The EURBICA committee’s main task for that period was to develop the structure and communications systems of the branch, following its relaunch after elections in the first half of 2016.

1. Committee meetings: Seoul 5th September 2016; Skopje 27 and 28th March 2017

Although the branch is in essence a virtual branch, two meetings of the executive committee took place in this period. The first, in Seoul in September 2016, was informal – the EURBICA officers took advantage of the fact that several of them were attending the ICA Congress to meet up and discuss the administration of the branch. The second meeting, held in Skopje on 27 and 28th March at the invitation of the National Archives of the Republic of Macedonia, was in fact our first formal meeting. Some key decisions were made about the EURBICA business plan for the coming two to four years.

Thanks to outstanding support from Filip Petrovski, National Archivist of the Republic of Macedonia and his staff, the meeting in Skopje turned out to be both constructive and effective. The work of EURBICA and ICA featured on national television, and the members of the executive committee met with the President of the Republic for over an hour, to discuss the value of heritage and record keeping.

The meeting also offered the members of the executive committee the opportunity to meet with a number of National Archivists from South East Europe, who explained the priorities important to that part of Europe. It was agreed that they would continue to work together, under the umbrella of EURBICA, to articulate the needs and priorities of that sub-region.

2. Officer elections

The results of the officer elections held in December 2016 and confirmed at the Skopje meeting were as follows:

Chair: Deborah Jenkins (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2018) and Charles Farrugia (1st Jan 2019-31st Dec 2020)

Vice chairs (2): Karin Van Honacker (1st Jan 2017-31 Dec 2020); Filip Petrovski (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2020)

Secretary: Karin Van Honacker (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2020)

Facebook page editor: Mies Langelaar (1st Jan 2017-31st Dec 2020)

Elections scrutineer: John Chambers

3. Branch constitution

The branch constitution approved by EURBICA members earlier in 2016, was submitted to the ICA Executive Board in Seoul. Following a request for a small amendment by the ICA President, the constitution was finalised in time for the Skopje meeting. The EURBICA branch executive committee met with David Fricker in Skopje on 27th March 2017 to iron out the final small details.
4. Developing the European Professional Network
EURBICA is the only pan-European professional body which spans archival activities both within and without the European Union. Providing a wide sweep of support and interest to all European archivists without re-inventing the wheel is an important element of the EURBICA business plan.

EURBICA has recently been elected to sit on the Europeana Governing Board for the next 2 years, from 1st July 2017. The branch now has observer status on the European Archives Group. The presence of Charles Farrugia, Karin Van Honacker and Odile Welfele on the EURBICA executive ensures that the branch has ready access to the EBNA network. In addition, Charles Farrugia hosted the Country Managers’ Meeting of APeF, EAG and EBNA in the second half of April 2017 in Malta.

5. Communications with members
The EURBICA communications programme has a three pronged approach:
a. Refreshing the EURBICA page on the ICA site
b. Launching the EURBICA Facebook page
c. Developing a mechanism to contact EURBICA members who do not use social media.

The Secretary has been in touch with the website manager in the Secretariat to start the work of refreshing the EURBICA page on the ICA website.

The EURBICA Facebook page was launched on 12th January 2017. Every month, it attracts about 20 posts from a wide range of organisations, including the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI), the Linked Open Date in Libraries, Archives and Museums (LODLAM), Europeana, the Open Preservation Foundation, the DLM forum, ARMA, IIAS and other ICA entities such as SLA and SUV.

To establish contact with members who do not use social media, the EURBICA newsletter is being re-launched. Content and circulation frequency have yet to be determined.

6. EURBICA archives
It was agreed that the National Archives of Belgium should be the custodian of the branch archives.

7. Composition of the EURBICA executive board
In the course of the summer of 2017, EURBICA was informed by the National Archives of Macedonia that Filip Petrovski would be retiring from his position on the board. Following email consultation, it was agreed to continue with one fewer member of the board, a step which the EURBICA constitution allows.

8. Meetings of the EURBICA executive board
It was agreed that the 2018 EURBICA executive board would be held in Split, along a local conference. As a number of EURBICA executive members would be attending the Conference in Mexico, it was agreed to hold an informal meeting there to review progress.

9. EURBICA presence at the Arusha governance meetings
EURBICA was represented at the ICA EB and Branches meetings held in Arusha, Tanzania, in May.

10. Application for PCOM funding
Following a decision taken by the executive at the Skopje meeting, the executive applied for funding from PCOM to cover the travel and subsistence costs of Keynote and other Speakers taking part in international conferences held in the EURBICA region (as explained in 3.1 below). EURBICA’s application to PCOM was successful, and funding was obtained to assist with the ACARM conference held in Malta at the end of the month of October 2017. On the theme of ‘Imaging Imperialism’ the event is organised jointly by ACARM (the *Association of Commonwealth Archivists and Records Managers*) and the National Archives of Malta. ACARM brings with it the potential of many countries taking part in the event and provides ICA/EURBICA with excellent advocacy and marketing opportunities.

As the conference focuses on images, EURBICA sought the help of the ICA expert group on Audio Visual Heritage. As the conference also ranges over important issues of shared history and evidence, EURBICA is also seeking the help of the ICA expert group on Shared Heritage. Both expert groups generously assisted with information and contact details.

11. EURBICA Facebook page
   Steady, if slow, work is continuing with the EURBICA Facebook page. The number of regular visitors to the page is growing.

12. EU Data Protection initiative
   EURBICA continues to be concerned at the uneven interest taken by different countries in the EU Data Protection initiative.