

## Minutes of the council meetings 2015

**Venue:** Corvinus University Budapest

**Date:** 18th and 23rd July 2015

### President's report

**Fausto Ramondelli (President)** welcomes all those present to the Council meeting at the 50th Intersteno Congress in Budapest. He refers to a report on the activities over the period 2013-2015. It is a summary of the hard work by the Board members in the past two years.

*"Dear Members of Intersteno, dear friends,*

*The 50th Intersteno Congress has started. With this report I wish to present you the results of the activities carried out during the 2013-2015 term. First of all, let me thank the Board members for their work. A special thanks goes to the Secretary Treasurer, Danny Devriendt, who did most of the daily work of the Federation and leads the Organizing Committee of the Congress. Thanks a lot to Georgette Sante, who coordinates with passion, competence and flexibility the jury, and guarantees fairness and professionalism in this important activity of our Federation. Thanks a lot to Rian Schwarz-van Poppel, who coordinates the IPRS and ensures the contacts with an increasing number of professional reporters. Thanks to Carlo Eugeni, who coordinates the activities of the Scientific Committee, a group of Intersteno "thinkers" that suggests new solutions, studies upcoming technologies, and gives hints and opinions on the scientific background of the Federation. Thanks a lot to Jim Cudahy, who recently left his charge at both the NCRA and at Intersteno, since he is now serving as CEO in another association in a different field. Thanks a lot to Tang Keliang: even from the Far East, overcoming communication difficulties, he and his cooperators gave Intersteno great support, made of passion and work, especially during the Council and IPRS meetings held in Shanghai in October 2014. Thanks a lot to Gian Paolo Trivulzio (general), Emrah Kuyumku (website and social media) and Linda Drake (memberships). Their activities as consultants were of utmost importance for achieving the results that I am going to present you.*

*We do not have enough knowledge and competences to tell how Intersteno has changed after 50 congresses. Our duty is to present the work that was done and the goals for the near future. However, we cannot do so without a wider consideration of the history and of the aims of the Federation. Intersteno changed its Statute twelve years ago, in Rome: from that 44th Congress, thanks to the new proceedings it provided, the efforts of the management has been focused to make our Federation stronger, more open, more efficient, more important.*

*Yes, we dare say that after two years of work Intersteno is stronger. The financial conditions are good and we finally achieved the goal of organizing the Congress by ourselves, with the risks and with the honors that this implies. As you can see from the website [intersteno2015.org](http://intersteno2015.org), 530 people registered for this Congress. It is a success of the entire Intersteno community and the confirmation of the long-lasting interest in us from the whole world. The main part of our work in these two years has been devoted to the first Congress organized by Intersteno itself, with the necessary and precious help of the Hungarian national group, particularly Anita Dobos and Aliz Czuzcor. It has been a heavy burden. From some points of view too heavy, because we had to postpone or ignore other important activities of our Federation. But it was a historical and strategic challenge and we accepted it. We will have time to better organize our structure in order to accomplish the many duties a modern Federation has. Now we are satisfied with the result and we know that we can do better and even rethink some parts of the Congress in view of the next one. We reached the goal and already started to work on the next Congress in Berlin. I have been invited there to establish contacts with suppliers of venues and services. As a first step we need to find a convenient and cheap venue: we are working on this. It is time that we take into account a newer structure of the Congress program. For too many years we have followed the same pattern. Maybe we can adapt it in a way that satisfies the demand of all participants and competitors and avoids unnecessary and useless costs. We can say that Intersteno is stronger also because it is younger. One of the main goals of the Board was to care about youth. We are convinced that the Federation will go on in the future and will be successful only if it will be able to gain the interests of younger generations. Youth has a more modern vision, they have younger tools, newer professional horizons, and a smarter approach to market and to education. We cannot miss their support, their ideas, their suggestions, their energy. Therefore, we appointed to the Board a consultant for Youth, with the task of providing proposals and hints for integrating younger people who come closer to Intersteno. We wanted to focus attention on younger people by reducing the registration and the competition fees and by supporting the youth aims in the domains of Intersteno. In the future it will be good to pursue specific projects, such as cooperation with the EU for youth mobility and the constitution of a "Youth Forum" in the Intersteno structure, with its own representative in the Council. In one word we want to favor youth to bring into Intersteno their modern approaches and fresh ideas. Only by doing so we will be able to give Intersteno newer and stronger opportunities.*

*Intersteno is certainly more open. In October 2014, Intersteno held its Council meeting in Shanghai, China, together with the IPRS meeting. For the second time in a few years our Association, that was born and had lived in Europe for a century, looked beyond the European borders, thus enlarging its horizons and meeting colleagues and friends from the whole world. This was possible thanks to the generous and warm hospitality of the Chinese National Group, who supported the meetings with many services and help. We are grateful to them.*

*Organizing the Council and IPRS meetings in Shanghai in October 2014 gave us another chance for attracting the interest of other countries and other professionals. This was also pursued by the Internet Keyboard competition: the last edition saw the participation of nineteen countries and an increasing number of competitors; the cooperation between technologies and software programs met new goals and started to overcome the limits of the implementation of non-alphabetical languages. We started with the Japanese language, but Intersteno shall continue its investigation into other languages such as Chinese, Korean, but also Arabic, with the aim of welcoming competitors from those countries in the world championships. Limits are to be overcome, in one way or another, not accepted.*

*Another tool for making Intersteno stronger and more open, is the policy adopted in the field of individual and associated memberships.*

*In the last years Intersteno has been able to stay in contact with many and different interest groups, people, associations, companies, institutions. This attitude was of utmost importance for our Federation: not only did we receive financial resources that we would otherwise have missed, we were also able to project our mission into newer fields, into newer communities. The old structure of national groups, which remains the backbone of Intersteno, as we predicted already in 2003 while defining the new Statute, is no longer able, or completely able, to represent the complexity of interests which can be integrated in the Intersteno community. Therefore we have made it possible to successfully experience the possibility of becoming members of Intersteno even without the filter of national groups, through the option of Associated (for companies) or Individual (for persons) memberships. For such type of memberships we have also successfully implemented the automatic payment of the annual fee, as well as for the registration to the Congress. We must do more to timely welcome both new and old members and involve them into the Intersteno activities. The evolution and the experience of this kind of memberships pushes us to ensure a more effective participation. This is the motivation of the proposal of amending the Statute that you find on your desk and that the Board invites you to consider. The proceedings are to be simplified, with the aim of meeting new friends and providing these members an adequate role in the Council and in the General Assembly. We have settled a specific consultant for memberships and opened the Intersteno doors to professionals and associations which may bring new energy and resources to the Federation.*

*On the other side we regret having to say that some national groups of Intersteno do not contribute as expected to the management of the Federation. We wish that, apart from some personal struggles and misunderstandings, the friendly spirit which has led Intersteno so far will encourage us to work together, to overcome difficulties and to cope with new ambitious challenges. I am sure we can step ahead in many fields, by mutual trust and by helping each other to the benefit of Intersteno. The extra task we decided to pursue - organizing the Congress ourselves - is absorbing much of our energy. We need your help, the help of country groups, especially the larger ones, your support, your advice, your ideas.*

*We also aimed to make Intersteno more efficient. I already told you about our proven capability of organizing a successful Congress. It is necessary that an Intersteno Secretary helps the Board in a certain number of duties: this will allow the management to dedicate time to activities which could not be carried out earlier because of the heavy burden of things to do. A specific and adequate amount of money has been devoted to this action. Even if we are able to carry on the ordinary work by ourselves in the traditional way, we think that Intersteno must go faster and wider, and it is not possible to face the needs of efficiency only with the voluntary work of a few people. As a matter of fact this is the way other associations around the world also prefer.*

*The "Call for projects", by which members can be supported in international actions is a key idea which will enlarge the Intersteno activities with the involvements of more people and associations. So far we have only had a few proposals: in the future we must emphasize and promote the Call in a better and wider way.*

*The activities of Jury, Scientific Committee and IPRS improved in the last two years. With the aim of reflecting the changes in the job market and in professions, the competition rules were submitted to a careful review, with the efficient and expert work of the Jury. These corrections guarantee the due attention to the aim of fair and professional competitions. We decided to simplify some proceedings, to delete the multilingual competition and to confirm the Audio Transcription Competition as an official world championship.*

*The Scientific Committee is an important element of the Intersteno vision for the future, and works to broaden our horizons, which we need to guarantee successful actions. One of the most interesting projects is the creation of an Intersteno digital library that connects the shorthand bibliographical resources in various countries. On the initiative of the Italian National Group sponsored by the Intersteno "Call for projects", the request of recognizing Shorthand as Unesco masterpiece was presented, motivated by the shared awareness of the historical, social and cultural value of shorthand, which not only embraces the traditional professions, such as parliamentary and court reporting, but even more recent skills and techniques, such as speech-to-text, professional keyboarding and speech recognition. The proposal of an Intersteno Set of Professional Competencies, that you will find on your desk, is the basis for a certification program that hopefully we will be able to implement in the next years.*

*The IPRS reached many colleagues in parliaments and other professional frameworks. They supported Intersteno with expertise and technological enhancements, especially on the occasion of IPRS meetings. Furthermore, Jury, IPRS and Scientific Committee will cooperate together with the Board for drafting a final report at the end of the Congress, which will include the State of the art and the result of the event, as well as the Intersteno vision for the future.*

*Finally, we think that Intersteno is now more important. The entire revision of the intersteno.org website, thanks to the cooperation of the Board, Gian Paolo Trivulzio and Emrah Kuyumku (Turkish Group), is a strategic step for facilitating the access to Intersteno news and activities, as well as to the huge archive of documents and information that we accumulated. Intersteno is present on the social network and keeps attracting new friends: this is a powerful vehicle for our proposals and our aims. It is very important to timely feed these tools, if we want to reach more people and let them know about Intersteno.*

*Dear members of Intersteno, the Board, the Jury leaders, the Scientific and the Education Committees work very hard to the benefit and the future of our Federation. As President I want to thank each of their members for the time and energy they devote to this cause; and I want to thank each of you, members of Intersteno, for trusting in our team and in our work. Carrying ahead the Intersteno "ideal" for 130 years was not easy and smooth: it has been possible only because of the work, the mutual comprehension and the beliefs of many people who loved their profession and improved constantly skills and knowledge.*

Thank you!

(applause)

The members of the Council approve the report.

**Danny Devriendt** (secretary treasurer) announces that the report will be presented to the General Assembly. He says the report provides a good overview of the future challenges and the present situation. He thanks everyone who participated in the realization of the Congress, that for the first time was organized by the Federation.

## Minutes of the Council meeting in Shanghai

The members of the Council approve the minutes, with thanks to the reporter.

## Practical information on the running Congress

**Danny Devriendt** invites all the countries to prepare the list of their delegates to the General Assembly. He requests that all delegates of the countries sit on the first row for the flag parade.

## Changes of the constitution (Proposal for an Intersteno Standard Set of Professional Competencies)

**Fausto Ramondelli** announces that the associated membership was included in the Statute in 2003. It is meant for people, associations and companies that want to become member of Intersteno, both from countries with or without a national group, but that do not represent the interest of a national group. Linda Drake, membership consultant, suggested that the fee for an associated membership, 175 euro, is adequate for a company, but too high for an individual member that would like to join Intersteno.

Proposal: change the Statute so that an individual member pays a different fee, namely 40 or 50 euro. The associated membership is a different way of becoming member of Intersteno. Some of these members promote Intersteno and spread the aims of the community in their own environment. Associated members can only vote in the general assembly and, through a representative, in the Council. Associated and individual members can elect a representative in the Council.

Proposal: from 2017 associated and individual members elect in the General Assembly their representatives on the Council.

It needs an extra, extraordinary Assembly, because the proposal implies a change of the Statute.

In the discussion that followed the following comments were made:

**Marianne van Gool** underlines that associated and individual members can be of value for (the financial situation of) Intersteno. They can come up with new ideas and techniques. They may not interfere with the tasks of the national group. What are the rights of associated and individual members? When a national group holds an opinion opposite to that of associated or individual members, which is leading? Who decides on what arguments?

**Fausto Ramondelli** makes clear that the Statute foreseen predicts that individual and associated membership is possible only if this does not hurt the interest of the national group. When it hurts the national group, the membership will not be accepted. The Statute is clear about this and will not change.

**Jari Nittuinperä** points to the fact that the General Assembly has to accept the membership, which can take up to two years. A new member wants to be active from the final application. The proposal is better than the previous situation: one person represents the whole group of individuals and associated members and works with a mandate.

**Fausto Ramondelli** says that there was a mistake in the Statute. At one point the Council decided upon the request to become an associated member and at another point the General Assembly. The Board wants the Council to make this decision. If there is no majority in the Council there is always the possibility to go to the General Assembly. So normally it will be the Council that decides on the request of individual and associated membership.

**Waltraut Dierks** has the opinion that individual members can be a member of the national group, if there is one. In that way they are represented in the Council.

**Gregor Keller** pleads to be careful for splitting up in several individual associations and members.

**Jaroslav Zaviačič** points at the danger of fragmentation. He pleads for cooperation.

**Fausto Ramondelli** replies that the associated membership is already in the Statute. The situation of the national groups differs. The main changes are to foresee that an individual associated member pays less than 175 euro, their participation in making decisions in the General Assembly, and one representative for the associated members and one for the individual members in the Council.

**Jean-Charles le Masson** points that the representative, being member of the Council can be elected to the Board.

**Fausto Ramondelli** replies that also someone who is not part of the Council can be elected as president/member of the Board. There is nothing mentioned about this in the Statute. You do not have to be member of the Council to be elected.

**Jean-Charles le Masson** is of the opinion that Intersteno may not be in competition with national groups and should enforce the national group. Intersteno must put an individual member in contact with the national group, if there is one.

**Fausto Ramondelli** replies that the discussion about individual members took place in 2003 and is outdated. The change is that the associated members and the individual members elect one person for the Council.

**Gregor Keller** is of the opinion that Intersteno must more strongly support the national groups and not invest in adding individual and associated members.

**Fausto Ramondelli** asks for suggestions how to support the national groups. He mentions the budget for projects. There were no requests from the national groups. Many are completely silent, not willing to cooperate with the Board or to take initiatives. There is a lot of support and input by individual and associated members. Some national groups are losing their role in their own country and are not able to represent the complexity of interests. The associated and individual members are part of the community. We want to give them the right to speak and make decisions in the Council.

He refers to a request of an individual member to be part of Intersteno. The national group was asked if this request hurts their interest. Because it did, the decision was made not to accept this individual membership. The proposal is not changing any point of view. It's just ruling the normal life of our community.

**Linda Drake** thinks that to allow individual members is probably more important in the US than in other countries. Many professionals do not belong to the associations NCRA, NVRA or others. They may join Intersteno as an individual member. Even when there are a lot of them, they have only one representative in the Council. Being concerned that something could happen in the Council meeting with one vote from associated and individual members is probably not worth thinking about.

### Vote about changing the Statute

1. To introduce in the Statute that there will be a distinguish between associated and individual members, with different fees.

2. If agreed, associated and individual members have their own representative in the Council from 2017 on.
  3. Linda Drake will be temporary representative of associated and individual members between 2015 and 2017.
  4. If agreed, the Council decided on the request of individual membership and associated membership.
  5. The Board is authorized to make an amendment on the Statute only for wordings. The Statute is not written properly.
1. In favour: 11, against: 0, abstention: 6.
  2. In favour: 10, against: 0, abstention: 7.
  3. In favour: 13, against: 0, abstention: 4.
  4. In favour: 16, against: 0, abstention: 1.
  5. In favour: 16, against: 0, abstention: 1.

## Sets of professional competences

In the opinion of **Fausto Ramondelli** it is very important that Intersteno, as an international organization, has an opinion on the competences and the skills of people who do professional activities. The proposal is not definitive and is meant as a basis for a discussion. The basic principle is that a professional should comply to certain minimum standards for certain professional activities. Of course, each country may have different standards. In some countries the law requires a certain level of qualification. Other countries have no rules at all. Maybe the proposal can be used as a foundation for a future certification program. Intersteno does not want to be the entity to judge whether someone is good enough. It wants to give an opinion on the basic skills in the professional activity. If the Council agrees on this, Intersteno will be able to ask people to make a certification program that may be recognized in their own country as important. Maybe in another country it will not be so important, but it is a first step. For a certification program it is important to have a set of competences skills that are good enough.

**Jaroslav Zaviačič** first wants to make an analysis of what is used in practice and in education, to know what has to be the content of a certificate. In his opinion there is a role for IPRS to analyze what is done, also technological, in the different parliaments and for the Scientific Committee and the Education Committee to find out what is going on in the schools in the world. In many countries they have their own certificates. National groups have to do a lot of preliminary work, prepared by a committee of Intersteno. A lot of information has to be collected.

**Jari Nittuimperä** refers to the different classification in each country. At least in speech capturing he pleads for two levels.

**Helena Zaviačičová** wants to know how to organize this by Intersteno. Will there be new contests?

**Fausto Ramondelli** emphasizes that the subject is not a certification program, but a proposal for finding a common base in all countries with a minimum standard. The certification program has to be the second step. That means that in the future Intersteno will be able to give a paper or a certification to say: for Intersteno you have the skills, the competences for this kind of profession. The first step is trying to find a common base, which has to be the minimum base for this kind of profession.

The suggestion to let countries do the work themselves has the danger in it that nothing will happen. It is better to agree on a basic set of competences. Fausto agrees with Jari that the competences for parliamentary reporters are probably too high, especially in some countries. This can be different in countries. The proposal is not meant to give any diploma by Intersteno. It is only a minimum common base or standard of competences and skills for Intersteno to agree with. Intersteno is a professional association. It is a historical proposal that may be useful for some countries.

**Russel Page** points out that in the US there are different levels of certification and minimum standards are required.

**Jaroslav Zaviačič** asks again for more analyses. Maybe some changes in the structure of the competition have to be considered, but he does not want a generally new certification to set.

**Fausto Ramondelli** underlines that for some professions the competition is not all. For parliamentary reporting or court reporting are other skills/competences foreseen. A secretary needs more skill than only to type, such as knowledge. Workers in the parliament has to know the functioning of the parliament. You have to start somewhere.

**Jari Nittuimperä** is delighted with this kind of proposal. It is positive there is a kind of certification by Intersteno. The national group makes all the arrangements for example to certify the process. A subject for Intersteno is how to involve this subject in the competition of the Congress.

**Fausto Ramondelli** finds it important to have a standard set of professional competences for a professional association such as Intersteno, founded in 1887. Having a minimum standard for a stenographer, a secretary, a subtitler is something that gives strength to Intersteno. Hopefully it will become an important point of reference for people around the world. Certification is a second step, because you have to understand how you can be able to give a diploma to someone. If we agree on this we will be able to explain to people in the world that this are the basic standards for this kind of profession. The discussion can be continued in the next meeting.

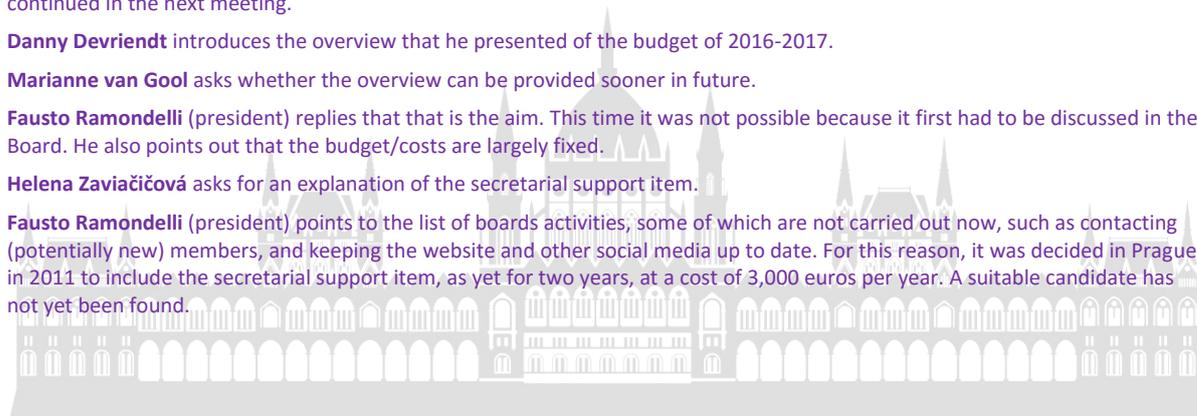
**Danny Devriendt** introduces the overview that he presented of the budget of 2016-2017.

**Marianne van Gool** asks whether the overview can be provided sooner in future.

**Fausto Ramondelli** (president) replies that that is the aim. This time it was not possible because it first had to be discussed in the Board. He also points out that the budget/costs are largely fixed.

**Helena Zaviačičová** asks for an explanation of the secretarial support item.

**Fausto Ramondelli** (president) points to the list of boards activities, some of which are not carried out now, such as contacting (potentially new) members, and keeping the website and other social media up to date. For this reason, it was decided in Prague in 2011 to include the secretarial support item, as yet for two years, at a cost of 3,000 euros per year. A suitable candidate has not yet been found.



Additionally **Danny Devriendt** points out the new situation in which the Board itself organizes the Congress, which entails extra work.

**Jaroslav Zaviačič** believes this means that the important principle is abandoned that everyone works for Intersteno on a voluntary basis. He suggests to lower the budget of the "call for projects" for the benefit of secretarial support.

**Fausto Ramondelli** wants to discuss this suggestion with the board. Perhaps sponsorship can help to keep the budget balanced.

**Danny Devriendt** feels that certain tasks, such as keeping in touch with members, welcoming new members, updating social networks, should not be done by the Board.

In response to questions **Danny Devriendt** notes that:

- the travel allowance does not cover the costs, which means board members partly covers the costs themselves. Travel costs are made in particular for the two board meetings.
- expenditure exceeds income, even though money is spend carefully. At the end of 2014 the capital of Intersteno was around 78,000 euros. The capital has declined because of the decision to sponsor the farewell dinner and the publication of a book as part of the 50th Congress;
- jury members receive a small compensation, because they have additional costs;
- the objective is to integrate the budget of the Congress in the general budget of Intersteno.

The budget for 2016-2017 is adopted with 12 votes for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

## Continued discussion on the set of professional competences

**Carlo Eugeni** (Scientific Committee) reports that the Scientific Committee discussed the set of professional competences, and regards them as a first step, as minimum requirements. If the ultimate goal is certification, the set should be developed on the basis of what is happening in the various countries in this field. The set is not intended to replace national regulations and practices. In addition, it must be determined how the professional competences can be incorporated in the competitions for the five professions on which Intersteno focuses.

Following a discussion the following is decided:

- the set of professional competences is regarded to be a starting point/basis;
- the members of the Council react to this, so that their responses can be discussed at the next Council meeting;
- Carlo Eugeni and Georgette Sante will check how the competition structure can be adjusted;
- the set of competences will again be put on the agenda of the next Council meeting.

## Election of the Jury President

The Council agrees to the proposal to appoint Georgette Sante to Jury President for the period of two years.

**Georgette Sante** (Jury President) thanks the jury members for their work, not only during the Congress, but also between congresses.

## Nomination of jury leaders

The Jury President thanks all jury leaders for their huge work. Concrete nominations will be done at the council meeting 2016.

## Elections of the leader of the Scientific Committee

**Fausto Ramondelli** thanks Carlo Eugeni for his great efforts in the past period.

**Carlo Eugeni** says that the Scientific Committee is trying to be as active as possible. It is volunteer work that the members do next to their regular jobs. He will make an updated list of members of the Scientific Committee.

The Council agrees to the proposal to appoint Carlo Eugeni as leader of the Scientific Committee for the next two years.

## Next Council meeting and IPRS meeting

**Fausto Ramondelli** announces that three suggestions were made, namely Atlanta (USA), Zagreb (Croatia) and Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Experience shows that attendance from Europe is lower when the meetings take place farther away, such as in Shanghai in 2014. The Board therefore proposes to hold the next meeting in Zagreb.

## Nominations for the members of the Board 2015-2017 upon proposal of the Board

The Board submitted the following list of nominations to the council:

1. President: Fausto Ramondelli (Italy);
2. Vice-President: Rian Schwarz-van Poppel (The Netherlands);
3. Secretary: Danny Devriendt (Belgium);
4. Member: Keliang Tang (China);
5. Member: Russell Page (USA).

Russell Page (USA), who is the only new nominee, tells about his background. He worked as a court reporter and with the NCRA, where he was engaged in drafting a certification program. He wants to bring the knowledge that he gained in this field into Intersteno.



Gregor Keller (Chair of the polling) announces the voting results:

1. Fausto Ramondelli: 12 votes of 16;
2. Rian Schwarz-van Poppel: 13 votes of 16;
3. Danny Devriendt: 13 votes of 16;
4. Tang Keliang: 15 votes of 16;
5. Russel Page: 14 votes of 16.

## Education Committee Management

The council agrees with the recommendation to appoint **Simon Sun Hulmin** chairman of the Education Committee.

## Associated and individual members - Nominations and annual fees

The membership fees remain unchanged.

## Consolidation of the National Representatives

**Danny Devriendt** notes the following changes in the list of national representatives:

Belgium: Georgette Sante

France: Jean-Charles Le Masson

Korea: Kim Young-Jung

Slovakia: Anna Škovierová

The council agreed to the nomination.

## Date of the next Internet contest

**Danny Devriendt** announces that the board proposes to agree to a - yet to be -presented proposal, with the commitment that the date will be determined in consultation with the various countries.

The council agrees to this proposal.

## Proposals and Decisions about Intersteno fees

The council agrees to the proposal to leave the fees unchanged.

## Next Congress

**Danny Devriendt** says that a suitable conference venue in Berlin (Germany) has not yet been found. He asks members to think along, knowing that the aim of the Board is to reduce the participation costs to increase the number of participants.

**Jaroslav Zaviačič** recommends to involve the national group.

**Danny Devriendt** says that their advice and cooperation are sought.

## Other matters

**Marianne van Gool** wants typing education in primary schools, learning by teaching, to be promoted. She asks whether the Education Committee wants to study how countries, where typing education is part of the curriculum, managed to do this.

**Carlo Eugeni** indicates that this subject can be passed on to both the Education Committee and the Scientific Committee.

**Carlo Eugeni** is asked to make a Final report of the 50th Congress. He requests the Council members to send him their comments on the concept.

## Presentation Zagreb

After a short presentation about Zagreb, Danny Devriendt announces more practical information on the meetings in Zagreb will be distributed soon.

Finally, he thanks the members of the Council for their input and the work they have done over the past two years.

*Reported by: Marlene Rijkse (The Netherlands)*

