

EC Meeting, 3-4 Sept. 2003, EUI: Preparation of 1st Alumni Conference and Other urgent issues of the AA

Present: F. Torres, A. Bongardt, C. Spagnolo

On 3 and 4 September the EC was assisted by Valerie Coppini.

The EC met to prepare the next Alumni General Assembly and the EMU Conference on 3-4 October.

On 3 September the EC established the agenda for the meetings with the EUI President and the Administration which took place on the 4th. In particular, the EC conferred on the substitution of the two EC members who resigned in 2003, the agenda for the Assembly, and the amount of the fee to be charged for the services which are going to be offered to Alumni and that will be made public at the next Assembly.

On the latter issue, after discussing an amount of 25-30 Euros, the EC eventually decided to keep the fee as low as possible for the first year at least at a minimum of 20 Euros. The EC agreed that expected receipts from the fee should as well (in the future they may also have to cover operational costs) be destined to some initiative benefiting EUI researchers. After contemplating the idea of assisting researchers in economic difficulty, the EC discarded it because the likely sum will be too low for the purpose and because of the difficulty to establish fair selection criteria. Instead, it was decided to create an Alumni Association Award for the best interdisciplinary Ph.D. thesis on relevant European issues defended at the Institute, to be implemented ASAP, applying already to theses defended in 2003. For the selection, a commission (whose composition, possibly involving EUI alumni, will be decided in due course) will be set up.

As far as the General Assembly is concerned, the EC established to have first an introductory address by Y. Mény, then a report by F. Torres based on the proceedings of the past meetings already published on the Web, and third a budgetary forecast for the calendar year 2003. The latter shall be drafted by B. Schwab on the basis of the information which the EC shall submit to her in the next fortnight.

The EC shall co-opt two candidates to be approved by the Assembly, willing to serve in the EC during the remaining one-year mandate. This solution seemed most convenient because the AA Statutes do not foresee partial EC elections nor resignations. On the other hand, there is a need for a Treasurer and of a fifth EC member for Statute revision. The names of some potential members were mentioned and their availability shall be checked by F. Torres.

For the next year, the EC decided to plan some social event, perhaps a dinner or a Easter trip. It was also agreed to think of an initiative revolving around the EC Constitution in the first half of 2004.

As for the Conference, the EC met with R. Nocentini in order to settle the procedures for the payment of the ECB contribution of 10,000 Euros obtained by the Subcommittee on the 1st Alumni Conference. The EUI will not ask for the usual lump sum (10%) discounted on external contributions, considering the AA as part of EUI institutional activities. Payment through the EUI shall save VAT costs to the Conference organisation. The EC approved the idea already discussed several times within the Subcommittee to spend only half of the amount, namely 5,000 €, in the Conference (meals, coffee, etc.), including a small amount for the speakers up to a total of 100 Euros per speaker or discussant in total, including meals. The EC approved the *Villa Viviani* cost (*preventivi*) kindly collected by V. Coppini (25 Euros/head for dinner; 15 Euros for lunch with sandwiches and a first course).

The other 5,000 € shall, also in accordance with the respective Subcommittee, be devoted to publication costs. F. Torres was still to check with the other members of the Subcommittee, with R. Nocentini and, obviously, with the ECB (for any special conditions that could be attached to the grant).

A first publication shall be done with the EUI that will cover its costs.

A small conference souvenir (a pen, a pencil or something of the like) was considered but the timing seemed too short to have a nice logo on it. The EC decided to avoid any expenses on that and drop it altogether.

On 4 September, the EC met with Prof. Mény and presented its programs for the Conference and the Assembly. Mény confirmed his support for publishing the conference proceedings at the EUI. He also agreed that the conference organisers should try to publish the revised papers later on with a renowned publishing house, using the ECB grant for that.

It was agreed that a logo for the AA should be designed together with the service of K. España and, although the schedule is tight, if the result was satisfactory, submit it to the Assembly.

Prof. Mény welcomed the idea of an AA Award, calling it “*a bridge between the past and the future*” of the EUI.

The issue of the administrative personnel which should be in charge of the relationship with the AA (as well as the issues of an office and computer space) could not be completely clarified because the on-going administration’s restructuring. The issues were not forgotten.

The EC met then with A. Frijdal and expressed its satisfaction for the e-mail addresses given to the EC that are to be extended to all alumni.

The EC asked for six exemplary electronic cards to present at the Assembly (3 EC members and the other 3 members, F. Torres is member of both, of the Conference Subcommittee). Frijdal approved the idea and suggested to differentiate the new Alumni card through a different colour. The 6 persons should send their (digital) photos to the EUI Administration. He also invited the EC to have a fee starting at 25 Euros (minimum contribution).

Afterwards the EC met briefly with Anne Duus and Hilde Derudder discussing the possible procedures for Alumni to pay the fee to the Association. It emerged that the EUI Online community envisaged at least a free e-mail and free access to the housing exchange service, without any knowledge or involvement of the AA. The meeting already repeatedly requested by the EC had never taken place. A meeting should be convened by mid-September together with the Secretary of the EC, the Computing Centre and the involved EUI services.

Finally the EC met with K. España , always with the assistance of V. Coppini, and revised the schedules for the Conference. The location of the lunch and dinner on the 3rd of October was discussed at length, because the conferring ceremony on the same day occupies most rooms at the Badia. In the end it was left open, conditional on the weather, whether the dinner shall take place in the lower Loggia or in Villa Schifanoia, whereas the lunch will be served in Sala Europa, also in Villa Schifanoia.

On the 4th of October (Saturday), the “sala rossa” was agreed on for lunch, although this will force the Administration to empty the room of the ceremony garments the day before. A (family) photo of the Conference participants and photos of the General Assembly and dinner shall be taken by the photographer already present at the Badia for the Ceremony. 40 copies of each shall be printed, at the expense of the EUI.

The Alumni Electronic card will remain as it stands for the researchers, given that a coloured one would be too expensive. In the space reserved for the department, there shall be written Alumni. Requests shall be addressed to the AA, namely to the person of the EUI administration put in charge of the relationship with the AA.

A Logo shall be drafted by a professional agency at the cost of about 200 Euros on the basis of the proposal submitted by the EC (an A containing the first “*effigie*” of the Badia).

The EC met also with B. Schwab on the issue of her collaboration as co-treasurer, in her capacity of founding member of the AA, asking her to attend the General Assembly.