or after the conference the meeting of the Plenary Assembly. So, this would be the programme of the evening of the 28th of October. You see there is not yet any kind of information regarding the venue given here, but probably it will be in the Parliament building as well, but if it will be more comfortable for you, then we can meet in a hotel lobby, for example in our President's hotel lobby, she's always lodging in a very nice and comfortable hotel [Mailbergerhof] in the centre of the town.

MMi: Yes, it's a very traditional, very nice and quiet hotel.

GS: So, that's up to you, we will be able to decide this shortly before the conference.

On the first day, 29th of October, the conference will start, of course, with registration, followed by welcome addresses. We have not yet decided at what level these addresses could be. The President of the National Council has uttered her interest in our conference, so possibly she will give a welcome address in person, but it's not yet sure, but of course there will be a welcome address by our President, and then I will make some introductory statements on the conference and practical issues and circumstances. Our experience was that whenever we tried to give a very discussion oriented conference on a workshop basis, we tried this several times, it was quite difficult to get people active, to get them discussing. That is why taking such an experience into account, we came back to a more plenary oriented kind of conference. The idea was to organise three plenary sessions giving input on

three different aspects of the whole issue, of course including discussion on the individual presentations and on the subjects as a whole, and then finally, on the last afternoon, and based upon this input given by the three plenary sessions beforehand, hold workshops that could be split in two, according to our standing working group structure in accord with parliamentary archives on the one hand, and parties' and politician's archives on the other.

But let's start with the plenary sessions. Session 1 should deal with the very basics, namely the sources. Archives, of course, are primarily about sources, collecting and preserving sources. It would be quite logical to start a conference dealing with archival activities in a particular field, like that of promoting democracy, by focussing on the sources available, on archives. So, from all these different kinds of sources, I tried to select five different types, starting with, perhaps the most basic issue, namely the human rights issue. You know that within the ICA there is a human rights working group, which is quite active again since 'Kuala Lumpur', and one of the leading persons in this ICA working group is our friend Jens Boël from the UNESCO Archives. He is also now again the President of the Section of the Archives of International Organisations, so that is another reason to invite him. All these people of course are not yet approached, I wanted first to discuss their names with you before contacting them. In all these cases I of course have an alternative person in mind as well. Inviting Jens Boël would mean a deepening in the relationship between his section and ours, which would be one of the aims of this conference, as I pointed out already.

Then, building up, so to say, the 'democracy pyramid', is based on the suffrage, the right of people to vote. That is why I'd say, the next presentation might be on the diverse sources available in archives regarding the history of suffrage legislation. The speaker I am proposing is a personal friend of mine. Birgitta Bader-Zaar, professor at the Viennese University, who has written, some 15 years ago, her thesis on the development of women suffrage in a comparative perspective. She compared 5 different countries and so she is very familiar with archival sources on suffrage in this respect. , that's why I proposed her for such a presentation.

The next one is something I'd like to present to you if you're interested in it, I'd call it 'Sources of Parliamentary Procedures', on the one hand the style in which a parliament is discussing, on the other hand the legal sources of parliamentary proceedings, call it parliamentary rules of procedures, standing orders, and finally what might be called parliamentary culture and parliamentary image, the way parliamentary procedures are perceived by the public. After we are confronted with misunderstandings about parliamentary procedures often we are confronted with the need to explain parliamentary procedure and even to take parliamentary procedures as an example for other kinds of interacting. You know that parliamentary procedure, at least in the Anglo-American terminology, even has the meaning of something of rules for interaction in a very general meaning. So, that's another reason why I think it should be important to turn to the sources of all that and to show what archives could contribute to developing styles of interaction for society in general.

The next one would be about party democracy. Party democracy of course can have a somewhat ambivalent meaning. On the one hand by party democracy we mean that style of representative democracy that is based upon organisational structure which we call political parties, and all of us know that representative democracy without political parties is hardly to be understood, so one aspect should be to show how these party structures have emerged, how for example also party legislation has emerged, how constitutional orders have started to take into account the existence of political parties, which often has happened quite late after a lot of decades and before the parties became an important part of our democratic system. On the other hand party democracy can also have the meaning of intra-party democracy, of an internal struggling strategy within political parties. That is also important although it not so well known and seen by the public but it is also something that can be shed light on from the sources of party archives. That's why I would propose that a representative of party archives should give a presentation, and would suggest that maybe our vice-President could do it.

RS (Reinhard Schreiner). Finally, we should take another view into account too. What we have looked at so far is something that might be covered by something like official records, official documents, for example, records from parliamentary archives, records for the history of legislation. But there is also another aspect of democracy, there's this informal aspect, that wouldn't be well documented in public archives. For example when a fighting for democracy took place, it was often not feasible, or rather recommendable to have such a process well documented., because often this occurred in opposition to dictatorial systems, so that a lot of those efforts that were undertaken, for example in the second half of the 20th century to reinstate democracy, and for example in Eastern European countries, it is

therefore difficult to reconstruct. It is also much more difficult to obtain sources, to collect sources on this aspect of the history of democracy than of the official history of for instance suffrage legislation. That's why I propose that a representative from a Central Eastern European country should make the presentation. We have several well known representatives of these countries in our section. My proposal would be Mr. Pálmány, because he was for such a long time a member of our Steering Committee, he was also vice-President of our section, he is now leaving, or has left last year, but I think it would be nice to give him the opportunity to give some final presentation to our section.

GS: So this would be a first session, then all of us would be in need for lunch of course, and refreshed after lunch, we would have a second plenary session.

RS: How long should the presentations be?

GS: I'd say about 20 minutes each, some maybe a bit longer, that must be possible.

Session 2 would go one step ahead. First we have dealt with all sort of sources available, and then we would deal with the ways we would present these sources to the public. So, of course, there are different ways of doing so, one very famous way and one very popular way are archival exhibitions. So, my proposal would be to invite Mrs. Bouvier from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, who we got to know when we visited the Karl Marx House in Trier in 2006. I think all who were present there were impressed how the history of this important person and the history of political theory, and the consequences of his theories there was presented at his birthplace. She also has issued some publications on archival presentations, and so if you like it would be nice to invite her.

Then, where exhibitions are a quite traditional means of presenting archival sources, we may go over to a more recent means of presenting archival sources, namely websites. Nearly all archives today have established a website. There are archival websites that are already presenting huge masses of documents, some of them that makes them, in a way easily accessible, others less. Other archives would present just their archival rules and finding aids, something of that kind. The styles of presenting sources on archival websites are quite different, so that I think it would be quite interesting to deliver a comparative presentation of archival websites, too. So, while thinking about this issue, who would come first to my mind is our own webmaster. I hope he will be ready to this comparative work as well. So, I think, from his own activities and experience with establishing websites he has quite in depth understanding of what establishing websites would mean.

Let's go back to a more traditional means, presenting archival records to the public. This is probably the most traditional means of all, namely publications. In the 19th century when scientific archives began to be established editing archival sources were one of the main origins of history as a science in our modern meaning emerged at all from. This, for example, is a strong tradition in Austria, perhaps some of you know that we have the so called Institute for Austrian Historical Research here at Viennese university, it was founded in 1886, it is one of the most traditional institutes, one of the most traditional educational institutions to deal with historical sciences at all, but of course there's the École des Arts in France and a lot of others like that, and of course it also became a function of archivists, not only of university historians, but also of archivists to publish sources. There is this publication in the 19th, and for a long time the 20th century, was then for a scientific audience noticeably, in the last decades it also has become more and more popular to produce archival publications for the public at large, or for particular tiny groups, like for example for children, to make them acquainted with historical sources.

So, archival publications are quite a wide field too. Mrs. Campochiaro from the Italian Senate's Archive, one of our Steering Committee's members, has done a lot of publications on her own, these are more scientific publications, but I think, that it is also well appropriate to do this comparative work of different publications.

Finally, in particular in the past years, archives, like all other public institutions are feeling more and more the need to do something about what might be called 'public relations'. Public relations on the one hand, means addressing the press, addressing the media, providing the media with bits of information appropriate to be understood by journalists and to be published within these media under the particular constraints that these media are putting on any kind of information, and, on the other hand, the public relation is more and more event oriented. Whence in the past years have become to that issue that is most appropriate to attract the awareness of the media, and the awareness of the public. And this is not restricted to archives of course, this is even pertaining to for example

parliaments, I remember that only in 1999 our parliament started to regularly organizing events, and in the meantime it has become a larger weight organisation with a few departments responsible for legislation besides. But we have sometimes the impression that events are in the centre of interest. So that's why we also should deal with how archives can find ways to present their sources in particular their sources dealing with democracy to the public through events and public relations means.

My proposal for giving such a presentation is Mrs. Juliane Mikoletsky for two reasons. The main reason is that she is presiding the section for university archives, so that would be another section that we might intensify our contacts with, by involving her in our conference. On the other hand, the second reason is that this section has already organised a conference on the public relations issue in 2003 in Warsaw, perhaps you remember that. So, that's why I thought it would be particularly proper to invite her to give this presentation. She can rely on the results of her own section's conference on that subject.

Finally, it's not only the archives that would have the task to present their sources to the public, but in the meantime archives have also started networking. Networking by publications is something important for institutions of all kinds, and therefore for archives too. This networking can be done by associations on a national basis. This can be done by organisations like the ICA or the sections or branches within the ICA and by their efforts to address the public and to draw the attention of the public to the issues of particular importance like democracy. That's why I would propose to invite Didier Grange who for four years now has been President of the Section of Archival Associations within the ICA. He has now been replaced because of Christine Martinez, but he's now still very active in the ICA. He's also backing the Secretary-General of the ICA so that also involving him would be a contribution strengthening the context between the sub-organisations within ICA. This would then be the programme for the first conference day.

For all those of us who would not yet have been satisfied in obtaining knowledge we would also try to offer a archival excursion this evening. There are a lot of possible destinations, for example the Austrian State Archives, which is of course the most important Austrian archives, but, in particular for democracy issues, also the Vienna City Archives would be quite interesting, so it's up to you what you would prefer. The City Archives is an archive that has an old department that is dealing with working up the records of the Viennese city parliament so it would be also be quite nice to see how they are dealing with democracy issues, it's up to you. Dinner would close the day , I don't have a detailed programme for the social events, but of course there are a lot of restaurants in the centre of Vienna, so we can choose one of these restaurants that would be easily reachable.

The second day, Friday October the 30th, will start with the Plenary Session again. So far, we would have talked about the archival sources, and the way to present them. Finally, the third issue in our context would be how to interact with the public, and with other institutions interested in the democracy issues. How to interact with them, how to establish contact, how to establish connections, how to establish programmes for particular target groups to promote democracy in this interaction. In accordance with this, my proposal would be to start with looking back on how archivists were made aware themselves within their archival training programmes, and who would be better and more appropriate to talk about issues dealing with archival training than our own President, who is not only an archivist but also a professor at Ionian University, training young pre-archivists there ? As all of us could experience when she invited us to Corfu. And all of us experienced what intensive relationships of trust she has built up with her students.

So then we might go a more theoretical approach, namely to the theory of how to develop programmes for teaching, for example young people, or general citizens about archives in general and about our issues of archives promoting democracy in particular. My proposal would be to invite my old friend, Professor Eric Ketelaar who we have made very good experiences with, and who has written this famous paper on 'Archives for the people, archives by the people, archives through the people', remember? So, in his academic career he has extensively dealt with archival didactics, how to bring people to archives, how to involve people in archival activities.

Then we would like to go over to focus on specific models of interaction. If you want to find an appropriate position for archives in democracy education then of course that institution that would be most important to address would be schools, because schools are that institutions that every young citizen would go through and schools therefore would offer the opportunity to make young people acquainted with the principles of democracy but also to make acquainted with the sources for exploring the history of democracy. On the one hand we know that that is not always easy, there's a

lot of schools and educational systems that would not devote enough attention to what might be called public education, but on the other hand there are some very good examples how this can be done and could be done. One example is given by an Austrian organisation that in particular is dealing with how to make young people how to make pupils acquainted with the sources that would document the Holocaust, the Shoa. This of course is a subject of particular interest in Central Europe, in Germany and Austria. That's why I would propose Mr. Dreier, who is the Head of this Austrian organisation dealing with this issue to present us the experiences and concepts.

Schools, of course, are the most important educational institutions because every one would visit school, but universities would also have an important function in education. Of course, universities are institutions that traditionally have been about training of elites, even of political elites, but this on the other hand would put the political responsibility on them to promote democracy as well. Though I know that university and democracy is not an easy subject, there has been a trend towards strengthening democratic structures within universities in the 1960's, 1970's, in the meantime there is some kind of a roll back to be observed, nevertheless, universities will always be an important place for dealing with democracy issues, so that the different ways in which archives would be able to cooperate with universities would also be an appropriate influence of this approach towards democracy. But, we can also reduce this responsibility to the very traditional subject of how to, for example, enable history students to deal with archival sources, in particular with archival sources regarding the history of democracy.

Finally, archives would only interact with other educational institutions like schools and universities, but archives would also interact with each other, they would be able to build up for example joint programmes of how to make citizens acquainted with archival sources, and they would be responsible for interaction when it comes to experiences and knowledge and this is a subject that in particular our Secretary has dealt with when he promoted his 'jumelage' project that is one particular type of interarchival cooperation. What would be more appropriate then inviting him to give us this presentation about interarchival cooperation?

This would be the Plenary part, after lunch we would do the workshop, split up again and try to build strategies on the input we have been given before. So this, of course, would be an opportunity to work within the frameworks of our standing working groups of parliamentary and political parties' and politicians' archives, respectively, because of course parliamentary archives in particular in connection promoting democracy might play another role than party archives. The background is different, target groups are different, the means are different, so this gives some reason to split up the workshops along the lines of parliamentary and political party archives. Of course there would be participants in the conference that wouldn't belong to our section, therefore wouldn't belong to parliamentary archives on the one hand or politicians' archives on the other hand but there are several possibilities either to invite them to join whatever working group / work shop they want, or to establish a third workshop but I would be more in favour of inviting them to join one of these two workshops in order to bring their experiences from other fields like universities and schools and so on into these two workshops too.

Finally there would be a closing panel. The rapporteurs of the workshops would present the workshops' results and after a final discussion our President should make her concluding remarks by summarizing the results of the meeting. Perhaps on the ground of the workshops' discussion we would even be able to adopt a small paper, a small document of recommendation of how our archives would have to promote democracy with concrete measures to be taken and general objectives to be achieved.

This would be the end of the conference but immediately after the conference we would stay in place, except the non-members of the section and hold our annual meeting. I have foreseen two hours for the annual meeting, in accordance with our experience in the last years this should be enough, and of course then we could have the final dinner. For those who would be able to stay over the weekend we would try to offer them an excursion on Saturday, and there are a lot of different possible destinations around Vienna if you have any particular wish then let me know, so my proposition would be to visit Klosterneuburg. It is a very nice small city immediately besides Vienna with a rich history going back to the eleventh century, even going back to Roman ages but there's a continuous tradition of an important monastery, one of the most important monasteries in Austria, that goes back to the eleventh century. So we can visit this wonderful monastery that also has quite an important archives and for those of you who would need to recreate after an exhausting two days conference this monastery is also famous for growing wine in the vineyards of the monastery and the monastery's wine cellars

giving an opportunity to refresh and recreate. This is the concept, feel free to make any proposals for change, and present any ideas, this is just a first draft, I am open for any changes.

CB: I would like to make a remark at the conference too. As far as I know, there is a very long, long tradition in British archives to distribute packages for children, so I think it might be good to have a view on how they do it. Several years ago I attended a conference and they had an Internet programme especially for children. to show them, By walking through a street in a village, you were able to click on for instance an image of the barber or the carpenter of the village, and by doing so archival documents pop up and the story related to this document . So it might be nice to get in touch with some of people from the UK

GS: Sounds nice, are there any proceedings of that conference you attended?

CB: No, I've lost contact I, but the kind of presentation and the way of presenting this information, they were absolutely admirable. In the UK and America they have a certain feeling for how to present and display things, this could have a good impact.

GS: For sure, perhaps you can find the proceedings of that conference, perhaps you even can bring me in contact with one of the organizers, so that we also can try to invite someone from there, I try to choose some people from Austria, just because it is cheaper for us. If we invite someone from the UK, then of course we have to pay the travel costs, but for a few speakers like Mr. Ketelaar and Mr. Grange and Mr. Boel this will be possible and why not one more? So, if you can make a concrete proposal, then no problem to invite someone from there.

CB: Just a general remark, we had a very good experience in Corfu, all attendants stayed in one hotel. So, I think it might be good , even if it is not possible to do so, to give in the application form a choice, a variety of two or three hotels at different levels so that we have a group together, more or less.

GS: The Viennese hotel landscape of course is much more diverse than that of Corfu, though we of course enjoyed your (Marietta Minotos') recommendation very much, of course I have a list of hotel recommendations, and I this list was sent for example to Mr. Khayrou who asked for it, but certainly I can send out a reduced list as well.

CB: Yes, well it's up to the delegates of course, but if you give people some hints, some clues , they feel a bit 'mothered' in that respect, and they say OK, they recommend it, it's up to them to choose it, but also it is for instance for the excursions and things like that, that we can start from the hotels, etc. So it's also the fringe social programme of the conference, I think it's better to have the group in two or three hotels than to be spread all over the city.

GS: I have this list of eight hotels, which is probably a little too much for what you have in mind, so I will reduce it to three or four.

CB: Yes, I think three or four with a different level of costs would be all right.

GS: No problem

CB: Another, also practical thing : expenses

GS: We won't raise any fees, of course, as it always has been the case with the SPP-conferences, that's totally clear, so what will it cost to the participants? it will cost them travel costs, probably, in most cases flight and accommodation. Accommodation in Vienna is not cheap, it is now more expensive than Corfu. So that a hotel, often the same in quality as yours in Corfu will be merely unavailable, correct: unaffordable to most of our members here in Vienna. Nevertheless I have some first class hotels too for those who have, for example, a rich parliamentary administration behind them or a rich political party behind them... (...laughter..), no(?). Not in Germany?

HS: Times are changing.

GS: Times are changing indeed, anyway, I will leave one or two of these first class hotels and I will put the three standard hotels, three star hotels in the list we're usually working with, but of course they will not have that quality of for example our hotel in Corfu had.

CB: I think it's a good idea, if the programme is set up, and all that and we put the whole thing in the Newsletter. And we put some kind of application form

GS: We'll put it in the Newsletter, we'll put on the ICA-website, also addressing other ICA-sections, and we will specifically address it to the target groups that we want to involve.

MMi: I would like also add, that I found your proposal very well organised, and the subject is very, very interesting, because it is of particular interest not only for the archivists of parliaments and political party foundations but for the whole of society, so we have the opportunity to promote SPP and with your proposal I think that this will strengthen the scientific profile of SPP because we will invite professors, other specialists, and on the other side we strengthen also the public relations of SPP because we will invite presidents of other sections, as it is one of our aims to establish cooperation with other sections too, so I found all this very well organised, my compliments!

GS: Thanks.

MMi: I think that you will have a great success.

GS: I will have a success, but only thanks to all of your efforts and support!

MMi: It is a very interesting subject!

RHvdH: Yes, that's for sure.

GS: Yes, I know that our president of the National Council was quite interested in it.

RHvdH: Yes, of course!

HS: Günther, one question, what do you think, will you organise the whole congress in different languages, or will it be only in English?

GS: We need to do it in English and French, because these are the working languages of our section. We wouldn't need to do so, because as far as I see, all the speakers would be able to make their presentations in English, I presume that Didier Grange would prefer French, if he was given the opportunity, but he is also able to make his presentation in English, nevertheless it's the principle of the section to do it at least in these two languages and I already announced to my administration that interpretation costs will be the major cost factor. So far they accepted it in principle. Now, in the meantime, of course, this principle decision was made in last autumn, now, you know, the economic and budget situation hasn't really approved. So, we're just deliberating the budget, the budget deliberations were until yesterday in the Committee, and starting from next week in Plenary. That's why we are doing this meeting today because this is the only day without budget deliberations in May, and Parliamentary budget has been cut down to a high degree. Nevertheless, I hope that this principle of this commitment to cover the interpretation costs is still upright, and, of course, I will point out that this is a very principled matter for our section too, that events like conferences and plenary meetings are held in both working languages.

HS: Would it be possible to do it in German too?

GS: This would mean additional costs of course, because then we would have to make translations in three languages. This would even significantly increase costs. Nevertheless, if there is a wish, I don't know, most of the German speakers are here in the room, so, if you tell me that you prefer to do it in German, of course I will try to get the interpretation funded. For German too, but I cannot make a promise.

Hereafter follows a short discussion whereby the idea of also German interpretation is abandoned, and GS mentioned in which room the conference will be held, a large committee room, the former Ceremonial Hall, where interpretation facilities are (permanently) established.

GS: It is a very beautiful and large room, the maximum number of people that we can accommodate there is about 150. So much more than what we need for the conference, I expect the number of participants to be between 80-100. There will be some students from the Viennese University coming here, probably some people from federal institutions, like the federal Ministry for Educational Affairs,

that might be interested in the subject too, so, I would say, if we reach all these target groups it would be about a 100 people. If for some reason this room would not be available due to some more important parliamentary event, then it might be that we would have to look for premises outside parliament, but I presume it will be available.

HS: I'm thinking about the financial issues we were talking about, because I think it possible to get some money from the ICA, so I think we should get some of the money for things like this conference, but maybe we should talk about this in the afternoon?

GS: I'd say we need anyway funding for four speakers, if we would invite an additional speaker from the UK, then for five speakers, that should be fundable from our section's budget if we wouldn't get additional funding from the ICA, but if we get additional funding it would be even better, we could for example even try to establish a sort of a funding program for members from less developed countries, whom we then could invite and offer them for example at least a partial remuneration of their expenses.

MMi: Maybe it would be useful to invite also our colleague, Mr. Caldeira to participate maybe in any of the workshops to present some ideas, results from the conference in his country. Because he told us the year before, that he intended to organise a similar seminar. I could not reach him so far, but if finally the Mario Soares Foundation organised a similar event, I think it would be useful for us to have him present the results of his seminar in Lisbon?

CB: I think we need to set up a time table for the organising, the preparation for the ...conference

GS: The time table is quite clear. Once you have an agreement concerning the concept (of the programme) I can start to set up a time table at 5 p. m today.

CB: From your point of view it is absolutely clear, you being as clear and as efficient as usual, but from my viewpoint and other people's, they think about it, and it took a lot of time for them to think about it, and it would help a lot if you got a timetable, stating before when certain decisions are to be made etc. 'The human factor mustn't be underestimated

RHvdH: Never underestimate the human factor (the weak one), for instance (at GS): Did you invite Ketelaar already?

GS: I didn't invite anyone, because I wanted to discuss it with you first.

RHvdH: So, you want our OK now, that's it?

GS: Once I have got your OK, first of all I'll have to file the whole issue, I already filed it last year in principle, and I got, in principle, the consent from our President, but now of course I'll have to make it definite, and this means that I have to reserve the room for the conference on the basis we could now agree on, and I would have to draft a budget, which would rely on the experiences in the past and particularly with regards to the interpretation costs, the largest costs, the costs for the excursions, subway tickets, hiring of a bus for the second excursion, the costs for lunches and dinners, etc., all this I'll have to calculate and get the consent for from the President. I would think I'll be able to do this within the next two weeks, at the end of May. Once I have this principle consent, then we'll have the exact dates. Then I can start to formally invite the speakers. Of course I can do it informally already now, and informally announce to them the probable dates.

HS: Günther, last question. Are you planning a publication about the conference?

GS: Yes, but that's something that wouldn't cost much, because we can do it on our own, of course, it wouldn't be that beautiful as your publication of our 2006 conference, but –by the way- I have not received the copies that your colleague promised me in Kuala Lumpur to send to me. So if you come home and would remind him of that, I would be glad, because there are a lot of people interested in the issue, and I'd like to give them some copies of the publication.

HS: Yes, I will

MMi: We've finished with this issue? OK, so, we'll talk about the next of our scientific meetings, the one which will be held in Senegal, in 2010. Unfortunately, Khayrou Cissé isn't with us today. I only

have to inform you that I received a month ago a three pages note from him and he described me the general outline. He proposed some specific days: Oct. 20th-23rd, 2010.

HS: What would the topic of this conference be?

MMi: It will be held in Dakar, and the topic will be 'Modernization and Sustainability of Law Making Support in the 21st Century'. The note is in French, there is a reference about the participants, from our Committee, the members of SPP. Another page is about who we will invite to participate, but I have no specific names or a general plan.

GS: I can say some things about this? So, I have already discussed with Khayrou some issues in this connection and already informally contacted some possible contributors and possible organisations that would be able to support our conference. In particular, I have quite a good relationship to UN-DESA in Rome, the UN Development Organisation has established a programme for supporting African parliaments in introducing modern electronic tools in the support for law making. So, in particular, they have established several programmes such as AKOMA NTOSO (Architecture for Knowledge-Oriented Management of African Normative Texts using Open Standards and Ontology's), this is exchange formats for legal documents, Bungeni, this is about parliamentary and legislative information systems, and they have established a knowledge network for African Parliaments. So they would be quite interested in extending the scope of their activities towards the archival documentation sector, that we are representing in our section.

And this would, in my opinion, have to be one of the main focuses of the conference: to bring together these current programmes that are focussing on introduction of new technologies with the archival needs and requirements, because, so far, within these programmes, archival requirements wouldn't be taken into account. I seek as one of the functions of this conference to bring together these two worlds. Then there are also bilateral problems, so, for example the Austrian Parliament has a programme with Mozambique, as there will be some visitors from the Mozambique Parliament to the Austrian Parliament at the end of May, and early June, so that we can also refer to these pilot room experiences. Perhaps we'll have also some experiences from our 'Jumelage' / Twinning Projects by then that we could integrate into the conference, and I had the opportunity, to, for example in Kuala Lumpur, and within the EP-framework, to meet several colleagues from African parliaments, and from African parliamentary archives, that already have declared their interest to attend the conference and make contributions. So, there have been some preliminary talks, there is a kind of a concept, and I think that if you would agree, I would try to develop together with Khayrou a basic concept until Autumn, so that in the course of our Steering Committee Meeting in October 28th we might be able to provide you with a draft of an agenda.

MMi: OK, thank you, Günther, for your support and cooperation.

For 2011 I have the pleasant duty to announce that, after the efforts made by our colleague, Vida Kisuniene and myself, finally we managed to persuade the Parliament of Seimas, to organise the scientific meeting in 2011. I addressed an official letter in the middle of April 2009 to the General Secretary of Seimas, Mr. Gintautas Vilkelis. I have this letter with me. I asked him, on behalf of the Steering Committee of the section, to ask your permission to hold an Annual Meeting of our section in 2011 in the Seimas and to appeal for various assistance of this event. Finally, Mr. Vilkelis sent me a positive answer some days before. We don't have a topic/theme for this conference yet, I think?

GS: Yes, I think 'Democracies in Transition' would be the theme?

RS: Yes, I had also contact with Vida, the conference will take place that year, and Vida asked me about the possible topic for it.

GS: We did so, it is 'Democracies in Transition'.

RS: Yes, we talked about that, because I organised a congress about this in the middle of Eastern Europe in the nineties, within this perspective. This was specially organised because of the situation just after the change in 1989, and then in these years, we had these new countries emerging, and in these countries, new archives, democratic archives, after the change (die Wende). This was also the topic. The topic was simply the general situation plus matters relating to archives, political archives and parliamentary archives.

Also because those people who did not belong to the SPP could attend, and they came after the change in 1989, and it was much easier for them to come there. We had also many people who did not belong to the SPP who attended these conferences because they could not afford to come to the usual places such as other cities in (Western) Europe. I had connections to these archives, these political archives, but it was 15 years ago now, and the situation has changed, there are other people in charge now, but I can try to re-establish my connections with these archives.

GS: This was exactly what we talked about in Kuala Lumpur, about what happened in the nineties, and just because we wanted to re-establish these contacts we talked about the subject under the title of 'democracies in transition'. We did say, not in the Plenary Meeting, as I just saw in the minutes, but in the Steering Committee meeting before, that we talked about this issue, and saw it as an objective of the meeting/the conference to re-establish the contacts that we had in the nineties on the one hand, on the other hand, twenty years after the change in the Eastern European countries, to strike a balance of in what way from archival experiences and archival sources to look back on democratic change and to deal with the different challenges emerging from democratic change, for example how to deal with party archives of the former communist parties of these countries. That was the main focus, so I think the general line is there, and even the title would be there: I think 'democracies in transition' would be a title that would apply, not only as a subject, but it also would draw some attention on the conference and it would be a title that would be general enough to not only attract participants from the Central-Eastern European countries but also would attract people from other democracies, because, to some extent, of course, every democracy is in transition. Of course not to that extent as it was the case in the Central and Eastern European countries.

2. SPP Activities, esp. the Twinning Project [incl. 4. Financial issues (treated under this Agenda item 2.)

MMi: So, I propose to go on with the 2nd item of the agenda, SPP-activities, and I would like to tell you that beside its usual activities last month SPP inaugurated some new ones. I would like to begin with the SPP's major success in regard to the recent PCOM meeting.

We have initiated the project of twinning archives. As you know SPP submitted a proposal: under the heading Twinning Project, and I would like at this point to congratulate warmly our colleague, Mr. Reinder van der Heide (RHvdH: Thank you), because he prepared and also had, in cooperation with me, the responsibility for the submission of the proposal before the deadline, which was very fixed. Mr. Bellardo, the President of the PCOM, and the Deputy-Archivist of the USA, addressed a letter to Reinder, and later to me, in which he stressed that he was impressed by the quality of our application, and the relevance of our proposal. He added that the concept of twinning we wish to develop in our project is particularly interesting, and could be proposed to other ICA-boards and –members. In his letter addressed to me he proposed to have a direct contact with Mrs. Du Mei, who is Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department State Archives Administration of China. As a member of the PCOM and having had experiences with twinning project (in particular of universities) she has volunteered to assist the SPP with out twinning attempts. Of course, we welcome her commitment and interest in our project and will gladly hear her advice. RHvdH says that he will make contact with her on this issue.

During the debating of the financial issues connected with the Twinning Project (agenda item 2) Harry Scholz (HS), our Treasurer, announced that he had a few general remarks regarding financial matters to make. These few general remarks developed however into a full bloom treating of the specifics connected with Agenda item 4. Financial issues. These were scheduled for the afternoon, but our President flexibly allowed this item to be discussed in detail and resolved immediately.

Because the Twinning Project has been endorsed by the Programme Commission of the ICA (PCOM, see the letter of Mr. Lew Bellardo d.d. March 31st, 2009), the project has been rewarded an amount of € 3000,-.

HS mentions that this fact poses a new item: the matter of a possible bank account for the section, bringing with it all its critical and difficult facets. Such a facet is, as an example, the fact that the SPP is not a legal body, contrary to the ICA, which makes it problematic to open a bank account in the name of the SPP, at least in most countries.

This is one of the reasons that the ICA, c. q. the ICA-Secretariat prefers the following solution:

The Treasurer of the SPP can handle financial issues directly with the ICA bank account in Paris and seek payment directly with the ICA-Secretariat either within the sums accessible within the budget frames agreed upon to be given a refund after having passed on invoices, or by having the sum prepaid conditioned by passing on invoices within the end of the financial year.

An extended debate followed, during which many legal and practical questions and solutions, answers and impossibilities, passed in review. Especially the entirely personal legal and financial liability of the Treasurer in case of financial mishaps is a point of concern for HS – understandably so – in case he would open a bank account for the SPP in his own name.

RHvdH finally asks the question if it wouldn't be possible for our Treasurer to open a 'personal' account for the SPP which simply cannot be overdrawn, meaning that the Treasurer will never be able to withdraw money which isn't available on the account. In that case personal liability will, in his opinion, not be an important issue.

The entire SC, including HS, the Treasurer, after some debate agrees that this might be a workable solution, at least certainly a road to explore.

It is therefore decided that HS will as soon as possible (in the last week of May 2009), (try to) open an account for SPP under the agreed conditions on his own name as Treasurer of the SPP, probably with the Gemeinwirtschaft Bank in Germany, with which bank HS has good experiences.

HS, and the other SC-members as well, consider(s) it also very important for him to have a meeting with Mr. David Leitch, Secretary-General of the ICA, personally, in Paris, and/or Mr. Tomas Lidman, Vice-President Finance of ICA, in order to be able to talk directly with him/them about a way to facilitate these financial complexities vis-à-vis, and somehow fashion a workable and well-considered solution for both the SPP and the ICA.

13.00-14.00 p.m.: Lunch break at the Parliamentary Restaurant

14.00-17.00 p.m.: Second working session in the room no. E5, Palais Epstein

3. SPP-website

GS explains the different vicissitudes connected with our SPP-website, also in relation to the general ICA-website and its ups and downs.

Another, related subject concerns the archiving of websites. The SPP has a project concerning this last issue. We treated it during the Bonn-conference out of which came diverse plans, possible solutions, etc. concerning guidelines for archiving websites, practical advice on how to develop strategies in this field, and developing a reference model or a standard for website-archiving. GS has drafted a Project Proposal which he distributes to the SC-members. He explains and elucidates his proposal. An extensive discussion followed during which many difficult issues were explored, not only in the technological sphere, the financial facet drew lots of attention as well.

RHvdH mentioned in passing that his parliament, or rather, the parliamentary archives he and his staff manages, has, in the mean time, found a supplier of a website archiving tool. This tool, he explains, does more than just make snapshots of a website, it also registers every change, every addition in between snapshots, thus delivering a performance in the archival sense, which his parliament, at least for the time being, accepted as a reasonably satisfying solution. He adds that though the application does not yet function completely according to expectation, the general outlook that it eventually will, looks quite promising.

GS comments that, if this would be true, the whole of his proposal might be superfluous, but in the mean time, the SPP would be wise to go on with the development plans. RHvdH promises to give the data, name, address, etc. of his supplier. A visit of this firm to, for example, Vienna, might be a feasible idea. RHvdH will ask the supplier if they would be interested in giving a demonstration of their application abroad.

4. Financial issues (treated under 2.; see above)

5. Closing

MMi thanks the attendant SC-members for their contributions and closes the meeting after wishing us a fruitful time ahead in our regular jobs and activities, and, of course, with our endeavours for the ICA-SPP.

