



European Co-operation
in Anthroposophical Curative
Education and Social Therapy
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MINUTES GENERAL MEETING ECCE 2009

MAY 7TH 18.00H – MAY 10TH 12.00H

Iona Instituut, Nieuwe Bevelsesteenweg 66, B-2508 Kessel, België

Record of those present and excused: see appendix.

Thursday May 7th, 19.30h

The president, Mrs. Adrienne Thier, opens the meeting and welcomes everyone.

She gives a special welcome to some new representatives who will introduce themselves later on during the meeting.

Short history of curative education and social therapy in Belgium, by Mr. Werner Govaert

Mr. Werner Govaert is introduced by his wife Mrs. Veerle Vandyck, temporary director of the Iona Instituut. Mr. Govaert works for the Rudolf Steiner Academy in Belgium.

Accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation Mr. Govaert states some general facts about Belgium and the country's language areas.

The kingdom Belgium has a complex structure on three levels: the upper level comprises the **federal state**, the **Communities** and the **Regions**; the middle level is occupied by the **Provinces**; and the lower level is that of the **Communes**.

Accordingly, Belgium is made up of three Communities (the Flemish Community, the French Community and the German-speaking Community), three Regions (the Flemish Region, the Brussels-Capital Region and the Walloon Region), 10 Provinces and 589 Communes.

Decision-making is not exclusively the competency of the federal government and federal parliament. The country is run by various bodies which discharge their allotted duties autonomously.

Mr. Govaert points out that anthroposophy really started in Belgium after Worldwar II. In 1954 the first Waldorfschool was founded. Years later curative education was founded.

The Iona Instituut, founded by Bruno Skerath in 1969, has 16 ha. of land, 30 children, 27 adults, 70 staff members and is state funded.

The other anthroposophical institutions in Belgium are:

- Widar, which was founded in 1985 by Jan Borghs. It has 40 ha. of land, 40 adults, 14 resident staff members and is state funded.
- Christoforus, founded by Roland Verstraete in 1985, has 21 adults.
- Talander, founded in 1986 by Jos Sierens, has 15 adults and 11 resident staff members only.
- The Speelhoeve was founded by Petra Herkens in 1984 and has 10 children and 13 staff members, also state funded.
- The Parcivalschool is founded in 1971 by Ria Pandelaers and is a primary educational school with 111 pupils. The secondary educational school has 86 pupils and offers logistic assistant health care and house decorator trainings. It is state funded by de Ministry of Education.
- The Plantij Hogeschool Antwerpen offers orientation courses, application courses (bachelor in remedial education). With so few institutions it is difficult to get the courses fully manned.

These institutions co-operate with each other, also with local and national organisations. There is little co-operation with the Waldorfschools.

Friday May 8th, 9,00h

Mrs. Adrienne Thier welcomes everyone.

An introduction round follows of new representatives:

- Mrs. Elisabetta Zorn introduces herself. She comes from Trieste, Italy. She has a 24 year old autistic son. After she had visited Perceval in Switzerland, she was so impressed by the way of anthroposophical care that she started a day centre in the mountains of Trieste, which today consists of 17 adults. Mrs. Zorn represents the parent organisation 'Associazione di Lingua Italiana per la Pedagogia Curativa e Socioterapia Antroposofica' within ECCE and takes over from Mr. Vincenzo Ruisi.

- Mrs. Marianne Lindström is from Sweden and a member of the board for social therapy and curative education. Twenty years ago, she started a place for mentally handicapped children near Göteborg, these children are now grown-up and work mainly on the farm. Mrs. Lindström is a psychotherapist. She will take over from Mrs. Katharina Karlsson as a representative of 'Nordiska Förbundet för Läkepedagogik och Socialterapi' within ECCE.

- Mr. Thomas Kraus represents the BundesElternVereinigung für Anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie e.V. and the Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. He lives and works already for 15 years in Berlin in a city community: Heilpädagogisches Therapeutikum Stadtgemeinschaft, which has been established 20 years ago and consists of 100 adults with a school and workshops. He lived on the premises for 7 years.

Mr. Kraus also works for the European Congresses 'Living-in-the-encounter', which he does for 14 years. The first time this conference was held in Berlin (1998), the last in 2008 in The Hague (NL) and the next (5th) will be held in Vienna, Austria (2011); more information on www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu. He now tries to internationalize those Congresses and wants to combine the Eastern European countries with ECCE.

Those excused are being mentioned, of which Mr. Thomas Prange as a representative of Estia Agios Nikolaos, Greece, is welcomed as a new full member of ECCE (www.estia-agios-nikolaos.de).

Organisational

1. Minutes

1.1 Draft minutes General Meeting, Munich, April 24th – 27th 2008

Without remarks, these minutes are approved of.

1.2 Minutes Informal General Meeting, Dornach, October 12th – 13th 2008 (informative)

Point 3. Questions: Mrs. Helle Hansen's question was about the parent organisations and not about the conference for parents.

2. Election Committee members

2.1 - Mrs. Katharina Karlsson has been a member of the ECCE Committee for 6 years. She will take leave. She might participate in the General Meetings as a supporting member.

- Mr. Vincenzo Ruisi decided for health reasons to resign from the Committee and the General Meeting. He was in Denmark for the last Committee meeting. The Committee said a warm goodbye to him then. He proposes Mrs. Elisabetta Zorn as his successor in the General Meeting, he is willing to continue to be webmaster and designer of the website ECCE. A goodbye card will be handed around during the meeting for everyone to sign.

- The Committee proposes Mr. Thomas Kraus as Committee member on the recommendation of the Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. and the BundesElternVereinigung für Anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie e.V. Mr. Michael Dackweiler points out that the German parents have asked Mr. Thomas Kraus to take this on, because the parents are either too busy or too old as there are few younger parents available. His European interest and his interest in the personal lives of people with disabilities makes him the perfect candidate for them.

Because some members ask for the opportunity to make acquaintance with Mr. Kraus it is decided to postpone the election till a later time in the meeting.

The Committee is still looking for a new member, preferably a parent and preferably from the United Kingdom or Scandinavia.

The outcome of the election (on Sunday morning May 10th) is:
58 votes for Mr. Kraus; 4 abstinences.

3. Finances

3.1 Annual report 2008

Mr. Bernard Heldt mentions page 5, Point 1.6 Voluntary work, of the report: all the work performed by its regular and Committee members within the framework of ECCE is done on a voluntary basis and covers a 0.75 job. But it never could be done by one person because of the professional skills and expertise which is brought in by the different persons. This is the power of ECCE!

Mrs. Roelien Kort is the only paid person within the office.

Mr. Michael Dackweiler wonders about the debtors on page 13. Will we get the total sum because of debts of 2002? Mr. Bernard Heldt: we corrected a mistake – it was supposed the Danish were a full member, but they pay their contribution to the Nordiska Förbundet. There is a consultation with Nordiska Förbundet about their deficit.

Mrs. Renate Chwatal asks explanation of the CESTE-NET project (page 16). Bernard Heldt explains that from 2005 – 2007 the Leonardo da Vinci project was on, the 'train the trainers' project. Mr. Petter Holm (Norway) controlled this project and Bernard was the end controller. The program is closed now and settled with the European Union; there are no debts.

Mr. Paulamaria Blaxland: what is the pilot course? Bernard: that was the first course of 4 block weeks.

With these remarks the annual report 2008 is hereby approved of.

3.2 Draft budget 2009

Mr. Bernard Heldt: there will be a shortage of € 1.400,-. ECCE doesn't possess anything and is dependent on the host of its office: the Edith Maryon College. ECCE has to pay for minimal office costs.

The Committee meets twice a year and the Executive Committee once a year in Brussels or Paris and there are in between telephone conferences for daily affairs. Furthermore there are conferences and meetings to go to for members of the Committee in order to represent ECCE. The funds of the Congress 'living-in-the-encounter' The Hague 2008, can be found on their website: www.in-der-begegnung-leben.eu.

The total of € 23.350,- for a whole year is very low budget.

Mrs. Béatrice Cussac: will the office costs be the same without the CESTE-NET program in the draft budget 2009? Answer: without indexation, the net costs will be in principle the same.

Mr. Michael Dackweiler states that it is admirable that an organisation like ECCE is able to do all its work for such a low budget! He is happy with the voluntary workers. We have to talk about the 5% raise of the contribution.

Mr. Bernard Heldt: if Vincenzo Ruisi would stop his voluntary work for the website, we will have a problem. The ECCE brochure costs will have to come out of funds.

The draft budget 2009 is hereby approved of.

3.3 Membership contribution 2009

Mr. Bernard Heldt: it is 2 years ago since we raised the contribution. Can the GM agree upon a raise of 5%? Mr. Michael Dackweiler: it is not easy in the German situation. The financial situation is in a critical movement.

Mrs. Brigitte Kaldenberg: the same counts for Switzerland, when the right key is worked out, then Switzerland would want to go back in contribution.

Mr. Bernard Heldt: we will establish a financial working group, they will establish a new, transparent key to be discussed by the members. At the moment we handle the International Conference key, this has been changed, but ECCE didn't change accordingly.

The contribution raise of 5% is accepted by the members and will be made effective in 2009.

Mrs. Renate Chwatal: the Freie Bildungsstätten auf anthroposophischer Grundlage in Österreich has been partly dissolved into another organisation, PLATO. She will take up the matter of the ECCE contribution with this new association.

3.4 Financial working group

As already discussed we will establish a financial working group, consisting of ca. 3-4 persons. The aims are: In order to support the Committee in financial issues, the Committee proposes to the General Meeting to form a financial working group, consisting of the treasurer, and about three representatives. The financial working group advises the Committee.

Tasks: Preparing financial issues for policy formulation, as: working out an actual key for the membership contribution; finding additional income for projects, fundraising; advising the budget for the next year; advising concerning the annual report.

The financial working group works via the internet and telephone, telephone conferences. If necessary and possible, they can meet (in connection with other meetings).

4. Membership issues

New member:

4.1 *Estia Agios Nikolaos in Galaxidi, Greece.* Representative: Mr. Thomas Prange.

Mr. Michael Dackweiler: it is a small initiative consisting of 30 adults. It would be good if someone of the ECCE Committee would come to a boardmeeting of the German parent organisation, in Berlin 2010.

4.3. *ECCE needs to establish more parent organisations for the balance.* After 2013 we will be measured again by the European Disability Forum (EDF). ECCE is full member of EDF and wants to remain so.

Bernard Heldt has asked the Russian association for curative education and social therapy to join ECCE and found Thomas Kraus prepared to meet with them and parents in June 2009. Thomas Kraus foresees that the parents won't be eager: membership of ECCE costs money, you have to travel and put energy in it.

There will be a problem in coming years when we have too many professional members.

Maybe we will interest more parent organisations by organizing a parent conference.

The outcome of the discussion is that everywhere parents organisations need the support of the institutions or co-workers.

It not only is a question of parents but also of service providers, the co-workers help the parent organisation to exist. When the co-workers don't support, the parent organisations are difficult to establish, the parents should join training courses to get processes going.

Mrs. Deborah Ingves: there always was too little time to meet as parents during the General Meetings, she is very happy to be able to meet this time.

5. European politics and organisations

5.1 *ELIANT. The opinion of the General Meeting is asked, for the foundation of an Alliance ELIANT.*

Mr. Bernard Heldt: in 2006 the ELIANT charter was founded in Brussels. ELIANT is the European alliance for working area's on the base of anthroposophy, like schools, health/medical care etc. Together with Adrienne Thier he attends the ELIANT meetings twice a year. At this moment there are about 730.000 signatures, 1 million is the goal. The appeal to the ECCE members is to help and hand out lists of ELIANT in their countries to obtain more signatures. People with handicaps can sign as well -400 of them did already- they should be capable of understanding what they sign though. Everyone can sign, also adolescents if it is clear they understand what they sign. It is important ELIANT is seen, especially in Brussels, therefore the decision is made to establish a low budget office in Brussels, the costs of that will be approximately € 100,- a month, with people working for a low salary. The Committee asks the General Meeting to approve the Internal Organisation of the office and to co-support that office.

ELIANT has members within the different areas of the anthroposophical movement. Even EDF agreed to support the ELIANT campaign.

The meeting agrees to ELIANT. The text will be put on the ELIANT.EU website with the suggested changes.

5.2 *Mr. Michael Dackweiler wants to put in 2 points:*

Point 1: He speaks on behalf of the parent organisation: – Mrs. Martha Eigenmeier – (marthaeike@web.de) who has a position in Strasbourg on a European level, pointed out that the European Parliament decided that it is their intention of allowing to abort human embryo's with illnesses.

How aware are we in Europe to such situations. Can ECCE assist in these kind of situations?

Can we make an appointment to protest against this position?

The aspect is that one gets rid of certain illnesses, like Down-syndrome. Detecting illnesses in the embryonic state.

We have to manage to get the problem in the papers, try to find connections European wide to protest against this.

It is an European law, therefore ECCE can act to the situation. Would like an e-mail from ECCE what to do about the situation. It is a matter for every EU country.

Michael will send a text to Mr. Heldt through Mr. Bernd Keicher. Mr. Heldt will send it through. It will be in German.

Mrs. Béatrice Cussac: we had this discussion last year, someone wanted this issue on the agenda of the General Meeting. The Committee decided against that, because it is a very personal issue, which has not only to do with curative education. It is wider than that. Maybe it should be handled by ELIANT.

Mr. Michael Mullan: Euthanasia as practiced in some European countries (The Netherlands) should be spoken about and questioned.

Mr. Michael Dackweiler: wants the issue to be put on the next program. It is important to raise one's voice. People from ELIANT don't know the handicapped people as we do.

Mrs. Helle Hansen: abortion should be put on the program of the General Meeting. She hopes to find a form to talk about these issues. She asks Mr. Dackweiler what she can do in her own organisation.

Mr. Michael Dackweiler proposes this to be the theme of the mini-conference within the General Meeting next year.

This could be a topic for the informal General Meeting in September.

We have to create a space where these issues can be discussed. The Medical Section is discussing this already at great length. Out of that can be formed a platform, a forum, not next year but quite soon.

It can also be a topic for the conference for parents.

Mr. Michael Mullan: questionable philosophy: some children in need of special care are regarded as being 'non-persons' (see Peter Singer).

Mrs. Béatrice Cussac: it is a question of freedom and awareness, also for ECCE. To prevent an abortion for who ever that wants. She can't judge them. It is good to have a discussion about this.

Mr. Michael Dackweiler:

Point 2: June 16th - 19th 2010, 15th World Congress of Inclusion International, in Berlin.

See also: www.inclusion2010.de

We should find someone to speak on this congress.

5.3 Additional point

Mrs. Deborah Ingves: wants to give some information about the parents meeting which was held on Thursday May 7th. She is a parent herself, out of that she is interested in parents in other countries. What are they going through? She organized this parents meeting now, without an agenda. The main topic was: do we have anything to talk about? Being a parent is an experience.

Mrs. Paulamaria Blaxland came in the meeting, she is not a parent but was kind enough to make notes. Conclusion of this meeting: as parents we do want to meet. But in the most effective way, there is a lot to discuss; one feels the need to know more about everyone's situation and the situation in the different countries.

Because there are parents in the Committee, these meetings should not coincide with the Committee meeting.

Discussion:

In Italy there are no special schools. No provision whatsoever. No training of any kind. No training for children with special needs.

Mr. Leonardo Fulgosi: there is a training in Italy, but the situation is rather miserable. The parents need to go abroad to find a place for their children, in Switzerland or in France, nothing is done in Italy. Special classes in Waldorfschools are not an issue. There is no specific interaction.

Question: Why do we segregate parents and co-workers?

In 1992 ECCE created an international position of curative education and social therapy. We didn't make a distinction between parents and co-workers. To be a full member of EDF we had to make that distinction, formally.

As a parent you are not in a free position regarding your child, co-workers don't have this issue, they are not on the same level. Parents have the most important role in a child's life. When problems arise in the biography of a child, parents need professional help. And professionals have their professional standards and expertise. Find a good bases to exchange for the benefit of the child or adult in every aspect. That is what ECCE is about.

We need communication between parents, between professionals and between the two. The disabled people themselves should be involved, because all action is in their interest.

A parent considers the free choice situation but out of the viewpoint of a parent. That is their right and must be respected. ECCE acknowledges this. But there is an inner level and an outer level.

The outer level: ECCE is an organisation which is a member of European organisations. Those organisations are organized for parents and for service providers. ECCE sees it as her task to strengthen the parent organisations. Inclusion Europe is a member of ECCE and vice versa.

Because we are service providers we are also member of EASPD. We try to fight for a place on a certain level, in the interests of persons with disabilities. But internally this might be different for everyone. It is not as simple as one thinks it is.

The question: What and how is the relationship between the different European organisations, how do they facilitate the potential problems that we are encountering, can be a theme for a conference.

After this discussion the GM decides to continue with point 10 on the agenda:

10. Conference for parents in 2010

Who is organizing this conference? The parents or the board of ECCE? The Committee would be glad when the parents organize this conference.

A possible theme can be: respect and responsibility, relationships. These themes are difficult, ethical questions. It becomes an ethical dilemma as professionals or parents don't understand the problems of the handicapped persons when they want a relationship. It is not easy to talk about such intimate items for parents who can't converse in their own language. Should it be held in different countries?

The conference should be held on a European level, interpreters will be found. Make an appeal to the awareness of the parents, they then can take it back to their countries.

There should be lectures, discussions and working groups.

The conference should be for ca. 150 parents in the Parliament in Brussels.

Mr. Michael Mullan suggests Mrs. Annelies Ketelaar and Mr. Wolfgang Dahlkus as speakers. Hertha Feichtinger, Renate Chwatal, Chris Teeseling, Deborah Ingves and Susanna Frey will take part in the preparations for this conference for parents.

6. Office

6.1 General Information Sheet

The office will send the sheets off to those who haven't responded yet and to the others for updating. The office intends to do this once a year.

Content

7. Policy document

Mr. Bernard Heldt gives a small process description of working on the Policy document. Mrs. Béatrice Cussac was asked to reduce the paper till what it is now. She did a marvellous job with reshaping it! She tried to make things clear so that if you hand it out, it won't take too much time to read. She worked with all the remarks that everyone had put in last year.

Now we can still work it through if needed, but we won't postpone it another year.

There is some discussion about the paper still and the meeting decides that (a few people) Mrs. Paulamaria Blaxland, Mr. John Byrde, Mrs. Béatrice Cussac and Mr. Bernard Heldt will look at it again. The Committee will decide about the definitive version.

8. History of ECCE

The Committee had the idea to describe in short the history of ECCE. Mrs. Béatrice Cussac will make a schedule and questions for the interviews to be held by different people. It eventually will be put on the ECCE website.

9. Rules and Regulations ECCE

This is the first time ECCE gathered all the rules and regulations made by the Committee and the General Meeting in the past years. We renewed the Statutes of ECCE. We put in the most structural ways of working; also ways of working which are so flexible that they need change once in the so many years. These changes can't be taken up in the statutes.

After 14 years we changed our statutes. The General Meeting has an important voice in that process.

Mr. Bernard Heldt: Point 3: '*ECCE does not interfere in internal affairs of their members, without permission*' is new, has not been discussed in the General Meeting, but in the Committee.

Bernard Heldt got requests from institutions in different countries to advice in certain problems; he always replies that ECCE doesn't interfere in local events. The Committee is of the opinion that we shouldn't interfere. Problems should be addressed to the representative of the country.

Bernard Heldt: point 4: procedure about membership contribution payment. Also mentioned in the ECCE statutes, a member who is not satisfied with the decision of the Committee can ask advice of the General Meeting. We will insert the article from the statutes.

The meeting approves of the rules and regulations. The Committee will take up the remarks and send the improved document around.

11. Training issues

Reflection on training conference Kassel (DE), April 29th – May 2nd 2009. Bernard Heldt gives a report on the conference in Kassel. A meeting of training centres in curative education and social therapy all around the world and Europe. Margaretha Fulgosi, Michael Mullan and Bernard Heldt attended. At the moment there are 3 training centres member of ECCE. Bernard Heldt is asked to be an observer in the meetings of the training council. A new project will probably start of which is not much information yet. The training council is busy with working on train-the-trainer.

The meeting would like to hear more about the different training centres. Put this on the program again next time.

12. Mini-conference Saturday May 8th (see annex 2 & 3)

13. 12 Aspects for parent organisations (see annex 1)

The document will be discussed to get clear what ECCE can mean to national parent organisations.

The meeting is split up in 4 working groups: A, B, C, D – according to the 4 levels.

After having worked out the reflections the Committee will then improve the paper accordingly.

The discussion is taken up in annex 1.

Mrs. Béatrice Cussac: regardless the level, ECCE for parents should be more aware of the European level, what is going on. Be aware that the parents have very little power.

Mr. Michael Mullan: there are great discrepancies between the different countries. ECCE can work on more support to parent organisations.

Mr. Bernard Heldt: the Committee has a lot to discuss. We let you know how we continue. We touched on a very serious theme, which brings us further.

Mrs. Alexandra Buijsman: this is just a start. It would be a pity to leave it to the Committee. The groups should work out their points and email it through to the office.

Mr. Michael Mullan: every country should make report about discrepancies. Use the members' page on the ECCE website for this.

Mrs. Paulamaria Blaxland: each country should give a description of care plans etc., what is the path of a new villager when that person is admitted to the institution, what are the procedures around admittance?

14. PR and public affairs

Mr. Bernard Heldt: the office would like to have comments on the ECCE website.

The brochure is not finished. The Committee is still working on it.

Mrs. Béatrice Cussac would like to officially invite Inclusion Europe and EDF to the meetings of ECCE. This time they couldn't come because they had another meeting in Greece.

General Meeting 2010

We are warmly invited by Roxana and John Byrde to come in 2010 to Casa Rozei, Romania. The airport in Bucharest is about 60 km. away and transport can be handled by Casa Rozei. Accommodation (single rooms in the institute) can be provided and don't need to be paid. That wages up to the travelling costs.

The meeting decided on having their next General Meeting in 2010 in Casa Rozei in Romania, on April 22nd – 25th or **May 6th – 9th 2010**, with beforehand a parent meeting. The date has to be sorted out yet, because the Germans can't come in April and in May it is a problem for others (MD).

The Informal General Meeting will be held on September 20th 2009 in Dornach, before the Conference of the International Council for curative education and social therapy. Time: 14.00 – 17.00h. Information will be send around about the meeting place. The people who were there last time should be invited too, as guests.

The Conference for Parents could be in late spring, maybe in connection with an informal General Meeting.

Last but not least: the election of Mr. Thomas Kraus as a member of the ECCE Committee. There are 58 votes for and 4 abstinence votes. Mrs. Adrienne Thier, as president, welcomes Mr. Thomas Kraus as a new member of the Committee.

Announcements:

Mrs. Katharina Karlsson would like to give thanks for the goodbye gift – and dinner in the restaurant.

She wants to express three wishes for ECCE:

- 1 Struggle in freedom. Try to find words and concepts together.
- 2 When we talk about each other we include each other.
- 3 Conversation is more precious than light. This is very important. On a personal level creating space in between is important.

Mrs. Adrienne Thier: Mrs. Hertha Feichtinger has been here for the last time as a representative to ECCE. Mrs. Renate Chwatal will take over from her. We all thank Hertha for her pleasant presence and active and loyal participation.

Parent conference:

Mrs. Alexandra Buijsman: to organize such a conference within 1 year is not thinkable time wise. Perhaps the conference can be combined with the Living-in-the-encounter conference, to avoid extra organisation. Possibly in 2 years time?

Mr. Thomas Kraus doesn't think this a good idea, the balance won't be right. It is too much also for the parents, they must have the chance to organize their own conference, 150 people is manageable to arrange. To link the two conferences will not work. Too many co-workers and parents will be participating in such a conference, which leads to a wrong balance.

There is an event, after Michaelmas 2009, September 24th - 27th, organized by parents at the Goetheanum: Community Building Meeting. An American parent has been involved.

Parent Conference working group: Mr. Chris van Teeseling, Mrs. Renate Chwatal, Mrs. Hertha Feichtinger and Mrs. Susanna Frey can take part in the organisation of the conference. Mrs. Deborah Ingves will be asked to take part. Also the German association should be involved. This working group will take on the challenge of organizing this conference; prepare a mission-statement/manifest. The conference should be open for all.

Preferably the place should be the Parliament in Brussels, because of European appearance, although the Goetheanum in Dornach is mentioned a few times.

Mrs. Adrienne Thier will find out about a conference in the Eur. Parliament; we need the assistance of an MEP and they will be newly elected within some weeks So we have to wait with our actions until the MEPs are settled. Mrs. Paulamaria Blaxland will find out about the 'Love Show' for to maybe invite them to perform at the conference.

Michel Mullan will send the notes of his talk to Roelien Kort in English and probably in German, to be put on the ECCE website on the page for members.

Mrs. Marianne Lindström: wants to express her thanks to Roxana and John Byrde for inviting the General Meeting to Romania. She looks forward to that.

Mr. John Byrde: Can we make a link on Yahoo to send around messages to the members? Don't let the members go to the website of ECCE. This takes up too much time.

Closure of the meeting:

Mrs. Adrienne Thier thanks the co-workers of the Iona Institute for the information, their help and the excursion. She also thanks Mrs. Alexandra Buijsman for the social eurythmy.

Mrs. Katharina Karlsson wants to thank the Iona Institute for having us in such difficult times.

Herewith Mrs. Adrienne Thier closes the meeting at 12.00h on Sunday May 10th.

Appendix

Present and excused members General Meeting ECCE, May 7th – 10th 2009, Iona Instituut, Kessel, Belgium

Guest: Mrs. Véronique Duchenne, Belgium Disability Forum (at the mini-conference)

Present

Austria

- Renate Chwatal: Sprachrohr für Menschen in anthroposophisch orientierten Lebens-Lernstätten (PO)
- Herta Feichtinger: Sprachrohr für Menschen in anthroposophisch orientierten Lebens-Lernstätten (PO)
- Michael Mullan: PlatO (IC / CM)

Belgium

- Ann Naeyaert: Michaëlis vzw (IC)
- Adrienne Thier: GOVAG vzw (PO / CM / EC)

Denmark

- Helle Hansen: Dansk Forbund for Helsepaedagogik og Socialterapi (IC)

France

- Bernadette Bernier: Mouvement de Pédagogie Curative et de Sociothérapie (IC)
- Béatrice Cussac: 'Les Ravis'; Association française de parents d'hand.ment. (PO/CM)

Germany

- Michael Dackweiler: Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. (IC)
- Thomas Kraus: BundesElternVereinigung für Anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie e.V. (PO) and Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. (IC)

Italy

- Margaretha Fulgosi: Associazione di Lingua Italiana per la Pedagogia Curativa e Socioterapia Antroposofica (PO / IC) ; Fondazione per la Scuola 'Bruno Marchesin' (TC) (CM / EC / S)
- Leonardo Fulgosi: Associazione di Lingua Italiana per la Pedagogia Curativa e Socioterapia Antroposofica (IC / PO)
- Elisabetta Zorn: Associazione di Lingua Italiana per la Pedagogia Curativa e Socioterapia Antroposofica (IC / PO)

Netherlands

- Alexandra Buijsman: (S)
- Bernard Heldt: Edith Maryon College (TC / CM / EC)
- Chris van Teeseling: Landelijk Ouder Verbond – LOV (PO)
- Roelien Kort: minutes

Romania

- Roxanna & John Byrde: Federatia 'Impreuna' Pentru Promovarea Socioterapiei in Romania (IC)

Sweden

- Deborah Ingves: Individuellt Liv I Gemenskap (PO)
- Katharina Karlsson: Nordiska Förbundet för Läkepedagogik och Socialterapi (IC)
- Marianne Lindström: Nordiska Förbundet för Läkepedagogik och Socialterapi (IC)

Switzerland

- Susanne Frey: Parentela CH (PO / S)
- Brigitte Kaldenberg: Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie (IC)
- Erika Volery

United Kingdom

- Paulamaria Blaxland de Lange: ACESTA (IC)

Notified absences

Belgium

- Geert Freyhoff: Inclusion Europe (AM)

Czech Republic

- Anezka Janatová: Spolek pro Léčebnou pedagogiku a sociální terapii v České republice (IC)

Germany

- Bernd Keicher: BundesElternVereinigung für Anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie e.V. (PO)
- Daniela Steinel: Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. (IC)
- Manfred Trautwein: Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik, Sozialtherapie und soziale Arbeit e.V. (IC)

Netherlands

- Adri Benschop: Ned. Ver. Antroposofische Zorgaanbieders, sector IZ (IC)
- Walter Bosch: (S)
- Freya Steffelaar: Landelijk Ouder Verbond – LOV (PO)

Romania

- Adrian Pinteá: Federatia de Pedagogie Curativa din Romania (IC)

Greece

- Thomas Prange: Stiftung Estia Agios Nikolaos (IC)

Switzerland

- Christian Gaegauf: Parentela CH (PO)
- Rüdiger Grimm: Verband für anthroposophische Heilpädagogik und Sozialtherapie (IC)

Observers

- Marina Bulia (Georgia): Association for People in Need of Special Care – APNSC (IC)

Absences

United Kingdom

Representatives of Families and Friends of Camphill

AM = Associate member ; CM = Committee member ; EC = Executive committee ; IC = Intentional community ;
PO = Parent organisation ; S = Supporting member ; TC = Training centre

Annex 1 Results of discussion 12 Aspects for parent organisations

12 aspects for parent organisations about why it is important to be represented in ECCE.
As discussed with the parent associations during the General Meeting in May 2009.

Distinguishing of 4 levels:

A) Child-parent level

- 1 securing free choice
- 2 plurality
- 3 quality

B) Institute / community based service – parent level

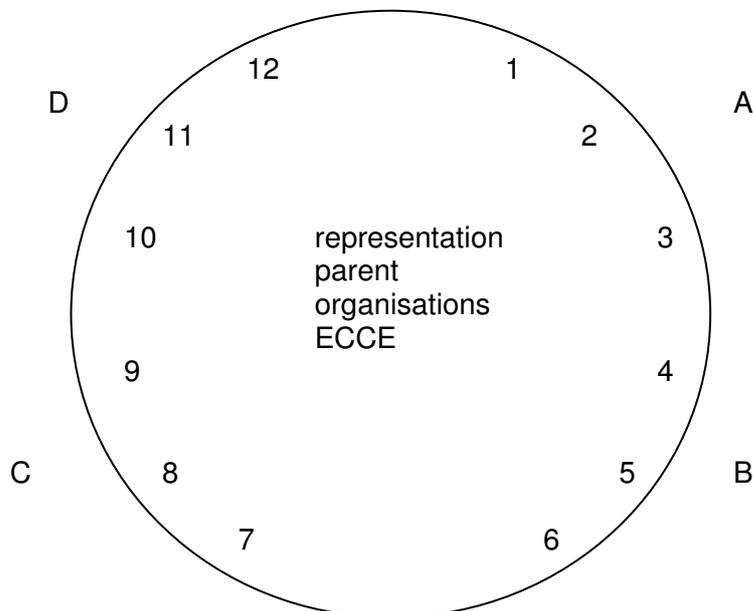
- 4 equal voices
- 5 training
- 6 mutual support

C) Regional – National level

- 7 legislation
- 8 grants
- 9 securing independence

D) European level

- 10 recommendations
- 11 awareness about quality care
- 12 establishing paradigms of care (respect and dignity of an individual)



Discussion in working groups

Group A:

1) Child-parent level

Many different treatments, procedures of free choice. To put your child in an institution of your choice. Need of a working group to work this out.

2) research

Worldwide movement. Network.

3) Disabled people cannot go abroad, take allowance. Pension. EDF. On a national level implemented.

Free choice is quality. Think about the budget.
Services without frontiers.

Group B:

One parent and 4 - 5 professionals. This group discussed on the level of the institute, relationship institute – parent. What can ECCE do?

There are a lot of interesting experiences. We could write a small booklet. Parent organisations can support each other, with each other they can find out recommendations to be brought to the different countries to get questions solved.

Equal voices is a paradigm.

Group C:

This group ended up in confusion, didn't get the meaning of this system. Not much to contribute. This level can also be taken up in Group B, national level.

Group D:

This group also had a little trouble. Why do certain points belong to this level?

When a new parent comes in, how do we recommend to become a member of ECCE? Important is networking: acquisitions, as parents they want to speak about inclusion, a voice to be heard in the EDF through ECCE. Stand together to speak to each other and give support.

ECCE should function on a more supportive manner. For instance legal problems like people who are not allowed to go to an institution of their choice, because they don't live in that county or province.

Is there a need to an ECCE's point of view on waste-quality? More support and information about anthroposophical approaches to quality etc?

3. paradigms of care: make ourselves more aware and capable on UN convention. We as ECCE should help implement the UN convention.

Annex 2

Powerpoint presentation by Veronique Duchenne, Belgium Disability Forum Mini-conference ECCE General Meeting 2009

1.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

New York
13 December 2006

2.

A Convention for and by Persons with Disabilities

- A paradigm change:
 - Not a medical approach, nor an approach from the perspective of charity or social work
 - Starting with the rights and needs of persons with disabilities, ascertain what must change in society
- Equal rights for all
- Equality of all before the law

3.

What is a Convention?

- Legally binding, written agreement between states
- Convention on persons with disabilities: voted on by the UN on 13 December 2006
- Signed by Belgium in New York on 30 March 2007
- 139 countries have signed the Convention; 53 ratifications of the Convention
- Ratified by the 7 parliaments of the counties and the federal parliament of Belgium, ended on 12 May 2009
- Deposition of the legal documents in New York → takes effect in Belgium in 2009

4.

A Rights-related Approach

- Taking into account the needs of persons with disabilities but also:
- Rights of the person
 - these are the rights everyone has as a human being. One does not have to belong to a particular group, nor do these rights have to be conferred by someone. Each individual is, by virtue of being human, automatically entitled to enjoy the entire range of human rights.
- Economic, social, political and cultural rights
 - Example: the right to education as fulfilling the needs of persons with disabilities, but other rights must then also be developed: health, accessibility, ...

5.

Legal Force and Extent

- Binding on states that have ratified it
 - Responsibility of the state vis-à-vis the parties from the public and private sector
 - Clarification of the obligations of the governments with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities
 - The states must introduce the necessary changes in their laws to meet the obligations as stipulated in the Convention
 - Courts: guideline
- Mainstreaming of the disability
- Participation of persons with disabilities in the decision-making process
- Empowerment
- Submit a report on the country to the UN every four years

6.

Convention: Structure (I)

- Preamble
 - An introduction that explains why it was so important to adopt such a convention and to raise all questions that were considered important enough to bring to the attention of the states.
 - *Not legally binding*
- Introductory articles (articles 1-2)
 - Purpose of the Convention.

- Defines a number of technical terms that are used in the other articles of the Convention.
- General articles (articles 3-9)
 - Relevant concepts for the understanding, interpretation and application of *all* other articles of the Convention.

7.

Convention: Structure (II)

- Specific articles (articles 10-30)
 - Understanding and applying the rights in the context of disability
- Application and follow-up measures (articles 31-40)
 - Actions to be undertaken to make an efficient implementation of the Convention possible
- Final articles (articles 41-50)
 - These articles provide guidance for the implementation of the Convention: which countries can become states that are party to the Convention, when does the Convention take effect, in which official languages is the Convention available ...

8.

Purpose of the Convention – Article 1

- To promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment
- of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities
- to promote respect for their inherent dignity

9.

Definitions – Article 1

- No definition of disability because medical and evolutionary
- Person with a disability:
 - “Persons ... who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which
 - **in interaction**
 - with various **barriers** may hinder their
 - full and effective participation in **society** on an equal basis with others”

10.

General Principles for the Application and Interpretation of all Articles – Article 3

- Respect for the inherent dignity, **individual autonomy** including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and the independence of persons;
- Non-discrimination;
- Full and effective participation and inclusion in **society**;
- Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity;
- Equality of opportunity;
- Accessibility;
- Equality between men and women;
- Respect for the evolving capacities of **children** with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

11.

General obligations – Article 4

- To guarantee and promote the full realization of all rights
 - Adapt or change laws
 - In consultation with persons with disabilities
 - Including children with disabilities
 - Immediately: civil rights and political rights
 - Gradually: economic, cultural and social rights.

12.

Equality and Non-discrimination – Article 5

- For all persons
- With respect to all laws
 - Reasonable accommodations (Article 2): positive action to implement rights (but for example proportional to the magnitude of the undertaking) → applicable to implementing all specific rights

13.

Children with Disabilities – Article 7

- In all decisions: the best interests of the child

- The right to express their views freely, if necessary with assistance
- their views will be taken into serious consideration

14.

Accessibility to All Aspects of Social Life – Article 9

- Remove barriers
 - in buildings and such
 - on the level of information
 - on the level of transportation
 - on the level of communication

15.

Right to life – Article 10

- = Full enjoyment of
 - all rights
 - quality of life

16.

Living Independently and Being Included in the Community – Article 19

- = Making choices about their life independently
 - Choice of living structure
 - Access to goods and services

17.

Education – Article 24

- Educational opportunities
- throughout life

18.

Health – Article 25

- Highest attainable level of health
- Access to affordable health care and affordable health programmes
- Consent freely given on the basis of good information

19.

Participation in Political and Public Life – Article 29

- Voting by secret ballot
- Guarantees
- Participation in public affairs and the decision-making process

20.

Equal Recognition Before the Law – Article 12 (I)

- New and complex: A nuanced interpretation and practical developments must be concretized, starting with an explanatory text concerning rights for persons with disabilities.
- What is certain: **Recognition of persons with disabilities as persons before the law**
 - Enjoyment of the right: absolute right (also the right to property)
 - Exercise of the right: assistance necessary to exercise their legal capacity
- Adapted and actual safeguards to prevent abuses

21.

Equality Before the Law – Article 12 (II)

- Everywhere and in all areas
- Guarantees access of persons with disabilities to the assistance that is necessary for the exercising of their legal persona (taking into consideration their rights, their will and their preferences)
- Guarantees the right to
 - ownership and inheriting of property
 - control over their own finances
 - access to bank loans, mortgages, ...

22.

Legal Competence – Belgian Law (I)

- Minority
 - Principle: not competent
 - Exception: legal emancipation
- Majority
 - Principle: competence of the person
 - Exception: incompetence
 - **Never on the basis of surmise**
 - Legal decision
 - Three important protective statutes:

- provisional conservator
- guardian
- extended minority

23.

Legal Competence – Belgian Law (II)

Three statutes that are commonly used:

- The provisional conservator
 - physical (can, e.g., no longer sign documents) or mental
 - management of property: mandate that must be determined by the justice of the peace
 - flexibility
 - nullity of the actions must be applied for by the conservator or the person with a disability
 - Belgian law gazette/ID card
- The curator:
 - Mental disability
 - Judge
 - Incapacity to manage his or her property → nullity of the actions
- Extended minority
 - Person and property
 - Serious mental deficit
 - Court first instance
 - The minor younger than 15: therefore parental authority or guardianship
 - on the ID card
 - Nullity of actions

24.

Legal Competence – Belgian Law (III)

- Not all texts that limit legal competence are bad
- Unsatisfactory application
 - The idea of a vulnerable person = not good
 - Absence of a real will to allow the person with a disability to speak
 - Protection = reassuring the surroundings → no respect for the fundamental rights of the persons with a disability

25.

Legal competence – current proposals

- Note:
 - Paradigm changes have not been incorporated into the texts
 - Simplification of the system that limits rights
 - Profligacy, Alzheimer, ... = Fear

26.

The Ideal to Be Pursued

- In the texts **and de facto**: the **person with a disability is competent regardless of deficiency**
- The **competence to enjoy** the whole of the civil, political, economic and cultural rights: to the full extent
- The **competence to exercise**: the presumption of competence must remain → always aimed at expansion
 - Assistance in daily life: no court decision. “**favourably disposed eye**”
 - examples: travel, living alone, marrying
 - Supported decision making – variable assistance in the exercise of legal competence: judicial decision. **Flexibility, periodic review**. Neither transfer nor abrogation of responsibility
 - example: rental contract, marriage contract
 - A **careful and limited absolute protection of rights**
 - example: the right to freely manage one’s own property

27.

Purpose of the Convention

- Convention is not a declaration of intent
- Applying the Convention to all facets of life that confront us daily
- Translating theory into practice
- Making the environment correspond to the needs of the person with a disability
- Letting the person with a disability participate in the decision-making process

28.

Belgian Disability Forum

- Non-profit organisation
- 18 organisations for PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
- Member European Disability Forum
- Information and political sensitization
- Veronique Duchenne: bdf@minsoc.fed.be tel. +32 (0)2-50.98.421