

**MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON
OCTOBER 17TH 2007 IN JESOLO LIDO, ITALY**

○ Present:

PAYS / COUNTRY	First name / Prénom	Surname/ Nom
AEHT HEAD OFFICE	John	REES SMITH
AEHT HEAD OFFICE	Nadine	SCHINTGEN
ALLEMAGNE GERMANY	Sibylle	WEBER-POHL
AUTRICHE AUSTRIA	Klaus	ENENGL
BELGIQUE BELGIUM	Hilde	WILDIERS
CHYPRE CYPRUS	Costas	PISTOS
CROATIE CROATIA	Vesna	BARANASIC
DANEMARK DENMARK	Christian	BECK
ESTONIE ESTONIA	Neeme	RAND
FINLANDE FINLAND	Marit	NIEMINEN
FRANCE FRANCE	Annie	COLLINET
GRECE GREECE	Katerina	DIMOÏLIOPOULOU
HONGRIE HUNGARY	Akos	SASVARI
ITALIE ITALY	Alfonso Mariella	BENVENUTO OLIVIERI
IRLANDE IRELAND	Mary	OWENS
ISLANDE ICELAND	Helene H.	PEDERSEN
LETTONIE LATVIA	Silva Ilze	OZOLINA LOCMANE
LITUANIE LITHUANIA	Birute	STASIUNIENE

LUXEMBOURG LUXEMBOURG	Louis	ROBERT
MACEDOINE MACEDONIA	Zoran	NIKOLOVSKI
MALTE MALTA	Reginald	ABELA
NORVEGE NORWAY	Stig	ANDREASSEN
PAYS-BAS THE NETHERLANDS	Ans	LUYCKX-WILLEMS
POLOGNE POLAND	Boguslaw	PIENKOWSKA
PORTUGAL PORTUGAL	Ana Paula	PAIS
RUSSIE RUSSIA	Irina	KAGAKINA
SLOVAQUIE SLOVAKIA	Jozef Marek	SENKO SOTAK
SLOVENIE SLOVENIA	Janez Jana	SOLAR SPEC
SUEDE SWEDEN	Arne	LARSSON
TURQUIE TURKEY	Serpil	ARDA
<i>Invité :</i> FRANCE FRANCE	Gilles	HONEGGER

○ Apologies had been received from:

COUNTRY/ PAYS	First name/ Prénom	Surname/Nom
REPUBLIQUE TCHEQUE CZECH REPUBLIC	Jana	PODOLAKOVA
ROUMANIE ROMANIA	Gabi	MATEESCU
ROYAUME-UNI UNITED KINGDOM	Isabelle	HODGSON
SUISSE SWITZERLAND	Marc	GARTMANN
UKRAINE UKRAINE	Anna	FUKAEVA

1. Welcome speech

Louis Robert expressed his warm thanks to the entire organising team of the Jesolo Annual Conference, particularly to Ilario Ierace and Laura Troiero of the IPSSARCT "ELENA CORNARO" school.

Delegates introduced themselves in turn to enable the new national representatives to meet those who had been in post for some time. LR welcomed the newcomers, Hilde Wildiers from the "Coloma plus" institute in Mechelen (Belgium) and Zoran Nikolovski who had been appointed for a period of four years to the post of director of the " LAZAR TANEV Public Secondary School for Catering and Tourism" in Skopje (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

2. Agenda for the Executive Board Meeting

The agenda was approved unanimously.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (Jesolo Lido, February 17th 2007)

The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting.

4. President's Report (Louis Robert, LR):

Louis Robert reminded the meeting that the current Presidium had been elected in November 2006 at the Killarney Annual Conference, and that the remits of the various vice-presidents had changed in several respects, as illustrated by his Powerpoint presentation. The new portfolios could be consulted in the AEHT's 2007 brochure and on the website at www.aeht.eu.

He took the opportunity to congratulate the Presidium on its closely coordinated team-work, and to thank the General Secretary, Nadine Schintgen and the Translator/Interpreter, John Rees Smith, for their commitment to the Association – their commitment was applauded by the meeting.

LR also mentioned the considerable contribution made by Competitions Committee to the improvement of the rules and the smooth running of the competitions which took place during the conference. It had become clear that it was absolutely vital for the Competitions Committee to accompany the Presidium when it held its meeting six months before the event at the location of the next Annual Conference, in order to provide any necessary clarifications and to clear up any remaining problems.

Louis Robert expressed regret that the AEHT's festivals were always attended by the same schools, even though they were really small-scale annual conferences and an ideal place for sharing very interesting knowledge and skills. He urged the national representatives to encourage all the member schools in their country to take part in these festivals.

The same applied to Christmas in Europe, an event dear to the heart of Christiane Keller (aka Mother Christmas) whose unrelenting efforts ensured the continuation of this celebration.

LR announced the venue for Christmas in Europe for the coming years:

- 2007: Semmering, Austria
- 2008: Château-Chinon, France
- 2009: Poznan, Poland
- 2010: Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2011: Azores, Portugal
- 2012: Tampere, Finland (to be confirmed)
- 2013: Marseilles, France (to be confirmed)

2008 was an exceptional year as it was the year when the AEHT would celebrate its 20th anniversary. On this occasion the AEHT wished to seek the services of a 'Council of Elders' to help it 'remember its past'.

This council would consist of honorary Presidium members (retired vice-presidents and treasurers); it was to have been officially set up during the 2007 annual conference, but since most of the potential members had been unable to attend, its formation had been deferred until March 2008 in Kuressaare, Estonia, when the Council would be set up in parallel with the Executive Board meeting.

The remit of the Council of Elders would be to study a number of points, namely:

- the development of new activities, for example a new type of competitions specially aimed at higher education establishments;
- the organisation of specific events such as the 20th anniversary of the AEHT in Kuressaare (and the publication of a brochure to mark the occasion);
- the search for sponsors and other sources of funding;
- advice to be offered to the Presidium in the context of large projects;
- any ideas and initiatives which could improve and extend the AEHT's range of activities.

It was anticipated that the Council of Elders would eventually be self-financing through the recruitment of more professional partners. Meanwhile, to enable the Council to begin operating, it was necessary to make a budget allocation which would need to be approved by the General Assembly on October 18th 2007.

Louis Robert finished his speech by raising the continuing problem of late payment of subscriptions because the invoices sent out had gone astray or been sent very late to the finance department, or because of deferred payments or errors in the payment process. In order to facilitate members' financial dealings with the AEHT, the head office was still seeking to adopt a suitable on-line payment system and hoped that this would be in operation in the near future.

5. Report from the Vice-President in charge of Professional Placements (Bogusława Pienkowska, BP)

Bogusława Pienkowska ran through the statistics relating to placements in units of the ACCOR group in 2007. France followed by Germany, with 27 and 18 placements respectively, counted as the most 'hospitable' countries. ACCOR Group hotels in the United Kingdom provided eight placements which were snapped up within a week of

being publicised. The AEHT must redouble its efforts to find more hotels to satisfy the large number of teachers clamouring for placements in English-speaking countries. The largest number of teachers on placement was hosted by hotels in the United Kingdom, followed by France, Germany and Austria; Novotels were the hotels which hosted the largest number of placements.

Out of the 35 teachers who applied for the scheme only 25 eventually carried out their placement. 22 women and three men took part in the ACCOR placement programme. Language teachers represent by far the largest group of participants (17 out of 25).

The participants included four Poles, three Austrians, three Romanians, three Russians, two French, two Croats, two Italians, two Portuguese, one Czech, one Slovene, one Finn and one Turk.

In general the comments made by participants following their placement were very positive and provided evidence that the scheme should continue in future years. However, it was important to point out that last-minute withdrawals caused a lot of damage to the collaborative arrangements between ACCOR and the AEHT.

Bogusława Pienkowska appealed to National Representatives to urge school directors to send only reliable teachers on placement and to persuade them not to withdraw once they had registered; if they were forced to withdraw because of circumstances beyond their control, they should inform the receiving hotel as soon as possible, as well as *Renata DLUGASZEK and Bogusława PIENKOWSKA at the Szkoła Policealna Nr 13 in Warsaw, Fax : (48) 22 840-48-97, E-mail : AEHTACCOR@WP.PL*.

In 2007, three teachers created problems: some of them had simply not turned up at the hotel, without providing excuses to the hotel director. We should remember that the ACCOR placements are periods of observation for teachers, and are in no way opportunities for tourism!

Louis Robert pointed out that in Europe legislation is changing to make continuing professional development obligatory for teachers in a large number of countries. In some countries the ACCOR placements could be recognised by national authorities as continuing professional development because they carry certification.

LR reminded the meeting that the ACCOR placements are unique and governed by specific conditions to which applicants agree when they register. Participants are expected to show a serious approach to their placement since the AEHT's credibility is at stake. Any applicants abusing the scheme would forfeit the reimbursement of their administrative fee.

6. Report from the Vice-President in charge of Higher Education (Alfonso Benvenuto, AB)

In November 2006 Alfonso Benvenuto had again requested national representatives to send him the contact details of the schools in their countries offering higher education programmes in hospitality studies. He thanked those who had responded to his request and asked the others to reply as soon as possible. The list drawn up from this information would enable him to organise a conference on higher education

in 2008 with a view to possibly setting up a higher education programme aimed at students graduating from our member schools.

The residence of the Duke of Parma at Colorno, near Parma (elected European Capital of Gastronomy) houses the ALMA international higher education institute. With the agreement with the AEHT President, Alfonso Benvenuto had contacted Albino Ivardi Ganapini and Gualtiero Marchesi, respectively President and Rector of ALMA, who had shown an interest in making ALMA into the AEHT's European centre for culinary arts teaching. Negotiations were proceeding well.

Our efforts should not be confined to culinary arts, but should seek also to identify institutes which could host AEHT higher education programmes in Front Office, Management etc. In keeping with our Association's European spirit these establishments should be of excellent quality and should be located across Europe.

Alfonso Benvenuto also suggested submitting a bid for Leonardo da Vinci funding to set up a system for certifying schools for HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point – a method of ensuring food safety and hygiene).

Gilles Honegger, who had worked for the ACCOR group for 36 years and was administrator and chair of the teaching and learning committee of the Paul Bocuse institute, informed the meeting that he was prepared to set up collaborative arrangements between the Bocuse institute and ALMA: indeed the Paul Bocuse institute offers two high-level programmes, in culinary arts and in hotel management. These two courses, lasting three or five years, lead to a vocational degree and a Masters degree in hotel management and restaurant operations. Moreover, in the area of continuing professional development, the ACCOR Academy as well as the Lenôtre culinary arts and pastry schools, could certainly play a role, having trained 26,000 chefs last year.

7. Report from the Vice-President in charge of Seminars and Occasional Event, of Publication of Information on National Educational Systems and of EU Educational Programmes (Ana Paula PAIS, APP)

a) Events in 2007

Ana Paula PAIS gave a Powerpoint presentation of the events organised under the aegis of the AEHT in 2007. Details of the events may be consulted in the AEHT annual report. The head office frequently has insufficient information to be able to produce reports of the different events; organisers are requested to send an article and photographs of events to the AEHT secretariat.

b) Request for proposals for 2008

APP appealed for new proposals and asked national representatives to give a brief presentation of the events offered in their respective countries. The proposals are summarised in the table below:

FEBURARY		
17 – 19 February		4 th Antonio Nebbia International Hot Food Competition entitled 'Finger-food and cocktail – innovation in tradition, Cingoli, Italy
- 15 December 2007		- deadline for receiving applications
- 19 January 2008		- deadline for receiving recipes, contact details and reports
- 30 January 2008		- date of publication of the list of schools selected for the final
MARCH		
12 March		12 th Cocktail Contest - Francoli Cup 2008, Ghemme, Italy
13 – 16 March		International Festival of Gastronomy: Sport and Health (Theme: nautical activities), Faro, Portugal
14 – 15 March		'GASTRO 2008' Gastronomy competition, Porec, Croatia
Exact dates to be confirmed		Seminar on 'Return to the Ice Age – traditional Italian Ice-cream making', Senigallia, Italy
APRIL		
9 – 13 April		2 nd International Thrace Cup at the Anatolian Hotel and Tourism School, Tekirdag, Turkey
- 1 March 2008		- registration deadline
16 – 19 April		'Bartolomeo Scappi' International Competition 2008, Castel San Pietro Terme, Italy
22 – 25 April		Seminar entitled 'From Sea to Plate – sustainable methods for preparing fish and shellfish', Gothenburg, Sweden
MAY		
8 – 11 May		4 th Competition for Hotel Reception Staff and 2 nd Competition for Tourism in the City, Giulianova, Italy
31 January 2008		- registration deadline
JUNE		
25 – 29 June		Seminar on 'Secrets of Madeira Wines', Funchal, Portugal
OCTOBER		
14 – 19 October		21 st AEHT Annual Conference, Kuressaare, Estonia
Exact dates to be confirmed		Workshop entitled 'On the trail of juicy game', Rzeszow, Poland
NOVEMBER		
12 – 16 November		Workshop on 'Information and Communication Technology', Waterford, Ireland
November		Eurocup 2008 – 16 th Young Bartender Competition, Prešov, Slovakia
DECEMBER		
5 – 10 December		Christmas in Europe, Château-Chinon, France
DATE TO BE CONFIRMED		
date to be confirmed		Seminar on 'New Tracks for Horse-riders – creating a new tourist attraction', Kołobrzeg, Poland
date to be confirmed		Seminar entitled 'White Truffles: from Tradition to Contemporary Cuisine', Porec, Croatia

APP reminded the meeting of the essential rules for organisers of occasional events:

- send out the proposal as early as possible (at least six months before the event);
- make the cost of board and lodging as low as possible;
- promote the AEHT (using the AEHT CD-ROM) at the start of the event in order to make it known to participants from non-member schools;
- send an article and photographs to be published on the AEHT website (among other places).

c) European Projects

- 'E-LINGUA' Leonardo da Vinci Project

The Leonardo da Vinci E-LINGUA innovation transfer project submitted in March 2007 aimed to transfer Europe-wide the 'Weblingua' programme (awarded the European languages certification label in 2006), a multimedia resource for online training in oral communication in five European languages (EN, DE, ES, IT and FR) for nine different hotel and tourism professions (45 modules representing 140 hours of language learning) containing only specific situations relating to each branch of the industry. Initially the programme was developed for employees in Western European countries who had designed the product, and the AEHT wished to try out these resources in new countries and with a new target audience – young people undergoing initially training whose native tongue was not one of the five languages offered by the programme.

In August 2007 the European Commission finalised the selection process for projects submitted in the spring. Because of the high number of applications received and of the very limited budget for innovation transfer projects, the project submitted by the AEHT was not accepted, but the proposers were asked to resubmit the project when a new call was put out.

- Quality in Vocational Education and Training

Marit Nieminen, director of the Helsinki Perho Culinary School and Finnish national representative, spoke of an accreditation system for hotel and tourism schools developed as part of a Leonardo da Vinci programme entitled 'Quality in Vocational Education and Training' – a key aspect of the Bologna process. The system applies to educational programmes lasting at least two years and the accreditation process lasts between one and two years. The first step is for the school to carry out a self-evaluation exercise using the criteria established by the European Framework for Quality Management. Next an evaluation is carried out by an external group which prepares a report and makes recommendations on granting, or otherwise, the accreditation. Marit Nieminen suggested that it should be the AEHT which grants this accreditation. She believed that this accreditation would contribute to improving the credibility of the accredited schools as well as the potential for mobility of their students and teachers. She offered to place the relevant documents on the AEHT website.

There followed a lively discussion: Reginald Abela supported the idea since it would enable the level of each school to be identified. Mary Owens said however that the system would need to follow the European qualifications

system. Louis Robert called for caution and pointed out that the system could discriminate against schools which offer a lower level of training than the others. In addition, the AEHT could not be seen to be discriminating against schools by refusing them accreditation. Before making a decision it was necessary to set up a task group which would analyse in greater detail the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed system.

8. Report from the Vice-President responsible for the Promotion of the AEHT and for its Website (Neeme Rand, NR)

Neeme Rand reminded the meeting that the new website had been set up by Ahti Paju from the Kuressaare school and was managed by Nadine Schintgen. He projected onto a large screen some statistics relating to the use of our website and gave a commentary on them: the system we have set up enabled us to discover easily which countries visit our site most, and which documents are most frequently consulted, and in which language. This information would enable us to adapt the website to the needs of its users.

The website also provides a link to EURYDICE, the information network about education in Europe, an integral part of the community action programme on lifelong learning and education. The information provided by EURYDICE, as well as the information provided by our own national representatives and published under the heading 'Hospitality Training' on our website, enable us to provide better preparation for our students undertaking placements abroad. Neeme again requested the national representatives to write, add to and check, in consultation with their language teachers, the information published under this heading. He recommended that they use the model entries provided by Austria and Finland.

9. Financial Report from the Treasurer (Klaus Enengl, KE)

Klaus Enengl informed the meeting that as of today 80 schools had not yet paid their annual subscription, representing an unpaid sum of around €50,000. A certain number of schools would have to be excluded for not having paid their subscriptions for three years.

The 2006 out-turn reflected the excellent financial health of the AEHT. Following the budget cuts imposed on all its ministries in 2007, the Luxembourg Government had reduced by one third (from €30,000 to €20,000) the annual subsidy granted to the AEHT; this made it even more imperative to seek new sources of funding.

In September 2007, Danielle Snauwaert and Jürgen Clausen had come to the AEHT head office to audit the AEHT's accounts. Since they were unable to attend the meeting Klaus Enengl read the report which they had given him; the report indicated that the accounts were well kept and that the out-turn which they showed was a true reflection of the AEHT's financial situation. The surplus shown for 2006 amounted to more than €19,000 and according to Jürgen Clausen could be used to finance the production of a brochure marking the AEHT's 20th anniversary.

Klaus Enengl proposed that a sum of €10,000 should be included in the 2008 budget (totalling €135,100) in order to provide advance finance for the activities of the Council of Elders; this sum would need to be approved by the General Assembly.

KE then read out a list of new members, exclusions and resignations:

A) Exclusions:

The exclusions would not be announced until the beginning of 2008, and only for those schools which by then had still not heeded reminders to pay their subscription.

B) Resignations:

1. USA01 CENET – Jackson, USA
2. FIN06 Pori
3. B04 Brakel
4. I54 Darfo Boario Terme
5. NL15 Leiden
6. B11 Gent
7. D06 Berlin
8. FIN04 Rovaniemi

C) New members:

1. TR25 Kusadasi – Aydin
2. NL26 Heerhugowaard
3. I133 Altamura
4. PL17 Grodzisk Mazowiecki
5. CR18 Bjelovar
6. PL16 Oleszyce
7. CR17 Rovinj
8. S57 Sundsvall
9. EE06 Voru County
10. PL15 Zary
11. PL14 Iwonicz-Zdroj
12. PL13 Krakow
13. PL12 Wroclaw
14. I132 Rende
15. E17 Almería
16. A15 Weyer
17. L992-PROF Dexia Bil – Luxembourg
18. ME01 Niksic
19. L996-PROF Siemens – Luxembourg
20. TR24 Kumburgaz
21. UKR03 Mykolaiv
22. RUS02 Samara
23. CR16 Opatija
24. CR15 Sibenik
25. VN03 Hue City
26. I131 Nuraxinieddu Oristano
27. TR23 Diyarbakir
28. I130 Ischia
29. SK06 Humenne

30.	B999-PROF	Cafés Rombouts – Aartselaar
31.	CH04	Bellinzona
32.	F997-PROF	Grand Marnier – Paris
33.	IRL12	Dublin
34.	VE01	Venezuela
35.	TR22	Bozuyuk
36.	L994-IND	Luxembourg
37.	L993-IND	Luxembourg
38.	I134	Martina Franca
39.	I135	Gallarate
40.	I136	Falcade
41.	I137	Milazzo
42.	I138	Maglie
43.	I139	Chatillon
44.	I140	Varese

10. Future Annual Conferences and 2008 Annual Conference in Kuressaare, Estonia

The calendar for future Annual Conferences is as follows:

2008: Kuressaare (Estonia) October 14th to 19th

2009: Dubrovnik, Croatia

2010: Poznan, Poland

2011: Portugal

2012: Ohrid, Macedonia

2013: Paris, France

2014: Belgrade, Serbia

Information about the Kuressaare annual conference would be published on the website at www.aehtkuressaare.eu which was also accessible via the link on the AEHT website. Neeme Rand briefly presented the Kuressaare event and promised that he would give more details at the General Assembly. He invited the meeting to take copies of the brochures which gave information on the programme, the excursions and the competitions which would be organised as well as the prices which would be charged at this conference.

11. Other Business

- Nadine Schintgen passed round a petition of which the objective was to support the Bulgarian teachers who were on strike in support of their demands listed below:
 - Making education a priority for Bulgarian society and the Bulgarian government ;
 - Investing at least 5% of GDP in the national education system;
 - Instituting a true reform based on a long-term programme of education development, to be negotiated with all the parties concerned: teachers, parents,

students, employees and state bodies. This programme should come into effect under the present government and remain in force under all future governments;

- Restoring to Bulgarian teachers a position of respect which is their due in any civilised society;
- Giving every educated Bulgarian citizen the opportunity to become a decent citizen in today's Europe ;
- Granting all teachers a salary increase of 100% (two increases of 50% each, one on October 1st 2007, the other on January 1st 2008), given that teachers starting their career earn €150, rising to €200 after 25 years experience.

In 2005 our support for Romania had had a highly successful outcome: the Bucharest school was able to remain in its premises and to keep the two training hotels which had been funded by the United Nations development programme. The AEHT has a real impact at an international level, and has a duty to give its support to worthy causes.

- Katerina Dimoïliopoulou informed the meeting that the Greek government was currently providing technical and financial support to two schools - one in Armenia and another in Georgia. Since these two countries are members of the Council of Europe, she asked whether the schools could become members in 2009. As there are not yet AEHT national representatives for these countries, the Executive Board would need to take a decision on their membership applications. The Executive Board gave its agreement in principle to AEHT membership for schools from these two countries.
- Serpil Arda asked whether the AEHT also made grants to university students. Louis Robert explained that the AEHT did not have adequate financial resources for this. However, there were other organisations such as the EU Erasmus programme which made such grants. In Luxembourg grants were available from Service Clubs (e.g. Rotary, Lions Club, etc.), which were also active in other countries.

12. Date of the Next Meeting of the Executive Board

The next meeting would take place on Saturday March 15th 2008 in Kuressaare, Estonia.



Louis Robert,
President



Nadine Schintgen,
General Secretary