

111th Session of the Executive Council - 18 August 2007 Vienna (Austria)

Decisions

1. Status of Secretariat

1.1. Secretary General

Having considered the background and steps recently taken in this matter, Executive Council members agreed:

- to continue negotiations with the former Secretary General with a view to reaching an amicable agreement.
- to continue with the procedure to fill the post of Director General if possible by the end of 2007.

1.2. Working Group on the Secretariat

Following the report presented by Martin Schaerer, the Chairperson of the Group, Council decided:

- not to commence reorganisation of the Secretariat immediately, but to assess the status quo and work out what posts will be needed to implement the Organisation's 2008–2010 Strategic Plan, so as to be able to make a final decision once the person appointed to head the Secretariat has taken up their post;
- that the Acting Secretary General will examine the salaries of all members of staff and may recommend changes, explicitly stating the reasons for his decisions.

2. Renewal of Standing Committees / Reform Group & Working Groups

Noting that the membership of the Standing Committees will require renewal in 2008, Council decided:

- to review the various remits of these Committees;
- to establish a procedure for appointing future members of these various Committees and Groups on the basis of their findings.

3. Reports by Partner Organisations

3.1. ICOM Foundation

Having taken due note of the report presented by Christine Boël, the President of the ICOM Foundation, Council:

- noted the ICOM Foundation's contribution of €14,000 to help fund grants for the General Conference and expressed its thanks;
- noted the ICOM Foundation's contribution of €30,000 to the 2008 budget and expressed its thanks;
- thanked Sylvia Oumura Pestalozzi, the outgoing Treasurer of the Foundation, who has held the office for the last 25 years, and noted that she has been succeeded by Remy Best (Switzerland);

3.2 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Following the presentation of WIPO, represented by Francis Gurry, Deputy Director General, accompanied by Wend Wendland, Head of the Traditional Creativity and Cultural Expressions Division, for which they were thanked, Council:

- decided to strengthen its partnership with WIPO by establishing a long-term relationship with the organisation.

3.3 International Bar Association (IBA)

Having duly noted and thanked Adrian Parkhouse, Co-Chair of the Art, Cultural Institutions and Heritage

Law Committee, for the presentation on the IBA, Council:

- welcomed the further developments in the link with the Legal Affairs Committee, and,
- thanked the IBA for the assistance of Adrian Parkhouse with the Workshop for prospective ICOM Mediators scheduled to take place on the same day and of Avv. Cristina Manasse, the other Co-Chair for her proposed contribution to the Wednesday 22nd August conference session on museums and copyright and intellectual property.

4. Financial reports

4.1 Being reminded of ICOM Treasurer Nancy Hushion's recommendation that projections of the Organisation's future finances be improved, and in particular should no longer be based on previous situations. The Executive Council:

- approved the revised 2007 Budget;
- asked the Acting Secretary General to write a memorandum to request that the reports requested by the Treasurer be made available to her at the specified deadlines;
- gave approval in principle for revisions to the Reserve Fund policy;
- gave approval in principle for a memorandum clearly indicating the specific circumstances in which surpluses can be used, on the request of the Director General, reviewed by the Finance and Resources Committee and requiring the approval of the Executive Council;
- gave approval in principle for any surplus to be automatically transferred to the Reserve Fund;
- gave approval in principle for the inclusion of reports on accumulated surplus/deficit in all financial matters;
- noted that such a report is in the process of preparation by the accountant.

Following the presentation by Piet Pouw, Interim Secretary General, of documents;

4.2 EZ/07/101rev on 2008 Membership fees (8 August 2007): proposing the alteration of the exchange rate of the dollar for 2008, the Executive Council :

- agreed in principle to revise the exchange rate for 2008 to 1 euro = 1.36 US dollars;
- decided to inform the Committees that in 2009, all membership fees must be paid in euros, in line with the Executive Council's earlier decision. 2008 will be a transitional year;
- requested the Acting Secretary General to carry out an in-depth investigation into the difficulties which may be faced by countries which pay their membership fees in US dollars and in particular with the aid of UNESCO coupons. The findings to be accompanied by specific recommendations and addressed to the Council before the December 2007 meeting, which will be taken into account when 2009-2010 membership fees are set;
- decided to investigate the possibility of charging retired members from countries which receive a

subsidy the same membership fee as students from the same countries and to report to the Executive Council on the impact this would have on the Organisation's budget;

- removed the requirement for National Committees to use the same currency for the whole of a triennium;
- agreed that the membership fee rate in euros would remain the same as in 2007.

4.3 EZ/07/102: Regular subsidies for ICOM members ICOM (30 July 2007).

Noting recent upward adjustments of income levels by the World Bank and the four countries affected in this category: South Africa, Romania, Russia and Turkey. The Executive Council decided:

- to implement the World Bank's new classification and the resulting change to the memorandum on subsidies;
- to explain to the four countries concerned that they will be required to pay a full membership fee in 2009; but that 2008 will be considered a transitional year.

4.4 EZ/07/103: Reduced 2008 membership fees (July 2007).

Taking note of recent revisions to the World Bank list (reviewed on 1 July 2007), and that each subsidised individual member will pay an annual membership fee of 27 euros (i.e. 37 US dollars) for 2008. The Executive Council:

- approved the list as revised in line with the World Bank classification (1 July 2007);
- decided not to increase the membership fees for 2008, but requested that the amount in US dollars be removed.

5. Implementation of the 2004–2007 Strategic Plan

5.1. Report on implementation of Database [Jan-Alix Kruijenga and Bjorn Smits, DBF]

The Executive Council thanked DBF for their presentation and:

- approved the report submitted by Piet Pouw;
- asked to receive the mission statement before making a decision;
- asked the Secretary General to do his utmost to ensure that the planned new database be installed during the first quarter of 2008.

5.2. Reports of Standing Committees / Reform Groups / Working Groups

5.2.1. Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Following the report of the Committee Chairperson, Patrick Boylan, on the Committee's work, including progress with the ICOM Mediation programme, copyright, and the definition of museums and the museum profession in proposed new ICOM Statutes, The Executive Council decided:

- to include the text of Article 3 of the present Statutes of the Organisation in operational policies to raise the profile of institutions recognised as being entitled to use the designation "museum";
- to request the Committee to submit to the December meeting of the Council a detailed propo-

sal and budget for organising two proposed training workshops for prospective ICOM Mediators in 2008, probably one in North American and the other in Europe, reflecting the main geographical locations of the more than 30 individuals who had already volunteered to serve on the ICOM Mediation Panel;

- to agree that the Mediation policy documents should be amended to include in mediation, where appropriate, provisions relating to the transfer or copying of documentation including conservation records, and for the possible use of ICOM Mediation in relation to disputes with museums over copyright and other intellectual property questions;
- to welcome the Committee's new study of policies and practice on intellectual property and copyright with the aim of producing an ICOM guidance publication in due course.

5.2.2. Ethics Committee

Following the report and proposals of Bernice Murphy, Chairperson of the Ethics Committee, the Executive Council approved in principle:

- that the Committee's guidelines in any draft OPP document should be in harmony with the Mandate document agreed in 2006;
- that the Committee align its work more closely with ICOM's international activities and explore all the areas in which it could play a part;
- that the Committee be allowed to develop case studies as a training tool in the application of the ICOM Code.

5.2.3. Finance & Resources Committee

Following the report of Committee Chair Robert Spickler, the Executive Council:

- duly noted the Finance Committee's recommendations on the position of Director General, which will be taken into consideration when the job specification is drawn up.

5.2.4. Report by the Standing Committee on International Committees (CIC)

Following the presentation by Sandra Lorimer of the Committee's report, based on the findings of the appraisal of the International Committees, the Executive Council :

- Requested that the Hands On Europe ! group be contacted by the Secretariat to ask it to explain its reluctance to remove the term " Europe " from its title, given that its sub-title indicates "an international association of children's museums";
- asked the Committee to concentrate on the evaluation so that this tool can be used to rethink:
 - the relationship between the International Committees and the overall programme on the basis of the Strategic Plan;
 - the funding of the International Committees' on the basis of the appraisal's findings, including a review of the financial reporting form and the criteria for subventions.

5.2.5. Report by the Disaster Relief Task Force (DRFM)

Following the report presented by Thomas Schuler, Chairperson of the Task Force, the Executive Council:

- approved in principle a reshuffle of the Task Force, possibly entailing integration into MEP, on condition:
- that the existing structure be taken into account, to

maintain the format of Committees which have already been set up;

- that it receives a detailed proposal for the new structure, at least two months before the December 2007 Executive Council meeting, so that Council members can discuss it by e-mail if they so wish;
- provisionally approved for the integration of a new module into MEP;
- requested that the future MEP Advisory Committee concentrate on training;
- reminded those present that the Task Force had been set up to provide a group of experts who could respond quickly to emergencies on behalf of ICOM to assist museums under threat;
- considered that the Task Force's work so far has not yet fully reflected this initial aim (as a kind of "conservateurs sans frontières"/"curators or conservators without borders"), which must be a priority in the reorganisation of the Task Force.

6. Draft 2008–2010 Strategic Plan

6.1 Following the report by Elisabet Olofsson, the Chairperson of the Group, indicating that the Draft 2008–2010 Strategic Plan had met with broad approval from the Advisory Committee members. The Executive Council recommended:

- that if the planning session proposed by the Evaluation Committee cannot take place during this Conference that it, be held in June 2008.

7. Draft 2008–2010 Triennial Budget

The Executive Council:

- approved the Draft Triennial Budget presented during the Advisory Committee session on Friday 17 August 2007, to be presented to the General Assembly on Friday 24 August 2007.

8. MuseDoma International [Museum Domain Management Association]

Following the report of Nancy Hushion, the Treasurer of MuseDoma, the Executive Council :

- decided that a document would be produced and circulated concerning the new MuseDoma International association.

9. ICOM Statutes [2005/DIV.03rev.04]

Following the report of Gary Edson, the Executive Council decided on the following changes, to be proposed at the General Assembly:

- Article 3, Section 3: add Section 1 and Section 2, so as to ensure that the Article remains coherent with the definition as a whole.
- Article 4, Section 2: reincorporate the idea contained in the former wording (former Article 7, Section 7: "In the case of new members accepted by a National Committee, the name of the member, together with a copy of the member's application form and the annual membership fee for the current year, shall be forwarded to the ICOM Secretariat as soon as possible.").
- Article 11, Section 3, Paragraph 3 (French version): alter the wording to indicate that the Council approves and recommends the rate for membership fees to the General Assembly. ICOM's legal adviser will review this Article and provide the required advice, given that ICOM is an 1901 Association such and that decisions are a matter for the General Assembly.

10. Operational Policies

Following the presentation by Gary Edson, Chairperson of the Working Group on the Statutes, of

the policy documents on:

- 2007/DIV.01: Fellows of ICOM (16/02/02)
- 2007/DIV.02rev: Advisory Committee (20/04/07)
- 2007/DIV.04rev: Director General (25/04/07)
- 2006/DIV.06rev01: Charters, declarations and proclamations (25/05/07)
- 2006/DIV.01rev01: Publications and documents (25/05/07)
- 2006/DIV.02rev01: Sponsorship (1/06/07)
- 2006/DIV.06rev01: Name, logo and symbol of ICOM (09/05/07)
- 2006/DIV.11: Organisation of the International Council of Museums (22/04/07)
- 2006/DIV.12: Museums (15/02/07)
- 2006/DIV.14: Organisational representations (15/05/07)
- 2005/DIV.15: Standing Committees (1/06/2007)

The Executive Council:

- Decided to forward these policy documents for consideration by the General Assembly.

11. General Conference

11.1 Resolutions Committee

Following the report of Regin Schulz, the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, on the Resolutions received, and the current composition of the Group.

The Executive Council decided that:

- the Committee should as far as possible be geographically representative;
- Amareswar Galla and Elisabet Olofsson should sit on the Committee as advisors;
- accepted Ben Koevoets' offer to sit on the Committee as an advisor;
- ICOM's role in the development and dissemination of knowledge be addressed through a study of the issue of the circulation of National and International Committee publications.

The Executive Council also received the following information reports, thanked their presenters and took note of the reported findings.

11.2. Report on ICOM 2007 - Armine Wehdorn, Project Manager of ICOM 2007, on the ICOM General Conference. At the time of speaking, 2,619 delegates were registered for the General Conference. Representatives of 87 countries would be attending.

11.3. ICOM 2010- Xiangyi Li, on behalf of the local Organising Committee on the preparations for hosting ICOM's 22nd General Conference and 23rd General Assembly from 7 to 13 November 2010, in Shanghai (China).

12. Various

12.1. International Journal of Intangible Heritage - Yang Jongsung, representing Dr. Shin Kwangseop, the Chairperson of the Editorial Advisory Committee, and the presentation of Volume 2, 2007, of the publication.

12.2 Recognition of Retiring Council Members

The President of ICOM, Alissandra Cummins thanked the outgoing Council members -Gary Edson, Elisabet Olofsson, Jongsok Kim, Amareswar Galla and Marie-Christine van der Sman - for the excellent work they had carried out during their terms on the Council.

13. Executive Council meetings

Dates of forthcoming Executive Council meetings: 112th session: from 3 to 5 December 2007 in Paris (France).