

## **GEECT Executive Meeting Berlin 2011**

**Present:** Marc Nicolas  
Bert Beyens  
Nik Powell  
Zuzana Tatarova  
Donald Taylor Black

**Attending:** Christine Ghazarian

**Date:** 15th February 2011

The meeting took place at the DFFB during the Berlin Film Festival.

### 1) CILECT board meeting in Capetown

Marc Nicolas reported on the meeting in Capetown. This gave also the opportunity to attend a meeting of CARA in Johannesburg to help revive the African association. This ended up being quite a success because for the first time someone from the Ministry of Culture came to the dinner they organised, which had not been the case for the past 15 years.

This meeting in Capetown was very special in the sense that it was the first board meeting with only 6 members, the president of the Board and the chairs of the regions. But in the end Don, Dafeng and Chap could not participate so only 3 members were present, with Henry Verhasselt. Marc mentioned the situation of Chap, who is still chair of CNA, although he has not been representing it for quite some time. He was not in Barcelona and noone was there representing him. Don should be talking to Chap about this situation. But in the end with only 3 members, and Henry, the discussions were easier and much quicker.

As far as CILECT activities were concerned, decisions were made on the activities proposed by the members, for the student exchanges as well as for the conferences.

Regarding the position of the new Executive Director, a draft announcement was discussed and agreed on, before it could be sent out to every member school. A schedule was decided on when and how the whole procedure should work.

Don was continuously informed of the discussions, but would not reply, or would suddenly change his mind. Then the decisions which were made at the board meeting were re-discussed by mail after everyone was back to his office. A committee of all the executive and a board meeting was meant to take place in Paris in July, and now the date has still not been confirmed.

Regarding the date of the next congress, it has been decided that it will take place in May, and not in November, because of better terms and prices in spring in South Africa.

Bert has a question on the contract period of the ED, will there be a probation period. On this particular matter, a lot will depend on the candidates and the country they come from.

Marc suggests that the announcement is sent to other international associations. Nik will pass it on to the European Producers' Club, he also suggests to put an ad in Screen. Marc should pass it on to ELIA, Europa Cinema, and MEDIA.

The situation of Egypt is shortly discussed: why out of GEECT, why still not paying. Marc suggests that we wait until the political problems in the country are stabilised and then confirm their joining the African association.

## 2) MEDIA matters (not in the agenda)

Marc reminded the board of his letter to Aviva Silver, after the GA in Barcelona, explaining that the MEDIA programme should be renewed, with full support to training, and especially to initial training. It should also consider to include coproduction of films between schools, and fully open Media Mundus to initial training.

Following this letter, a meeting with Aviva Silver was scheduled in Berlin, on the Monday dedicated to their information day, to insist on these issues and find out about their status and their future. Within the commission there are a lot of discussions about MEDIA and many commissioners think that it is of no use, among them there seem to be the president of the commission himself. Same kind of debates are happening within the member states. Marc suggests that each member school could write to its government, but Aviva does not think it is the right moment. She thinks that today it should be the top artists in Europe who should support their action, directors, actors, producers... However MEDIA is convinced that training is a good action to support, and especially initial training.

Another meeting took place on the same day with Arnaud Pasquali of EACEA. A conference is scheduled in March (21/22) in Brussels with school members and industry professionals.

Four topics are in the programme:

- new content for the web
- television series
- management
- 3D production

Nik wonders if the board should monitor this conference with the members of the association so that they know how to express their needs. Marc agrees and confirms that he will attend the meeting in the name of GEECT.

How was the MEDIA day? This depends on the interests of the participants... In the afternoon the new programmes that were presented were mostly about what MEDIA is crusading for, i.e. the above-mentioned topics. The morning was dedicated to the new supports available and the dates of the coming calls.

## 3) Student meetings

Marc suggests that a second call for student meetings is sent, which explains more in detail what they are. FAMU should apply if they are preparing a meeting of students in different central European countries (with VSMU, Lodz, and Hungary) on how to produce low budget films. However, according to the rules, it should not be a class but a proper meeting of students.

Marc tells everyone about the student meeting he is organising with the DFFB, which will focus on the screening of the recent Raul Ruiz film. However he is not applying for GEECT money. But this is the kind of meeting he has in mind, a bilateral one.

#### 4) Research papers

Marc reminds everyone that it was agreed to do a research paper on how film schools are financed. Marc will recruit this person, if anyone has ideas, he should let him know.

#### 5) Conference in Ludwigsburg

Thomas and Guido are organising this conference. Draft schedule is being re-arranged. The final version will be sent to all attendees.

#### 6) Finances

Malte has informed Marc and Bert that he will be visiting Amsterdam from the 28<sup>th</sup> of February to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March. GEECT will pay for his stay and Bert will go to meet him. What do we do now? As agreed we create the new association in Paris and leave behind the old association in Amsterdam. We open new accounts in France and ensure that both Marc and Bert have the signature.

For the moment, GEECT does not pay for the travelling and accommodation expenses of the board members attending board meetings. If we decide to change this rule, then we should propose it to the GEECT assembly. In Berlin, the board formally approves Bert's visit to Amsterdam in the name of GEECT.

At the next GA in South Africa, the board should propose the assembly to vote on board expenses paid by GEECT and report on the past procedures on this matter.

There seem to be 2 accounts, one savings and one current. The same should be done in Paris.

#### 7) Future conferences

For the yearly CILECT conference in 2011, there was the proposal of Stan in Sofia, plus the one from Brisbane. Then another proposal came from FAMU and apparently Stan did not remember the offer he made in Barcelona. So because of Brisbane being too far away, it seems that it will take place in Prague at FAMU, but no topic has been proposed yet. Don and Henry should decide on the FAMU conference. Then the GEECT board should propose to withdraw and postpone the conference in Sofia, so that it does not jeopardise the first annual conference of CILECT.

Then in 2012, with the CILECT congress in May, what do we do with the conference proposed by Napier? Maybe they should consider to do it at the end of February so that there is quite a gap between the two. This should be proposed to Robin MacPherson by Donald.

The proposal made by the School of Sound will come through NFTS and participants will have to be students of GEECT member schools. Since it is not a proper GEECT activity, a total support of 1500 euros should be given for 8 seats.

If Stan's conference is not postponed to fall 2012, then which conferences for 2012 and 2013, heritage, 3D, micro movies?... A call should be relaunched in September to define their content and their schedule.

At the end of the meeting, the members continued their discussions and gathered for dinner. The next meeting of the board will be in April in Paris, if needed, or later in September.