

**ifsw****international federation of social workers**fédération internationale des assistants sociaux
federación internacional de trabajadores sociales

Europe

Special Delegates Meeting Munich - 28th July 2006

Minutes

1 Welcome and Formalities

The President for Europe, David Jones welcomed the delegates to this special delegates meeting.

The agenda and timetable were agreed.

2 Minutes of the Delegates meeting held in Sofia on 20-22 May 2006

Relevant sections of the minutes were received. Full minutes will be agreed in Parma in 2007.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

Only those matters on the agenda were considered. All other matters were deferred to Parma in 2007.

4 European Executive Committee

It was announced that Nicolai Paulsen had been elected unopposed as the new President of the European Region. He was welcomed with applause.

Elections were held for the position of Member at Large for Europe within the standing orders of the global General Meeting, under the supervision of Eila Malmstrom, Deputy Elections Officer.

The three candidates were:

Antonina Dashkina

Monica Egan

Barbara Molderings

Following a ballot Barbara Molderings was elected having received 11 votes. Monica Egan received 7 and Antonina Dashkina received 3. A total of 21 countries voted.

Following the election, the membership of the European Executive is:

Nicolai Paulsen – President for Europe

Barbara Molderings – Member at large for Europe

Antonina Dashkina – European Executive member
Anthea Agius – European Executive member
Ingri-Hanne Braenne – European Executive member.

There was now one vacancy on the Executive Committee as Nicolai Paulsen had become President. As Barbara Molderings was no longer a deputy, a replacement would be needed. A second deputy will also be needed as Herbert Paulischen resigned his position as deputy.

The Executive Committee recommended and proposed that an email postal ballot will be undertaken to fill the vacancy on the Executive Committee.

The proposal was agreed unanimously.

It was stated that there would be a call for nominations and a ballot paper will be sent by email to all member organisations by the end of September 2006.

There was a request to bring item 8, the legal body forward and deal with it earlier in the meeting and this was agreed.

5 Legal Body

David Jones introduced this topic and the paper which had been distributed in advance. He explained that it was a complicated matter. Delegates were not being asked to approve a change to the constitution. This was a progress report only at this stage. Since the Sofia meeting, the London lawyers had worked very quickly.

Terry Bamford explained that he had met with the lawyers some weeks ago and signed a letter of instruction. They have started the work to make IFSW Europe a legal body. A first draft should be ready for consideration in the next month.

Austria wished to repeat the proposal which they had put forward in Sofia and said that the legal body should be based in the country where the legal process can be done most cheaply. In Austria IFSW Europe could be registered as an NGO and this would not cost more than two hundred Euro.

Discussion followed regarding costs and where the legal body should be based.

There was overall agreement that the issue must move on as this has been discussed for many years. However delegates agreed that it was difficult to make a decision when they did not have a lot of information.

Some organisations might have difficulties remaining as members of IFSW Europe depending on the kind of legal body which was proposed as legislation in some countries might not allow for this.

Concern was also expressed about the amount of money which had already been spent and the amount that would be spent in the future.

The importance of being a legal body in order to be a member of the Social Platform was emphasised by Nicolai Paulsen.

Austria proposed that the amount of money to be spent should be limited to €2000 (two thousand Euro) and this was seconded by Lithuania.

3 were in favour.

12 were against.

6 abstained.

The proposal was not carried.

The Executive Committee proposed to continue the work and to present legal proposals at the Delegates Meeting in Parma

The proposal was carried

17 for,

2 against

1 abstention.

Terry Bamford was thanked for his work in relation to the legal body.

6 European conferences 2009 and beyond

Nicolai Paulsen explained that a decision was needed in relation to the conference in 2009. Criteria for doing this were set out in the paper sent to delegates.

UK proposed to accept the proposal as set out.

Croatia seconded this.

Accepted unanimously.

7 Secretariat Arrangements

Monica Egan explained that in the long term, the Executive Committee is committed to having a permanent secretariat. Resources at present do not allow for that. Until the time comes when a permanent secretariat can be set up, the Executive Committee is proposing that the position be advertised in the way that it was in the past with some small changes to the job description as set out in the paper sent to member organisations. The appointment would be for two years and there would be a review at the end of that time. There would be a small annual honorarium of €3000 (three thousand Euro).

The Executive Committee proposed to send information to member organisations with an application form and then to invite applications which will be considered by the Executive Committee and an appointment made.

Applications would be received by October 1st. It was stressed how exciting this position could be.

It was proposed that a single payment of €3000 (three thousand Euro) be made to Ana Radulescu in recognition of her service to IFSW Europe. Several member organisations made comments.

Proposed UK

Seconded Austria

In favour: 11

Against: 10

The motion was carried

Sweden requested that their vote against the motion be recorded.

8 Budget 2007

The revised budget for 2007 was presented by Monica Egan. As this was a budget with a deficit, she pointed out that the Executive Committee would need to consider reducing some costs by holding meetings in the cheapest venue and perhaps holding one meeting by telephone conference to save funds from travelling.

The Executive Committee also pointed out that IFSW Europe is very likely to receive funds from the global level for the proposed project and that will help to reduce the deficit.

Nicolai Paulsen said that the Executive Committee would try to find the €3000 for Ana Radulescu within the 2006 budget but it might have to be taken from the 2007 budget.

Monica Egan pointed out that it was likely that there would be some savings from the social cohesion project but not all the costs for this were available so it was not clear yet exactly how much had been spent. This would be available for the next Executive Committee meeting in 2006.

It was proposed that the budget be accepted

Proposed by Ireland

Seconded by Norway.

The motion was carried unanimously.

9 World Social Work Day

The Executive Committee proposed that a link person for this would be appointed by the Executive. Member organisations were requested to let Nicolai Paulsen know if they would like to be involved.

10 Any Other Business

As this was David's last meeting as European President following his election as IFSW President, he thanked everyone for their support and contributions to the meeting. He congratulated Nicolai on becoming the new President for Europe and wished him well.

Nicolai thanked David for his support and for all the work he had done in developing the work of IFSW Europe. Nicolai stressed the importance of continuing the work that had begun and to giving a voice to European social work. He said there was a lot of potential for more social work organisations to become part of IFSW Europe and it was important to empower those organisations to do so. It was important to use the energy that is there to do this.

Nicolai said that the next meeting will be in Parma in 2007 and information regarding the Parma conference will be available at the conference where a revised version of the programme will be available.

The meeting concluded.