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## 1. Introduction

After briefly welcoming the delegates Louis Robert thanked Andres Pung, director of professional and adult education at the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research, for the moral and financial support given by his ministry to the organisers of the 2008 Annual Conference. Andres Pung spoke of the importance of a competence-based economy and of the wide-ranging restructures carried out by Estonia; he announced that his country now participated in 'Worldskills' and in 'Eurosills' and had already achieved some successes. He observed, however, that the AEHT Annual Conference was the only event at which so many young people took part in competitions. Before taking his leave of the assembly he wished the delegates a fruitful meeting and a successful conference.

## 2. Agenda for the Executive Board Meeting

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

## 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Jesolo Lido, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2008)

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

## 4. Election of a New Vice-President Responsible for Higher Education:

Alfonso Benvenuto, director of the 'A. Panzini' IPSSARCT, had taken retirement as from September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 and had been replaced by Maria Rosella Bitti. She automatically took over the function of AEHT Italian national representative since, according to the statutes, *the status of active member is assigned to the post occupied within a hotel and/or tourism school and not to the person who occupies that post at a given moment*. However article 12 of the statutes specifies that the President and the 5 Vice-Presidents must be elected from within the Executive Board. Any national representative was entitled to be a candidate for election. The two competing candidates presented their reasons for wishing to join the AEHT Presidium:

- Maria Rosella Bitti, the new director of the 'A. Panzini' IPSSARCT in Senigallia, Italy;

- Annie Collinet, director of the François Bise Vocational Hotel School in Bonneville, France.

Annie Collinet was elected with a two-thirds majority by those Executive Board members who were present at the meeting.

## **5. President's Report (Louis Robert, LR):**

### **A. New software programme for the management of registration for the annual conference.**

Referring to the Annual Conference, Louis Robert emphasised the importance of the work carried out behind the scenes by the General Secretary, Nadine Schintgen, and by the Translator and Interpreter, John Rees Smith; their dedication was given a round of applause by those present. The AEHT Head Office provides considerable support in the organisation of the competitions, which are one of the most sensitive aspects of the Annual Conference. He took the opportunity to thank Neeme Rand for his amazing welcome and for all the innovations which he had introduced into the organisation of this Conference – these innovations would also be of great benefit to future organisers. The newly developed programme allows online management of registrations and access to the AEHT's database. All that is needed is to change the basic data, such as the name of the organisers, the hotels and the airports used, for the software to be operational for use at any large meeting. However, in order to be able to contact all of its membership, the AEHT needed to have working e-mail addresses, and for this the help of national representatives was more essential than ever. They were requested, as a matter of urgency, to check all the contact details of their national membership.

### **B. Seminars**

LR emphasised that the seminars constitute another highly important activity, a very useful source of competencies. He said that it was a pity that for example the most interesting seminar on white truffles which had taken place in early October in Porec, Croatia – which he himself had been able to attend – had attracted very few participants. In future we must do our best to ensure that AEHT events are better attended, and he urged the national representatives to encourage their member schools to take part in them.

### **C. Restolingua**

[www.restolingua.com](http://www.restolingua.com) is a menu translation site offering eight languages including Japanese. Once translated the menus are saved on the Restolingua server so that they can be accessed from anywhere in the world. A Chinese version is currently being prepared. Paul R.A.J. Van den Heuvel and his wife Arike Vermazen would like to have the 23,000 expressions in the programme translated into all the languages of AEHT member countries. Translators would receive 50 cents per expression translated. It would be an advantage if for each country, any new specific expressions (for example typical local dishes) were added. If you are interested, please contact Paul Van den Heuvel at [paul@restolingua.com](mailto:paul@restolingua.com).

Access to the site will continue to be free of charge until the end of the year, after which a charge will be made from 2009 onwards. Exclusively for member schools the user licence will cost 500 Euros per school per year (compared with 615 Euros for other users). However this cost could be covered by one or more local sponsors, whose logo would be displayed

each time a student or teacher from the school in question accessed the system. For each new subscriber the school and the AEHT would receive a 15% commission on the subscription fee. Member schools were asked to warn their students and teachers that revealing their user name and password to catering professionals would result in prosecution. We should note that a new language could be added only when a sufficient number of sponsors were identified to finance the translation work. 20% of the sponsorship income would be paid to the school which brought a new sponsor. During the Annual Conference the AEHT would be signing with Restolingua's directors an agreement in which all these arrangements were set out in detail. In addition, a detailed demonstration of the website would be given at a workshop on October 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **6. Report on Professional Placements (Bogusława Pienkowska, BP)**

As a consequence of various changes of post-holders the AEHT has experienced some difficulties this year in organising the placements for teachers in units of the ACCOR group. These problems had an impact on the number of receiving hotels and participating teachers. In order to avoid a repeat of this situation next year, those responsible for the placements will begin the preparatory work in December 2008. Mrs Magda Wagłowska-Krzyckiuk, a teacher at the 'SZKOLA POLICEALNA NR 13' school in Warsaw, will take over the day-to-day arrangements at the end of 2008.

For the record only seven teachers took part in the programme offered at hotels in six different countries. Jana Spec pointed out that a teacher from her school had organised his own placement directly with the German hotelier, since he had had no reply or support from Renata Długaszek. She thanked the AEHT Head Office for taking this placement into account and for paying the corresponding subsidy.

## **7. Report from the Vice-President Responsible for Higher Education and Continuing Professional Development (Alfonso Benvenuto, AB)**

In a very moving speech, Alfonso Benvenuto explained to the meeting that he had been involved with the AEHT for 20 years and that he had been a member of the Presidium for eight years. This report to the Executive Board would be his last in his capacity of Vice-President

### **A. Higher Education**

The survey on higher education carried out by AB had been obstructed by the problem of differing definitions of higher education in Europe. Some national representatives had sent him a list of schools, and he offered to the vice-president who would take over that portfolio all his help in drawing up a coherent list. He also offered to help Annie Collinet to organise a European conference or meeting on higher education.

### **B. Leonardo da Vinci Project on HACCP**

Alfonso Benvenuto was currently working with a team of Italian engineers of the EQUIPE Company of Ancona, of the Marche Polytechnic University of Ancona and of the « Ufficio Scolastico Regionale » in collaboration with the Head offices of the Hotel and Tourism Training Institutes of the Marche Region on drafting a Leonardo da Vinci project whose objective would be to set up a European standard and a model for management and organisation in the areas of quality, food safety, environment and health and safety at work. In

other words the project would focus on the implementation of HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) legislation – a method for controlling safety and hygiene in the area of food production. An online advice centre would be created to advise our member schools on legislation in force across the European Union. The objective of the project was to ensure that all our member schools observe the same criteria and standards whilst retaining their unique regional culinary specificities. In order to obtain the EU funding necessary for the project to be satisfactorily developed, it was essential to obtain the support of a public body. The previous week the Vice-President of the Marche Region had agreed to support the project and the request for a subvention from the European Commission. The national representatives attending the meeting agreed to give AB a mandate to continue to work on this project, which would be piloted with the schools in the Marche region before being transferred to all interested member schools.

## **8. Report from the Vice-President Responsible for Seminars and Occasional Events, for the Publication of Information on National Training Systems and for EU Educational Programmes (Ana Paula Pais, APP)**

Ana Paula PAIS reviewed the events which had taken place in 2008 under the aegis of the AEHT:

<b>FEBRUARY</b>		<i>Report received by 14/10/2008</i>	<i>Subsidy paid by the AEHT</i>
February 17 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> ‘Antonia Nebbia’ hot food contest entitled ‘Finger food and cocktails – innovation in tradition’, Cingoli, Italy	no	no
<b>MARCH</b>			
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> Cocktail Competition - Francoli Cup 2008, Ghemme, Italy	--	No subsidy agreed
March 13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup>	International Gastronomy Festival: Sport and Health (Theme: nautical activities) Faro, Portugal	received	Paid on 03/07/08
<b>APRIL</b>			
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup>	‘GASTRO 2008’ Gastronomy Contest, Porec, Croatia	no (Note: received only on 29/10/08)	no
April 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	‘Bartolomeo Scappi’ International Competition 2008, Castel San Pietro Terme, Italy	--	No subsidy agreed
April 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup> International Culinary Arts Competition entitled ‘Il Piatto Verde (The Green Plate) 2008’, Riolo Terme, Italy	--	No subsidy agreed
<b>MAY</b>			
May 8 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Competition for Hotel Reception Employees, Giulianova, Italy	received	Paid on 13/06/08
<b>JUNE</b>			
June 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Seminar on ‘The Secrets of Madeira Wines’, Funchal, Portugal	received	Paid on 12/09/08

## OCTOBER

October 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	Seminar entitled 'White Truffles between Tradition and Contemporary Culinary Arts', Porec, Croatia	received	Paid on 13/10/08
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Nadine Schintgen pointed out there were two schools which had still not handed in their final reports and which had therefore not yet received the subsidy to which they were entitled (see table below). The organisers were requested to send the necessary documents to the AEHT Head Office as soon as possible (available at [www.aeht.eu](http://www.aeht.eu) under useful documents rubric) as well as some photographs and articles.

There were two further events on the programme for this year:

## NOVEMBER

November 12 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop on 'Information and Communication Technologies' Waterford, Ireland
November	Eurocup 2008 – young barman competition (16 <sup>th</sup> edition), Prešov, Slovakia

## DECEMBER

December 5 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas in Europe, Château-Chinon, France
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Marek Sotak reminded the meeting that detailed information regarding the 2008 Eurocup competition, to take place in Prešov on November 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, could be found in the folder distributed to the Executive Board as well as on the AEHT website. Registration fees ranged between €80 and €120. The official deadline for registration was October 17<sup>th</sup> but the organisers were prepared to accept entries from AEHT member schools up to November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008. He also pointed out that as part of the contest the young bartenders are asked to prepare not only an alcoholic aperitif but also an alcohol-free soft drink.

Some events were already scheduled for 2009; the list was completed at the Assembly and the latest version is as follows:

## FEBRUARY

February 21 <sup>st</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Golden Trophy of Brescian Gastronomy, Colorno, Italy
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## MARCH

March 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Francoli Cup 2009 probably in Stresa, Lake Maggiore.</i>
March 12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	<i>International Festival of Gastronomy: Sports and Health (Topic: Motor sports), Faro, Portugal</i>
March 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> International Hot Dishes Competition "Antonio Nebbia", Cingoli, Italy
March 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Atlantic Tea Festival, Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, Azores, Portugal

## APRIL

April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Bartenders' competition G&T Cup, Bled, Slovenia
April 21 <sup>st</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup>	"Bartolomeo Scappi" International Competition 2009, Castel San Pietro Terme, Italy
End of April	'Dining with the ancient Romans', their gastronomy, culture, history, art and music, Oristano, Sardinia, Italy

<b>MAY</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> week of May	‘Gioacchino Rossini Gourmet’ Culinary competition, Loreto, Italy
Beginning of May	‘GASTRO 2009’ Gastronomy Competition, Komiža Island, Croatia
May 7 <sup>th</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> competition for Hotel Receptionists and 3 <sup>rd</sup> City tourism competition (Topic: mountains), Giulianova, Italy
<b>JUNE</b>	
June 17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	Mediterranean Cuisine with summer flavour, Funchal, Madeira, Portugal
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
October	Seminar on ‘Mushrooms in traditional Polish cuisine’, Swidnica, Poland
October - November	Eurocup 2009 - Junior bartenders competition (16 <sup>th</sup> ed.), Prešov, Slovakia
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
November 17 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup> AEHT Annual Conference, Dubrovnik, Croatia
November 29 <sup>th</sup>	Competition on ‘Dressing tables’, Forlimpopoli, Italy
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
December	18 <sup>th</sup> Christmas in Europe, Poznan, Poland
<b>EVENTS TO BE CONFIRMED</b>	
postponed from 2008	2 <sup>nd</sup> International Thrace Cup Competition at the Anatolian Hotel and Tourism Vocational High School, Tekirdag, Turkey
postponed to 2009 from 2008 (to be confirmed)	Seminar ‘From sea to plate – a course in sustainable methods of fish and shellfish production and preparation’, Gothenburg, Sweden
April 2009 (to be confirmed)	Gastronomy in the Springtime: The colours, scents and flavours of the European art of table decoration from Easter to Whitsun, Budapest, Hungary.

Serpil Arda undertook to contact the Tekirdag school to find out whether they would be organising their 2<sup>nd</sup> International Thrace Cup in 2009, the event having been cancelled in 2008 for a variety of reasons. Following a telephone call from Arne Larsson to the Gothenburg school, Gothenburg undertook to inform Nadine Schintgen as soon as possible whether or not they would be organising the seminar entitled ‘From sea to plate – a course in sustainable methods of fish and shellfish production and preparation’ which had been cancelled in 2008 because of insufficient applications. The General Secretary would contact Akos Sasvari regarding the possible organisation of a 2009 version of Gastronomy in the Springtime in Budapest.

## **9. Report from the Vice-President Responsible for Promotion and for the AEHT Website (Neeme Rand, NR)**

Since Neeme Rand was constantly being called away to handle aspects of the organisation of the 2008 Annual Conference, he was unable to be present for the entire meeting; his report was therefore deferred until the General Assembly.

## **10. Financial Report from the Treasurer (Klaus Enengl, KE)**

Each national representative had already received a copy of the financial statement approved by the accounts auditors as well as a list of new memberships, exclusions and resignations which were to be approved by the General Assembly (please see the list contained on the minutes of the General Assembly); Klaus Enengl therefore decided to confine himself to providing only essential information and to make a more detailed presentation to the General Assembly.

Klaus expressed his regret that each year there were schools which took part in the Annual Conference without having paid their annual subscription beforehand. This year there were 14 such schools. Neeme Rand added that 20 participating schools had not yet paid their conference registration fees, and that a large number of schools had not paid the bank transfer fees, which represented a considerable loss for the organisers - something which future organisers must avoid at all costs! Those schools which had just become members, as well as those which had not yet paid, could settle up directly with KE during this conference. KE requested the help of national representatives in identifying the schools concerned.

## **11. Annual Conference in Dubrovnik**

Antún Perusina and Nero Jaxicic announced that the official dates of the Dubrovnik Conference would be November 17<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2009. Because the sound system was not working, it was decided that the film presenting Dubrovnik, its tourist attractions and the hotels providing conference accommodation, would be shown at the General Assembly. This film, produced by the Tourist Office, had won first prize in a competition involving a selection of films presenting tourist destinations. Participants could obtain a copy of the film at several stands at the conference.

Mary Owens offered to give the AEHT, free of charge, the set of flags which had been used at the Killarney Conference in 2006, so that they could be made available to future organisers.

## **12. Council of Elders**

The Council of Elders was to be considered as a think-tank made up of experts producing ideas in a range of areas of interest to the AEHT. Because time was short it was decided that the objectives of the Council of Elders – which had already met twice, for the first time in March 2008 in Kuressaare and for the second time in Diekirch in September 2008 – would be presented by Adolf Steindl, one of its members, at the General Assembly.

## **13. Proposed modification of the statutes**

Louis Robert expressed the view that the President's mandate was too short and suggested that the statutes should be modified in this regard. There were two possible solutions: one was to allow the President to carry out two consecutive mandates; the other was to extend the president's mandate by one year, making it four years. This second proposal would apply also to the mandates of the Vice-Presidents and of the Executive Board members. The National Representatives expressed a preference for the second proposal. It was only an Extraordinary

General Assembly that could pronounce on a change to the statutes, and only in accordance with the following arrangements:

*'The Extraordinary General Assembly, called to debate the proposed modifications, must consist of two thirds of the active members, either present or represented. Each member present can have only one properly drawn up proxy vote. If the meeting is inquorate, a second Extraordinary General Assembly is called within six weeks. This will be a valid meeting, whatever the number of active members present or represented. A majority vote of the members present or represented is necessary for the proposal to be adopted'. (Article 18 of the AEHT Statutes).*

Furthermore, Luxembourg law has just introduced the possibility of transferring the *administration office* of a non-profit-making organisation to another place or even to another country merely by decision of the Board, without needing to transfer the head office at the same time. LR would also like the statutes to include an allusion to this possibility in order to ensure that the administrative work continues smoothly in the future.

#### **14. Date of the next meeting of the Executive Board**

The next meeting of the Executive Board would take place on Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup> in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Diekirch, October 31<sup>st</sup> 2008



Louis Robert,  
President



Nadine Schintgen,  
General Secretary