

Minutes of the AA Executive Committee Meeting, Badia Fiesolana, 27 and 30 January 2006

Present: Annette Bongardt, Milica Uvalic, Carlo Spagnolo, Francisco Torres
Justified absent: Amy Verdun (who was contacted by telephone)

1. Meeting with Valentina Baggiani about the booklet for the history of the AA. The EC congratulated the author for the work already done and discussed with her the draft of the history booklet and schedules. The EC had submitted by e-mail some proposals of change as well as of integration of some matters, f.i. through personal interviews, in particular with B. Schwab, and the use of information available on the AA site or archives. It was agreed that Valentina Baggiani would submit a revised version by the end of February so it could be edited and translated in March. Publication is envisaged for the Alumni Weekend in October. F. Torres will coordinate this task.
2. AA Archive. The selection of the documents to keep from those not pertaining to the AA or of no interest for the association is almost finished. The archivist has prepared a list of documents to discard; the EC will eventually take the final decision on that matter. A convention on the deposit should be signed with the Archives. It was agreed that a ceremony for the delivery of the AA Archive to the Archives of the European Communities is desirable. The date and characteristics of the convention and ceremony will be decided together between the EC and the Director of the Archive, J.M. Palayret, possibly in June, at the occasion of the celebration of the 20th Anniversary.
3. The EC approved formally the establishment of a sub-committee to follow the set up of the e-journal's editorial board. Members will be all the 5 EC members plus L.S. Talani and H. Zimmermann and possibly other alumni who have participated in other AA academic initiatives, as had been previously proposed by the EC president to all.
4. Approval of incurred mission expenses by the President and Vice-president.
5. 20th Anniversary of the foundation of the AA. The EC decided to celebrate it in coincidence with the June Ball. A drink, reception or dinner could be paid from the AA budget; financial provisions have been taken to that effect.
6. A sub-committee for the AA's 20th anniversary celebration, constituted by Annette Bongardt, EC, Susan Senior, Jens Hoiberg, Peter Kennealy and Achille Accolti-Gil was approved by the EC and is taking care of the organisation of a walk in the Chianti open to all Alumni between 17 and 21 June. This walk might start from the Badia after the day following the June Ball; Lunches or dinners will be organized by some Alumni and possibly EUI staff who own country houses in

the area. All information will be put on the Web.

7. The second EUI Alumni Association Prize for the best interdisciplinary Ph.D. thesis on relevant European issues (Alumni Prize). The 2006 Alumni Prize will be awarded in a ceremony which takes place at the degree-conferring ceremony during the alumni weekend on Friday 6 October 2006. Each one of the EUI departments will choose the best interdisciplinary thesis on European issues in their respective field (for the period between May 2004 and May 2006) until the 12th of May. The Alumni Prize jury should take a final decision and communicate it to the President of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association before the 23rd of June 2006. It should also draft a one page report on its choice. The EC will officially announce the winner at the Badia on 23 June. A. Verdun will coordinate this task.
8. The next EC meeting is convened for 23 June.
9. Interdisciplinary Conference on the Maastricht Treaty on 5-6 October. The Secretary informed that a scientific committee had been set up, involving several Alumni and EUI Professors (B. De Witte, Bo Strath, J.M. Palayret, P. Winand) with great interest from most Departments. The EC urged the constitution of a specific Alumni subcommittee, including C. Spagnolo, EC, and other alumni possibly representing all four disciplines. The president suggested L. S. Talani, SPS, and the secretary suggested, S. Baroncelli, Law, to integrate the subcommittee; both suggestions were accepted). C. Spagnolo was to ask them formally to confirm their acceptance.
10. Interdisciplinary Conference on Globalization on 7 October. The EC welcomed the conference programme proposal already submitted by Pompeo Della Posta. After some discussion about the opportunity to have it in occasion of the Conferring Ceremony or rather at another occasion, it was decided to set it up on 7 October. A Subcommittee had already been proposed but it was under revision. The EC urged the constitution of a specific Alumni subcommittee, including P. Della Posta, M. Uvalic, EC, who had formally confirmed their acceptance, and other alumni possibly representing all four EUI departments. P. Della Posta was to ask them formally to confirm their acceptance.
11. Both conferences shall be self-financed. The two respective fully-constituted subcommittees shall take responsibility for looking for external financing. In case the subcommittees do not manage to get any sponsoring, the EC might pay for the coffee-breaks and water and consider financing the lunch of active participants. The EC will, as has become a tradition (except for the 2003 conference whose sponsoring paid all meals), contribute for the dinner in case there is no financing for the conferences; financial provisions will be taken to that effect.

12. The annual General Assembly will in principle take place on 6 October, after the Conferring Ceremony and the cocktail, as usual.
13. Budget 2005 and 2006. The EC looked at the banking account and other income sources and met with Roberto Nocentini and Nancy Altobelli. The Treasurer's report for 2005 was approved and submitted to the EUI. The Treasurer wrote to Roberto Nocentini asking the EUI administration to retain the amount of its annual 2006 contribution and pay directly some of the forecast expenditures for 2006 approved by the EC, namely translator of booklet (EUR 1.000,00); typography (EUR 3.000,00); alumni prize (EUR 3.500,00), AA 20th Anniversary catering (EUR 1.000,00) and AA alumni weekend catering (EUR 1.500,00).
14. The previously agreed division of tasks for 2006 among EC members was approved: F. Torres (Booklet on the history of the AA – with no subcommittee but outsourcing of work to Valentina Baggiani, translator and printing house; to be coordinated by F. Torres); A. Bongardt (AA's 20th anniversary celebration – with an approved subcommittee); C. Spagnolo (History of European Integration – Maastricht Treaty – conference – with a subcommittee to be constituted ASAP and approved when completed); M. Uvalic (job market initiatives; Globalisation conference – with a subcommittee to be constituted ASAP and approved when completed); A. Verdun (Alumni Prize – with no subcommittee but outsourcing of work to an independent jury and EUI departments and administration; to be coordinated by A. Verdun).

Meeting with President Mény on 30 January 2006, h. 17.00

The EUI President received the EC (Bongardt, Spagnolo, Torres, Uvalic) for an exchange of views on the 2006 programs.

Torres exposed the AA projects for the year.

The Alumni Prize will be assigned until the 23rd of June by a Jury constituted of: Philippe Schmitter, Chairman, Susan Senior Nello, ECO, Tanja Börzel, SPS, Monica den Boer, LAW, and Hubert Zimmermann, HEC. Each one of the EUI departments will choose the best interdisciplinary thesis on European issues in their respective field (for the period between May 2004 and May 2006) until the 12th of May. The Alumni Prize jury should take a final decision and communicate to the President of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association before the 23rd of June 2006. It should also draft a one page report on its choice. The Prize will be conferred to the winner in the presence of the jury members and of the President of the EUI and all heads of departments at the conferring-degree ceremony during the alumni weekend. The EC will announce the Prize winner on the 23 June.

Torres also announced the decision to hold the celebration of the AA's 20th anniversary in June in connection with the June Ball followed by a walk through the Chianti. Mény welcomed the idea and referred to the new rules of the June Ball, saying that all alumni would be invited. The EC could also officially give the Archive of the Association to the EC Archives. This could take place after the Chianti walk. The subcommittee for the AA's 20th anniversary celebration approved by the EC and constituted by Annette Bongardt, EC, Susan Senior, Jens Hoiberg, Peter Kennealy and Achille Accolti-Gil is taking care of the organisation and some Alumni and EUI Staff members are ready to welcome

participants at their country houses.

Torres announced then the booklet on the History of the Association, asking for advice on the best way to distribute it. He also announced the EC decision to have during the alumni weekend two conferences, both already in preparation but not yet with fully-constituted subcommittees, one on the History of European Integration (note: later on it was specified by Carlo Spagnolo, one of the organisers, as a conference on the Maastricht Treaty) and another one on Globalisation.

Mény welcomed these initiatives and explained in turn the projects of the EUI for the year which may affect the Association. He mentioned possible changes in the Logo of the EUI. Torres expressed the view that the AA would like to benefit from the studies done for the EUI logo so both logos could be designed together, having in mind the AA preference to remain very closely associated with the EUI. Mény also agreed to give the medal previously asked for the winner of the Alumni Prize, since that meant that only a rather limited number of persons would get it, in order to keep its special character. About the booklet, he suggested to explore the costs and the technical feasibility directly with Logistics and the EUI typography. He also addressed the financial relationship between the AA and the EUI, welcoming the ever increasing transparency and accountability of the AA. Torres referred the request made by the EC for the EUI administration to withhold the entire amount of its annual transfer to the AA account and to administer it directly according to a list of approved expenditures for 2006. Mény agreed to study ways of making this procedure even more automatic, facilitating the life of an AA treasurer.

As far as possible the EUI will improve the present organization of the communications with the AA. A stable employee of the Institute could be put in charge of the Web Sites, providing for the necessary updating of information sent by the AA on its activities, a problem with which the AA has been confronted and which is particularly sensitive since the site is the principal channel of communication between the AA and its members.

Torres mentioned then the issue of the Statute of the AA. The Assembly approved a change in the Statute but its actual implementation seems to need the presence of a "notary" during the next Assembly. President Mény said that the present Statute of the AA as an Association under national law may become a hindrance in its future development in close association with the Institute. President Mény indicated that the issue was also of interest to the EUI and that the EUI would be prepared to contribute to explore the necessary changes in the near future.