

ASSITEJ INTERNATIONAL
Executive Committee Meeting
Aberystwyth, United Kingdom
March 25 – 30, 2003

Present:

Wolfgang Schneider	Germany	President
Tony Mack	Australia	Vice-president
Luiza Monteiro	Brazil	Vice-president
Remi Boucher	Canada	Vice-president
Klaus Eggert	Denmark	Treasurer
Niclas Malmcrona	Sweden	Secretary General
Cheela Chilala	Zambia	
Yuriko Kobayashi	Japan	
Stephan Rabl	Austria	
Peter Rinderknecht	Switzerland	
Ivica Simic	Croatia	
Jeremy Turner	United Kingdom	
Kim Woo-ok	Korea	
Kim Peter Kovac	USA	Counsellor
Eckhardt Mittelstädt	Germany	Counsellor
Tülin Saglam	Turkey	Counsellor
Louise Landin	Sweden	Minutes

1. Opening

Wolfgang Schneider opened the meeting extending the EC's gratitude to *Jeremy Turner* and ASSITEJ United Kingdom for organising the meeting. *Wolfgang Schneider* continued with welcoming everyone and expressed a wish for the meeting to bring out new ideas and result in concrete plans for the future work of the ASSITEJ International. The new counsellors, *Tülin Saglam* and *Kim Peter Kovac*, received a special welcome.

Wolfgang Schneider commented upon the meeting being held in a time of war and recognized the skill to communicate - not by using weapons, but spirit and mind - as being one of the important tasks for ASSITEJ and creators of theatre for young audiences.

2. Opening words by the host

Jeremy Turner welcomed all the members of the EC to Aberystwyth in Wales, United Kingdom, and gave his sincere wishes for a successful meeting and an enjoyable experience at the AGOR DRYSAU – OPENING DOORS Wales Festival of Theatre for Young Audiences.

As translations are part of the everyday life in Wales, *Jeremy Turner* proposed that this EC meeting should put emphasis on the EC initiative to encourage the exchange of scripts. He welcomed all members of the EC to attend a discussion at the AGOR – DRYSAU festival on the subject of translating scripts. *Wolfgang Schneider* recommended that all members participate in the discussion

Jeremy Turner also asked the members of the EC to please advise the Arts Council of Wales in their preparations to establish a central bureau for children and young peoples theatre in Wales.

3. Apologies

Jackson Ndawula (Uganda), *Michael Bartenev* (Russia) and *Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevski* (Israel) sent their apologies.

4. Report from the Bureau-meeting

No Bureau-meeting had been held.

5. Review of the agenda

Klaus Eggert and *Ivica Simic* proposed that the issue of the ongoing war in Iraq be put on the agenda. The issue was put on the agenda as Item no. # 7 e.

Niclas Malmcrona stressed that the work of the working groups (item no. # 15) is very important and reminded the members of the idea to form new working groups after the completion of each task.

The agenda was revised as below and adopted.

1. Opening
2. Opening words by the host
3. Apologies
4. Report from the Bureau-meeting
5. Review of the agenda
6. Adoption of the minutes from the Zagreb-meeting
7. Report from the General Secretariat
 - a) Secretary General's report 2002

- b) Contacts with centres
- c) Contacts with non-members
- d) Membership applications
- e) EC reflections on the ongoing war in Iraq
- 8. President's report
- 9. Treasurer's report
- 10. Report from EC-members
- 11. Report *International Theatre for Children and Young People World Day 2003*
- 12. Discussion and work in the working groups
- 13. Reports from the working groups
 - a) No. 1 *Policy*
 - b) No. 2 *Networking*
 - c) No. 4 *Information*
 - d) No. 6 *Catalogue of scripts*
 - e) No. 7 *Constitution, subscription, fundraising*
- 14. Business arising from working group reports
- 15. Budget 2002 – 2005
- 16. The future location of the General Secretariat (from 2005).
- 17. Coming EC-meetings
- 18. Any other business
- 19. Closing

6. Adoption of the minutes from the Zagreb-meeting

The minutes from the Zagreb-meeting were adopted.

7. Report from the General Secretariat

a) Secretary General's report 2002

Niclas Malmcrona gave a brief report on the activities of the General Secretariat during the year of 2002. The report is also available in written form and will be posted on the web-site.

Niclas Malmcrona emphasized the work carried out in Afrika during the year with meetings and workshops in South Africa and Uganda.

● *Festival Guide*

Niclas Malmcrona addressed the matter of the ASSITEJ Festival Guide. The new updated version has been printed and sent to all centres and it is also posted on the web-site where it will be continuously up-dated during the year. He also emphasised the importance of listing as many festivals as possible and having the information updated every year and urged the centres to submit information at the dead-line.

● *Website*

Niclas Malmcrona informed that the ASSITEJ website (www.assitej.org) now presents a more accessible information in seven languages. He added that the number of visitors to the website seems to be increasing, as he is now being contacted most frequently by people who have visited the website and want to find out more about how to become a member of ASSITEJ.

b) Contacts with centres

Niclas Malmcrona gave a report on the invitations received for the upcoming EC-meetings; *see item no. # 17.*

Niclas Malmcrona reported from a visit to a festival in Gijón in northern Spain in February and the wish from ASSITEJ Spain to take more part in the international work.

He also reported about future travels to China, North Korea and USA in April and May.

c) Contacts with non-members

● *Serbia – Monte Negro*

Ivica Simic reported that he has had no contact with Serbia – Monte Negro since November of 2002. This most likely being due to the circumstance of the recent assassination of the country's Prime Minister and the there upon following state of emergency in the country.

● *Senegal*

On the issue of Senegal becoming a member of the ASSITEJ. *Wolfgang Schneider* stated that before any further consideration can be made regarding this matter, Senegal, has to establish a national organisation for creators of theatre for children and young people. *Niclas Malmcrona* offered his assistance to Senegal in matters on how to become a member of the EC.

● *Taiwan*

Niclas Malmcrona reported that all members of the Bureau have received an invitation for the ASSITEJ President to attend a conference and a workshop in Taiwan for creators of theatre for young audiences. *Niclas Malmcrona* noted that Taiwan has expressed a wish for extended international contact with practitioners of theatre for young audiences. Regarding the possibility of Taiwan becoming a member of ASSITEJ, *Niclas Malmcrona* pointed out that the guidelines of ASSITEJ are in correspondence with those of the UN. These guidelines make it difficult for ASSITEJ to endorse Taiwan as a member alongside with having China as a member. *Jeremy Turner* questioned the importance of the ASSITEJ abiding by UN guidelines. *Niclas Malmcrona* explained that this standpoint of the ASSITEJ already thoroughly has been discussed and decided upon. *Niclas Malmcrona* expressed a wish for a solution where the ASSITEJ communicate and co-operate with Taiwan, rather than consider them for a membership. *Wolfgang Schneider* closed the discussion by declaring that he and *Niclas Malmcrona* will take a future co-operation with Taiwan into consideration.

● *India*

Cheela Chilala reported on a visit to Bangladesh and also raised the question of the possibility of changing the corresponding status of the ASSITEJ India in to that of a full membership. *Niclas Malmcrona* informed that he has been in contact with various areas of India, and pointed out that India, being a large country with a wide variety of theatrical practices, would benefit from establishing a centre with national importance for the field of theatre for children and young people. This would facilitate any further communication with India on the matter of India becoming a full member of ASSITEJ. *Niclas Malmcrona* asked the members to contribute their thoughts on the matter.

d) Membership applications

● *Macedonia*

On the matter of the application submitted by Macedonia, *Ivica Simic* pointed out that the applying organization only represents a small portion of the Macedonian theatre for children and young people, and therefore should not be considered for a full ASSITEJ membership. There are, he concluded, other artists and organisations that better represent the Macedonian theatre. *Ivica Simic* proposed that instead of accepting the present application, the EC should encourage other Macedonian artists and organisations to set up a national centre and apply for a membership. *Ivica Simic* and *Tülin Saglam* offered to contact and encourage Macedonian artists to set up a national centre. Agreeing with the proposal, *Niclas Malmcrona* emphasised the importance of the EC centres representing a wide variety of their countries' theatre for children and young people.

The EC resolved that as of now, Macedonia is not to be accepted as a member of the ASSITEJ.

Instead, the members are to encourage Macedonian artists to set up a national centre of professional theatre for children and young people as a first step in becoming an ASSITEJ member.

● *Jordan*

Niclas Malmcrona recommended that the EC accept Jordan as a full member of ASSITEJ. *Kim Peter Kovac* agreed, stressing that the EC needs to incorporate representatives from this part of the world. In his experience, Jordan theatre for children and young people is indeed worthy to be represented in the ASSITEJ International. *Cheela Chilala* agreed, adding that accepting Jordan as a full member also would enhance the chance of other countries in northern Africa applying for memberships.

The EC unanimously endorsed Jordan as a full member of ASSITEJ.

e) EC reflections on the ongoing war in Iraq

Klaus Eggert expressed a wish for the ASSITEJ to make a statement against the ongoing war. He asked the members of the EC to consider options for action to be taken by ASSITEJ after the end of the war. *Jeremy Turner* supported this suggestion, as did *Ivica Simic*, who also reminded that the war was started on the Theatre for Children World Day 2003, on the 20th of March.

Ivica Simic stated that as enriching the lives of children and young people is an aim of ASSITEJ, the organisation should concentrate on helping artists active in the field of children's theatre in Iraq. This could mean collecting money for theatres in Iraq or enable artists to give free performances. *Tülin Saglam* reminded the EC of the successful effort made in Turkey by ASSITEJ centres, as they helped the theatre practitioners and children of the areas affected by the earthquake disaster. *Wolfgang Schneider* urged all members to come up with ideas on what actions can be made by ASSITEJ in order to help the children and theatre makers of Iraq after the war.

Cheela Chilala stated that it is also of great importance for the ASSITEJ to consider what actions to take in a future, similar situation. *Wolfgang Schneider* agreed, saying that there is a need for ASSITEJ to be more sensitive to this kind of situations.

Wolfgang Schneider thanked everyone for a fruitful discussion, and the task of presenting an ASSITEJ statement on the war was deferred to working group no.1, concerned with ASSITEJ policy; see item no. # 14.

8. President's report

Wolfgang Schneider gave a brief report on his activities since the meeting in Zagreb.

In November of 2002, a conference was held at the University of Hildesheim, Germany. One of the topics discussed was that of integrating theatre for children and young people with the school system. *Wolfgang Schneider* added that in May of 2003, the University proudly establishes a professorship in Theory and Practice of Theatre for Children and Young People, this being the first of its kind in Germany.

The German ASSITEJ centre has met with the Russian centre in a first step to an official ASSITEJ communication between artists working in the field of theatre for children and young people in Russia and Germany. The next meeting between the centres and their artists will take place at the Berlin Festival in May of 2003.

Wolfgang Schneider reported having held a number of speeches as the president of ASSITEJ International. Amongst them was a speech at the ceremony of the Award for German Theatre for Children. At a symposium arranged by ASSITEJ Israel at the University of Tel Aviv, *Schneider* held lectures on the topic of theatre for children and young people.

On visiting Russia, he held a speech on children's theatre and was presented with the first brochure produced by ASSITEJ Russia.

Wolfgang Schneider also pointed out that as IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) is involved in the field of arts for children, ASSITEJ would perhaps benefit from creating an exchange program with IBBY in the future. (See also Item 17)

9. Treasurer's report

Klaus Eggert presented the Treasurer's report. *See also enclosure no. 1 (Klaus Eggert pointed out that the differences in figures to be found in the enclosures are due to the instability of exchange rates).*

Klaus Eggert reported that the ASSITEJ International has had only minor expenses since the meeting in Zagreb. He asked the working groups to figure out their future expenses so that they can be included in the budget.

Klaus Eggert noted that only 16 centres have paid their fees so far. *Tony Mack* remarked on the matter of centres that have not paid their fees for several years. He stated that the EC should consider expelling these centres from the ASSITEJ. *Wolfgang Schneider* suggested this issue to be treated by working group 7, which will also be discussing how to make the centres pay their fees. *See Item no. # 13 e.*

Wolfgang Schneider extended his gratitude to *Klaus Eggert* for his excellent work.

10. Report from EC-members

The EC members gave brief reports on their own professional activities and projects.

11. Report *International Theatre for Children and Young People World Day 2003*

● *“Important Person Letter”*

Niclas Malmcrona commenced his report with apologising for the *“Important Person Letter”* not having been accomplished for the *World Day* of 2003. He explained that the General Secretariat had been awaiting a letter from Nelson Mandela. By the time it stood clear that no letter was to be received, it was too late to ask someone else to write it.

Niclas Malmcrona expressed his delight with observing that the recognition of the *World Day* increasing. He closed his report by promising to compile a report on the *International Theatre for Children and Young People World Day 2003* and send it to all centres.

12. Discussion and work in the working groups

The following working groups set out to accomplish their tasks (*see item no. # 13 for their reports*):

No 1: Policy

No 2: Networking

No 4: Information

No 6: Catalogue of scripts

No 7: Constitution, Subscriptions, Fundraising

13. Reports from the working groups

a) No 1 Policy

Niclas Malmcrona reported on the following issues treated by the Policy group:

● *Honorary President's Award*

The working group proposed a number of changes to be made in the process of awarding the prize:

The criteria of the Honorary President's Award have been changed. The object of the new criteria is to better reflect the intention of the award. For example, the criteria will now clearly state that the candidates have to be new, emerging artist or established artist that work in new ways.

The EC approved of the new criteria.

The working group also stated that the EC must find more candidates to the award. Thus, in promoting the award, the EC will be producing and distributing flyers to all centres during September and October of 2003. The jury will be appointed before the nominations reach the EC. Nominations to the award must be submitted to the EC by January of 2004. The candidate awarded with the Honorary President's Prize (5 000 USD) will be presented at the opening of the ASSITEJ Congress in Canada 2005.

Remi Boucher suggested that the EC invite three or five companies to candidate for the award, as this would draw attention to the award and make it more exciting.

Niclas Malmcrona replied that this is not recommendable, since ASSITEJ offer to pay the travel fares of the awarded candidate. The EC will not afford to pay the fares of the other candidates as well.

The EC endorsed to the proposal of the working group.

● *Theatres of the World – ASSITEJ World Project Designations*

As they had found the criteria and process of the designations to be much too complicated, the working group suggested that the following changes be made:

The working group proposed that there be two designations:

Festivals (ASSITEJ global festival) and
Projects (ASSITEJ global projects/seminars).

Two of the common criteria for the designations would be that the festival or project involve participants from at least five (5) countries and have a duration of at least five (5) days.

Remi Boucher suggested that the word “international” be used instead of the word “global”. *Tony Mack* agreed, saying that the word “international” has a better connotation for most people.

*The EC agreed on the following names for the designations:
ASSITEJ International Festival and ASSITEJ International Project.*

Jeremy Turner suggested that the criteria for receiving a designation should include arranging accommodation for a member of the ASSITEJ. This, he said, would give ASSITEJ first hand experiences of the festivals and projects, as well as enable an evaluation of them. *Remi Boucher* suggested that there be accommodation for more than one member. *Niclas Malmcrona* and *Kim Woo-ok* disagreed with the suggestions, saying that such criteria would be putting too much financial pressure on, and be time-consuming for, the organisers. *Wolfgang Schneider* proposed a compromise, in which the accommodation and presence of EC members would not be a criterion, but a mere suggestion for the organisers to consider.

The EC determined that the accommodation of one or more EC members will not be a criterion to be met in order to receive ASSITEJ designations.

Niclas Malmcrona proposed that designations be decided by the General Secretariat. This would facilitate and fasten the progress of designating organizers.

The EC endorsed the suggestion.

Niclas Malmcrona applied to the Treasurer for funding of a flyer to be sent to organizers of festivals, projects and seminars, promoting the ASSITEJ designations.

International Theatre for Children and Young People World Day 2004

Niclas Malmcrona proposed that for the *World Day* of 2004, the General Secretariat should send e-mail postcards to the centres instead of mailing traditional ones. This would

cost less and be less time-consuming. Also, mailing the postcards would enable the centres to print out their needed amount of postcards.

Niclas Malmcrona also suggested that the General Secretariat produce an *International Theatre for Children and Young People World Day logo* for the centres to use as needed.

Tülin Saglam reported that the Turkish centre, which has no means to print their own promotion material, had made good use of the *World Day* postcards that were issued this year. She suggested that the General Secretariat send postcards only to those centres that cannot themselves print. *Eckhardt Mittelstädt* agreed with this suggestion.

Luiza Monteiro suggested ASSITEJ to produce bookmarks that can be distributed and used by members throughout the world.

Ivica Simic proposed a CD containing a *World Day* logo (as well as other ASSITEJ design) to be sent to all centres. This way, designers at each centre could create their own materials.

The EC consented to the proposal of producing a CD with a World Day logo and a bookmark that can be printed and used by each centre at will.

For the World Day of 2004, the EC decided that the General Secretariat will ask first Agosto Boal and then, if necessary, Gabriel Garcia Marquez to write the Important Person Letter.

Niclas Malmcrona declared it to be of great significance to engage a person from South America in the *World Day*.

● *ASSITEJ on the war issue*

Niclas Malmcrona reported on the proposals of the working group:

Message board on website

The working group proposed the feature of a message board to be added to the website. The purpose of the message board would be to encourage artists to freely express their reflections on the war. ASSITEJ would of course clearly state out that the thoughts expressed on the board are not statements by the ASSITEJ. The message board would be a way for ASSITEJ International to offer the opportunity for an exchange of thoughts and feelings on the war.

The EC endorsed the proposal of creating a message board on the website for individual artist to express their thoughts on the conflict in Iraq.

Official ASSITEJ statement on the war

Niclas Malmcrona handed out the working group's suggestion for an official statement.

After a few changes being suggested and made, *the EC unanimously endorsed the statement written by the working group.*

The statement was signed by all EC members present at the Aberystwyth meeting. The EC determined that the statement should be distributed to all centres and sent to the governments of USA, United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark and turkey. It will also be posted on the www.assitej.org.

EC members to visit Iraq after the war

The working group proposed that a delegation of volunteers from primarily the EC prepare to go to Iraq as soon as possible after the war has ended. The intention would be to make contact with artists in Iraq and help rebuilding the structure of theatre for children and young people. This group would also help re-establishing the ASSITEJ Iraq centre. *Klaus Eggert* offered to join such a group, adding that Denmark most likely will feel obligated to help the children of Iraq after the war. *Tony Mack* said he would work the field in Australia, encouraging artists to be of assistance to the theatre makers in Iraq.

Niclas Malmcrona stated that preparations for the proposed trip have to be initiated right away, so that the delegation will be ready to go to Iraq as soon as the situation of the country is stabled.

The EC endorsed the this proposal.

b) No. 2 Networking

Wolfgang Schneider gave a brief report on the work of the group.

● *Partnership system*

The group proposed that the partnership system remains, one of the EC's tasks being to bring centres together. The group had been discussing the purpose of the partnership system as being that of integrating *all* ASSITEJ members in the international work. Today, up to one fifth of the centres are so called "ghost centres". *Wolfgang Schneider* asked the EC members to consider advising ASSITEJ partners on their work.

Kim Woo-ok told a story from his experience in networking with China, Japan and Korea vividly illustrating how difficult networking can be at the start, yet end happily. *Wolfgang Schneider* stated the significance of encouraging regional networking.

Jeremy Turner suggested finding ways to develop the information for centres of minority languages.

The EC determined that the partnership system will remain.

● *Theatre art and the educational system*

The working group proposed organizing three one-day-conferences on the issue of studies of theatre for children and young people. The main purpose of the conferences would be to promote theatre art as an educational programme.

Conference timetable

Conference #1: 2003, autumn

Conference #2: 2004, during an EC meeting.

Conference #3: 2005, as part of the World Congress in Montreal, Canada.

The meetings would benefit from a timetable such as the above suggested, as they would be part of a bigger context (*i.e.* festival, congress and the context of the conference as a whole). The reactions and ideas from one meeting would be followed up at the consecutive meeting.

The EC endorsed the proposal of organizing the above mentioned conferences.

Topics of the meetings

- *Practice models.* Theatre practitioners discuss and evaluate their different experiences from the field of theatre and education.
- *Theatre for children as an educational program.*
- *Promote guidelines* with examples of a good partnership between theatres and schools.

The EC approved of the topics.

Jeremy Turner suggested that the EC also invite people from educational centres where arts are not very high on the agenda (if at all), so that they can learn from the experiences of good practice. *Eckhardt Mittelstädt* remarked that theatre pedagogues make out a great number of the ASSITEJ members, and that integrating their experiences would benefit not only themselves and ASSITEJ, but also others participating in the conference.

Stephan Rabl suggested the first meeting to be held at the Vienna Festival (24th – 27th of September 2003).

Wolfgang Schneider emphasised the need for the EC to encourage schools and academies to adopt studies of theatre for children and young people to their curriculum. He suggested that the EC find projects to publish as examples of good practice.

The working group also expressed a wish for the results of the Zürich Conference to be published and promoted.

c) No. 4 Information

The report given by the working group mainly concerned the Annual.

The ASSITEJ Annual

● *Financing the Annual*

Eckhardt Mittelstädt reported that the working group has resolved the “Annual” to be financed partly by a presales system. The working group has now received enough orders to finance the Annual in this way.

Centre	No of orders
Australia	50
Austria	60
Canada	20
Croatia	20
Denmark	50
Germany	100
Israel	15
Japan	20
Korea	20
Sweden	200
Switzerland	50
United Kingdom	20
USA	50

- *New design*

The working group suggested a new design to be made for the cover of the Annual. *Tony Mack* handed out drafts for the EC members to comment on.

The EC decided on a cover with silvery letters.

The new design would make the production of the Annual significantly cheaper, as each copy would cost less than 8 USD to produce.

- *Publication and Title*

As this means it will no longer be an annual, but a report from a three-year period, the material will have to be given a new name. *Tony Mack* invited everyone to come with suggestions, and declared that the new book will be ready by the end of July of 2003.

- *Content of the publication*

Tony Mack thanked *Kim Woo-ok* for contributing comprehensive information regarding the festival in Korea. *Tony Mack* also asked all members of the EC to please send him photographs to be published in the Annual. The purpose of the photographs is to profile the countries. *Eckhardt Mittelstädt* asked *Niclas Malmcrona* to please submit information on the activities of the General Assembly in Seoul.

The EC endorsed the work of the working group.

d) No. 6 Catalogue of scripts

Jeremy Turner reported on the inquiries that have been made into what archives already exist at the centres. As only seven of the EC centres have submitted answers so far, the working group has very little to go on in their strive to ascertain the needed number of archives to be set up. The working group suggested that EC members encourage centres to create archives or data-bases in their own languages as well as in the official working language of the ASSITEJ. This would facilitate the exchange of scripts between centres.

- *Proposal for an ASSITEJ database of scripts*

The working group proposed that ASSITEJ creates a central, international database of scripts. The first step would be for the EC to invite each centre to submit synopses for two of its country's best plays. Each centre has to appoint at least two people for the process of choosing the plays to be submitted to the EC.

- *Criteria*

In order to be accepted for the archives, the plays must live up to criteria such as the following: The plays must be aimed at audiences of young people and children. The plays must have been produced already, have wide applicability or relevance and be adoptable to other cultures and languages. The working group has also drawn up a list of what information on the plays is required from the EC centres.

Remi Boucher said it is important that the information is to be written in the working language of the ASSITEJ, as well as in other languages. *Jeremy Turner* seconded this.

- *Deadline*

The deadline for submitting synopses to the EC would be November of 2003.

● *Copywriting issues*

ASSITEJ will not be responsible for copywriting issues.

● *Timetable*

The working group suggested the following timetable for the script data-base process: By spring of 2004, a data-base will be added to the ASSITEJ website, containing 150 synopses for scripts (i.e., two from each centre). The ASSITEJ website will also provide links to external data-bases of scripts. By the time of the Montreal Congress in 2005, the scripts will be assessable by all centres.

The script archiving process was suggested to be repeated once every EC term.

The working group expressed a wish for paper copies of the data-base being sent to all centres. *Niclas Malmcrona* offered the assistance of the General Secretariat in this matter.

The EC endorsed the proposals of the working group.

e) No 7 Constitution, subscription, fundraising

● *Subscriptions*

Klaus Eggert stated that the following 10 national centres since long have failed to pay their fees as well as ask for excuse from payment:

- *Angola, Congo, Cyprus, Mexico* and *Nicaragua* have neither paid, nor asked for excuse of payment since 1998.
- *Chile, Cuba, Ukraine, Uruguay* and *Venezuela* have neither paid, nor asked for excuse of payment since 1999.

The working group proposed that the EC give these centres automatic excuse for payment up to the year 2002.

The proposal was endorsed by the EC.

Klaus Eggert also proposed that the General Secretariat should send a letter to each of the above mentioned centres, stating that unless the centre pay this year's subscription fee by September 1st of 2003 or ask for excuse from payment, the centre will be automatically expelled.

The proposal was endorsed by the EC and Niclas Malmcrona agreed to send the letters as soon as possible.

● *Subscription fees*

Klaus Eggert proposed that the EC urge all centres that afford paying more than the minimum fee of 100 USD to do so.

The EC endorsed this proposal.

● *Auditor of the Treasurer's accounts*

Klaus Eggert proposed that the General Secretary ask ASSITEJ Finland to appoint a person for the task of auditing the ASSITEJ Treasurer's account.

Secretary General Niclas Malmcrona agreed to doing this and the EC endorsed the proposal.

The candidate for Auditor of the Treasurer's accounts for 2005 to 2008 will be elected at the General Assembly in 2005.

● *Changes to the ASSITEJ Constitution*

As the ASSITEJ Constitution states that there be two (2) auditors of the Treasurer's work, the constitution needs to be revised at the ASSITEJ Congress in 2005.

Klaus Eggert also reported that the working group has commenced the work of reviewing the constitution and coming up with proposals of additional changes to be made.

14. Business arising from working group reports

See item 13 (a).

15. Budget 2002 – 2005

(Luiza Monteiro and Jeremy Turner were not present for the following item).

Klaus Eggert reported that the EC needs to its working-budget the following, asked for by the EC working groups:

<i>Policy</i>	<i>11 000 USD</i>
<i>Networking</i>	<i>5 000 USD</i>
<i>Information</i>	<i>10 000 USD</i>
<i>General Secretariat</i>	<i>1 500 USD</i>
<i>Scripts</i>	<i>1 500 USD</i>
<i>Archives</i>	<i>500 USD</i>
<i>Constitution, Subscription, Fundraising</i>	<i>0 USD</i>

The total expenses for the period up to the next General Assembly is 40 500 USD.

Klaus Eggert added that with the EC selling more Annuals and the centres paying higher fees, the estimated income (year 2003 and onwards) could be more than 10 000 USD (2003) and 9 000 USD (2004) in the budget.

Niclas Malmcrona reminded that as of July 2005, the General Secretariat will no longer be funded by ASSITEJ Sweden. He raised the question as to who will finance the General Secretariat during the four month period needed for the General Secretariat if the Congress in Montréal 2005 is being moved from May to September.

Klaus Eggert proposed that 15 000 USD be added to the General Secretariat's funding as a contingency.

The EC consented to the proposal.

The proposed budget was then unanimously adopted by the EC.

16. The future location of the General Secretariat (from 2005).

Niclas Malmcrona declared that he resigns as Secretary General at the General Assembly in 2005. He will not be a candidate for another term, as he feels that it is of benefit to the EC that the chair is renewed over time.

Niclas Malmcrona stated that the organisation needs to find a new location as well as a new candidate for the General Secretariat. The process of finding locations and candidates should be commenced right away. He added that he will be happy to assist the new General Secretariat in getting started, as will the Nordic countries who have experience in holding the office of the General Secretariat.

Stephan Rabl suggested that candidates for Secretary General should be on the agenda within a year, in order for the new Secretary General to prepare and get funding from his or her country.

Wolfgang Schneider suggested the system of paying the General Secretary for his or her work to be reviewed by working group no. 7.

Wolfgang Schneider expressed his gratitude to the excellent work done by *Niclas Malmcrona* as the Secretary General, and said he looked forward to his future contributions in ASSITEJ.

17. Coming EC-meetings

(Luiza Monteiro and Jeremy Turner were not present for the following item.)

● *Reflections on the number of EC-meetings.*

Niclas Malmcrona raised the question of the number of meetings that should be held by the Executive Committee. He noted that the EC normally hold four meetings each term. The EC, having many tasks to attend to, would benefit from meeting more often. On the other hand, increasing the number of meetings could mean that some of the members would not be able to afford participating at all meetings. *Niclas Malmcrona* therefore initiated a discussion on the number of meetings to be held by the EC, acknowledging the fact that deciding on the number of meetings is also associated with the discussions of where the meetings are to be held. *Niclas Malmcrona* proposed that the EC come to a conclusion as to whether the EC is to meet four or six times this term.

The overall opinion of the EC members was that the number of meetings is dependent on the location of the meeting, as the costs and time consumed for travels are an important issue. *Ivica Simic* stated that holding many meetings, as is being done now, creates a good rhythm and coherence to the meetings. *Cheela Chilala* agreed on this, saying that as the organization is growing rapidly, there need to be more meetings. *Wolfgang Schneider* proposed that the EC should offer financial assistance to EC members that do not have enough funding to go to every meeting.

The EC decided that there will be six meetings held this term.

● *Dates and locations of the coming EC-meetings*

Next meeting: Austria, 24th – 28th of September 2003

Stephan Rabl invited the EC to hold its next meeting at the Vienna Festival in September of 2003. The EC members expressed their gratitude to Stephan Rabl and ASSITEJ Austria, and it was resolved that the next EC-meeting will take place in Vienna.

Time for arrival: September 23rd or, at the latest, September 24th (no later than 1 pm, as there will be arrangements for the EC in the afternoon and evening).

Day of departure: September 28th.

Proposals for consequent meetings:

Niclas Malmcrona reported on the invitations for EC-meetings submitted to the General Secretariat:

China 2004 (April)

The ASSITEJ centre of China has invited the EC to hold a meeting in Beijing, China, in April of 2004. (*Niclas Malmcrona* added that he will meet with ASSITEJ China on this matter during his visit to China in April of this year. *Wolfgang Schneider* asked the members of the EC to consider April of 2004 in China as date and location of an EC meeting.

Brazil 2004 (September)

The ASSITEJ centre of Brazil has invited the EC to hold a meeting in Brazil in September of 2004. *Wolfgang Schneider* stated that it would benefit the work of ASSITEJ to hold an EC meeting in a continent other than Europe.

South Africa 2004 (September)

Wolfgang Schneider reported about the idea to have an EC meeting during the World Congress of the IBBY (International Board on Books for Young People) in Cape Town, South Africa, during September of 2004. *Wolfgang Schneider* emphasised the significance of ASSITEJ being present in this part of the world. *Cheela Chilala* added that there is a big interest among the African countries to have an ASSITEJ EC meeting in Africa again.

Spain 2005 (February)

Niclas Malmcrona proposed that the members of the EC also take Spain into consideration for hosting an EC-meeting. Having attended a successful festival in Gijon, Spain, he informed that ASSITEJ Spain has expressed a wish to participate more in the work of the ASSITEJ International. *Luiza Monteiro* pointed out the interest of Latin America in the next EC-meeting being held in a Spanish-speaking country such as Spain. *Wolfgang Schneider* suggested that the EC take Spain into consideration for hosting an EC-meeting.

Australia 2005 (March)

Tony Mack reported that Australia (Adelaide) wishes to host an EC meeting in March of 2005. *Tony Mack* promised to look into the possibilities of Australia hosting such a meeting.

The EC agreed on having the next meeting in Vienna in September 2003 and endorsed the proposed plan for coming EC-meetings.

18. Any other business

(Luiza Monteiro and Jeremy Turner were not present for this item)

Tony Mack proposed that the EC send a letter to *Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevski*, recognizing the hard situation of her and her family in this time of war. *Wolfgang Schneider* promised to integrate this message in a letter he is about to write to *Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevski*.

Tony Mack added that, on human level, the EC should always write such letters to members that live under threat. *Ivica Simic* suggested a postcard being sent to *Rebecca Brinch*, congratulating her on her newborn baby. The EC consented to the suggestions.

Wolfgang Schneider reported having met with the president of ITI (International Theatre Institute), Manfred Bailhardt. They discussed the possibility of ITI and ASSITEJ cooperating. *Wolfgang Schneider* said that as ITI is a member of UNESCO and the president of ITI is involved with theatre for children and young people, it would be fruitful for ASSITEJ and ITI to cooperate. *Wolfgang Schneider* said that he has invited the ITI president to attend the next meeting of ASSITEJ Germany. In turn, ITI has invited EC members to attend the next ITI Congress, which is to be held in Mexico in March of 2004. *Wolfgang Schneider* said he finds the invitation to be of interest for ASSITEJ, and added that he would like for the ITI Congress to include a performance by a Mexican children theatre company. He asked the EC members to consider the ITI invitation.

| Network for dance

Stephan Rabl stated that he would like the ASSITEJ to involve in establishing an international network for the dance for and by children and young people. The network would help build a common base of knowledge of the dance activities in the member countries. Also, most importantly, new ideas are likely to arise from a network. He asked the EC to support such a network being created within ASSITEJ.

The EC consented to Stephan Rabl's proposal.

Stephan Rabl suggested that the network be presented at the 2005 Congress in Montreal, Canada. *Remi Boucher* found this to be a good suggestion. The EC decided that the network is to be announced at the Congress. *Stephan Rabl* and *Niclas Malmcrona* will make further efforts in the matter of establishing the network.

Peter Rinderknecht expressed a wish for more discussions to take place about the performances seen in connection to the meeting. He suggested a forum for reflections to be part of the agenda at future meetings. *Remi Boucher* agreed, and *Wolfgang Schneider* promised to see to it that discussions will be part of the agenda.

Tony Mack suggested that future meetings have less performances on the schedule, since the meeting agenda requires a lot of work to be done. He added that during this meeting, he regretted having noticed that the tight schedule had made it impossible to have an intense experience of the performances. *Wolfgang Schneider* agreed, saying that seeing one or two performances a day will be satisfactory.

19. Closing

(Luiza Monteiro and Jeremy Turner were not present for this item).

Wolfgang Schneider expressed his gratitude to the host Jeremy Turner, the Arad Goch Theatre Company and the members of the EC for a fruitful meeting, good discussions and an enjoyable festival experience.