



Friday 16 May 2008

General Assembly & Congress London 2008, 10:00 to 15:30

Location: Boardroom of the International Coffee Organisation at 22 Berners Street
Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English, German and Italian

Minutes

Attendig: Helmut SCHULZ, Ole DRABORG, Adam PADE, Markus STRAUBE, Werner LOCH, Michael O'REGAN, Philip WALLACE, Jos EBBING, Luigi CAIMI, Michel MANNES, Geir Atle MJELDHEIM, Manuel CANDELA MARTINEZ, Clemente GARCIA, Jose Angel BREY, Alfons KAUFMANN, Peter BAERISWYL, Erik KRUIDERINK, Gerard Sinne Johannes VAN DER WEIDE, Stephen BAGNALL, David POWIS, John BAGNALL, Stuart SEDDON, Dr. Ludger FISCHER, Anssi RAUTIAINEN.



- 1) Opening by the acting President **STEPHEN BAGNALL**
incl. film "promoting painting in Europe". A DVD of the film was given to all delegates.
The delegates kept 1 minute silence in commemoration for Jürgen Hinz
Stephen underlined the importance of an enthusiastic board. The voice of UNIEP must be heard over Europe.
For this finances are needed. The board will discuss how to finance the necessary political work on European level.

- 2) Review of the minutes of the 2007 general assembly meeting in Cologne.
The minutes were accepted unanimously.



DR. LUDGER FISCHER: UNIEP's activities in 2007 and 2008.
Please see attached file UNIEP_activities_2007-2008.pdf



DIPL.-ING. CHRISTIAN TEBERT, ÖKOPOL: VOC directive 2004/42/EC:
Consequences for painters. Preparation of a report to the European Commission.
EN <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:143:0087:0096:EN:PDF>
DE <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:143:0087:0096:DE:PDF>
IT <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:143:0087:0096:IT:PDF>
NL <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2004:143:0087:0096:NL:PDF>
(Analogue in all European languages. Only change the country code.)

Some statements from UNIEP-members:

- the consequences of the directive 2004/42/EC (Decorative Paints and Varnishes) cannot be assessed because no products are on the market with these lower limits
- the death statistics don't show that VOC is a relevant cause for increasing death in summertime
 - stricter rules after 2020 (related to a "clean air for Europe" cannot be fulfilled
 - later assessment is necessary because no experience with extreme low VOC levels
 - water based paint is much used in UK
 - problems appear using water bound paint below 8° -> effect on employment
- ecological balance of the production of water bound paint should be taken into account
 - worker's health should be taken into account (actually only environmental arguments)
 - brushes will be cleaned in water much more than actually
 - juridical impact on guarantees given by painters will have to be considered
- a fragmented paint industry in Italy (1000 producers, 15.000 shops) already caused higher prices.
 - painters don't know about the difference the paint will have in 2010
 - who is going to train the painters?
 - additional training costs are expected

UNIEP members have got a detailed questionnaire developed by the secretariat to get a statistical relevant picture of the consequences of VOC reduced paint.



OLE DRABORG: UNIEP's Leonardo da Vinci Project PaintingSkills.

What has been achieved, what can be expected?

After the extremely successful application the project is in its first phase.

The main outcomes and results of the project will be:

1. Classification of the national qualifications (initial vocational trainings in the construction sector) in reference to the European qualification framework (EQF),
2. Recommendations for the attribution of ECVET-credits to qualification modules at various EQF levels,
3. Online-Tool for painters and painting contractors.

The expected impact is better transparency and comparability of European basic qualifications in the field of painting. Thus, the employability of painters will be improved and their professional mobility across Europe will be increased.

<http://www.paintingskills.dk/>



3) **GILES CHICHESTER, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

spoke about the conditions for Family Businesses in Europe.

His main arguments:

- keeping regulation simple
- no exemptions for SMEs
- access to information for all



4) **GEIR ATLE MJELDHEIM:** UNIEP Financial Report

- Financial report 2007 - Discharge of responsibility of the board

Geir Atle reported about the fact that UNIEP is permanently underfinanced. Expected sponsoring didn't come in 2007. This caused a minus of 14092 €, covered by bank savings. The core business should be financed by membership fees. An increase of these fees of 8% from 2008 on was proposed and accepted unanimously (FI and AT handed their acceptance later). The membership fees will be indexed from this year on. Hauptverband and FOSAG committed to contribute in addition a yearly fee of 2000 € each.

The board was discharged unanimously.

- 5) Election of the auditor: Gerard van der Weide was elected unanimously.
- 6) **GEIR ATLE MJELDHEIM:** Budget 2008. The proposed budget (including increased fees and additional contributions from DE and NL) was accepted unanimously.
- 7) The following board was elected unanimously:
Erik Kruidenink, NL, president
Geir Atle Mjeldheim, NO, treasurer
José Angel Brey, ES
Ole Draborg, DA
Markus Straube, DE
Stuart Seddon, UK

The "working group" was dissolved and merged with the board.

New UNIEP president Erik Kruidenink thanked the acting president Stephen Bagnall for his work in a difficult time. He outlined the future activities of UNIEP:

- continue lobbying on VAT reduction for labour intensive work
- continue lobbying on environmental legislation including VOC
- continue lobbying on labour circumstances (working time directive, temporary work)
- work on vocational training and education (incl. UNIEP's Leonardo-project)
- exchange of experiences among member associations

The work will be managed by the secretariat, joint to UEAPME. The new president thanked the secretary general for his good job. More activities, he concluded can only be possible with safe financing.

- 8) Contributions from member associations. Round table reports (each max 2 minutes). UNIEP member associations report on the national
- economical situation of the branch - employment situation of the branch - tax situation of the branch
- 9) Closing by the new president Erik Kruidenink. He thanked the leaving board members Manuel Candela and Stephen Bagnall.

Minutes: Ludger Fischer

**PDA hosted this meeting generously. No fee for delegates was to pay.
UNIEP thanks for this generous hospitality!**