

General Assembly
held in Brussels
22 November 2013
2.30-5.00 p.m.
National Archives

Minutes of meeting (draft)

The president welcomes the attendees, who all have received the agenda and related documents.

Karel Velle opens the meeting and tells he is pleased that so many European participants have registered for the first ICA-Annual Conference, which will be held on November 23th and 24th.

Belgium	81
France	30
UK	27
Netherlands	25
Germany	20
Switzerland	18

In total, 500 participants have registered.

1) Adoption of the agenda of the meeting

The agenda is adopted without changes.

2) Adoption of the minutes of the General Assembly held in Copenhagen on 31th May 2012 (s. attachment)

The minutes are adopted without changes

3) Appointment of an Executive Board member – confirmation by the GA (EURBICA constitution, art. 26)

Karel has received no answer from the Spanish National Archives about the replacement of Luis R. Enseñat, who has found another position. As for France, there was the proposal to be represented by Odile Welfelé.

The General Assembly agrees with the French proposal.

4) Report on the meeting of EBNA in Lithuania (8th and 9th October 2013)

28th EBNA Conference was divided in 4 sessions:

1. Changing cultural heritage policy: cooperation between memory institutions
2. Current archival projects

3. Modern approach to the archival services
4. Access to documents: legal and practical issues

5) Projects

a. *APEx – Liaison Group of Eurbica*

Angelika gives a state of play:

- APEx, and especially the website, has been discussed during the EBNA/EAG-session in Vilnius (9 Oct. 2013)
- 27 Oct.: assessment by the European Commission, with positive as well as hard feedback:
 - The members ought to furnish more data and content for the Portal site
 - The EU financing can in the future be used for data preparation. In this regard, it should be easier to transfer resources from one work package to another.
 - Support will be provided for countries that experience difficulties to furnish content

- Recent figures:

Participating countries	22
Number of archives having furnished content	226
Number of online finding aids	170,000
Number of descriptive units	32,000,000
Number of pages/objects	125,000,000

- 25 Nov. 2013: next APEx meeting

b. *Euronomos*

The *Euronomos-project* (legal database ICA-Eurbica-Archives de France) has had very few response since 2009. Moreover, Europe has several other legal databases.

Karel deems time has come to admit that *Euronomos* is dead and that the launching of a new project should be considered, in which all the available data could be integrated.

The meeting agrees with this proposal.

c. *Webpage / Newsletter Eurbica*

Odile Welfel  proposes, in the light of the ceasing of the *Euronomos-project*, to establish a forum being a mixture of a website and a blog and where 1) discussions can take place on legal matters and 2) articles and papers can be put. Jussi Nuorteva sees a few practical problems: the European states have very different legal traditions and the translation of the terminology will be a tricky business. However, the proposal also has some positive aspects, as it will offer contact opportunities for experts in archives regulations (Martin Berendse). Karel asks Odile to write a vision paper for the next meeting.

Karel returns to the initial point on the agenda: does Eurbica need a website and a newsletter. The answer to both questions is yes, but a more systematic input of content will be needed.

6) ECA in Girona = 2nd Annual Conference of ICA – 13-15th October 2014

The 2nd Annual Conference of ICA will be a joint event with the 9th European Conference on Archives (ECA) and the 13th Image and Research Seminar. Theme: *Archives and cultural industries*.

The call for papers will be sent out in December 2013.

7) Data Protection Regulation – recent evolution

Eurbica has a long time been active in this issue, thanks to Martin Berendse and Hervé Lemoine. Unfortunately, the impact has been very low. The text has been improved but a lot of aspects aren't quite perfect yet. The Directive will not be put on the agenda again before 2015. Follow-up and keeping contact will be the matter.

8) Relationship to other ICA bodies

Discussion has risen about the use of the branches. In Blois (March 2013 meeting) David Leitch has presented a vision paper on this issue and Brian Corbett has prepared a questionnaire on the usefulness and pertinence of the ICA branches. This questionnaire will be distributed among the members and Karel summons everyone to answer it.

Jussi Nuorteva insist that not only Eurbica but also EAG and EBNA should be assessed. He thinks EAG, which is now run by the European Commisison, has become a much more formal meeting.

During the discussion, open questions are being asked about the relationship between Eurbica and ICA and between Eurbica and the other branches. Martin Berendse notes that Eurbica's presence gives the right to have one formal European representative in the ICA Executive Board but he asks himself if Eurbica is really needed in this context. He emphasizes that many sections are being dominated by Europeans and that 70% of the ICA members are Europeans and European institutions. Odile Welfelé suggests the Eurbica website and newsletter should become more of a visiting card of the members' activities and that more efforts should be made to centralise the information and to reflect upon it, in other words "to share heritage".

Karel Velle winds up the discussion by inviting everyone to reply to the questionnaire that'll be sent out. He will himself react on behalf of Eurbica.

9) Any other business

Evening of 22 November: press conference on Data Protection in the Brussels city Archives

10) Next meeting

The General Assembly will meet again in Girona (October 2014).