

MINUTES

of the

SIETAR EUROPA General Assembly

25 October, 2008

17:00 – 19:15

Granada Spain

The 2008 Annual General Assembly was opened by current President Jonathon Levy. As the number of SIETAR Europa members required by the By-Laws were not present to constitute a meeting, the meeting was closed and a new meeting opened.

Leslie Guggiari and Clara Falk-Bano were elected as Auditors of this meeting.

Jonathan Levy presented the President's report. He reported that since the May 2007 meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria, the SIETAR Europa Board has rotated the presidency on a six month basis. Alexander Scheitza served the first six months, Ildiko Polyak the second six months and Jonathan Levy the last six months. Jonathan informed the Assembly that the Board has focused on four major areas in the past year and a half.

1. **Organization and Structure:** Presidents now rotate for periods of six months each. Board members include delegates from national or regional European SIETARs and two delegates representing SIETAR Europa members at large who do not belong to any other SIETAR organization.
2. **Communications and Visibility:** A new full colour SIETAR Europa brochure has been produced (and distributed at the Assembly). Rob Gardiana of SIETAR Spain will continue to develop this brochure. A new membership data base is being developed and will be continuously updated. The SIETAR Europa website template is being improved and made easier to use. A SIETAR Magazine is being developed by Karina Gabrielyan. This will be a semi-academic on-line journal that will hopefully increase the visibility of research being conducted in the Intercultural field. The European Journal of Cross-Cultural Management Competence has asked SIETAR Europa to provide the content for a 10 – 15 page "Practitioner's Corner" in each issue of this quarterly journal. SIETAR Europa has been invited to be a part of a consortium with the University of Groningen's (The Netherlands) MA program in International Communication.
3. **Expansion:** Jonathan Levy announced that New SIETAR groups are being created. SIETAR Europa has already established and is using a process for affiliation and funding of national or regional SIETAR groups that are affiliated with SIETAR Europa. In 2008 SIETAR Spain was created. SIETAR Italy will complete formation in 2009. SIETAR Ireland, SIETAR Bulgaria and SIETAR Moscow are in the early stages of formation. Clear criteria for the formation of SIETAR groups is being developed and will be followed by all groups wishing to become part of SIETAR Europa. Guidelines for working with partners and the promotion of SIETAR projects and sponsors will be developed.
4. **Values Project:** This project was begun in 2004. Alexander Schietza announced that Young SIETAR is working in cooperation with other SIETAR groups on the formation and implementation of a SIETAR Intercultural Values Project. A SIETAR Charter will be created based upon general agreement amongst all SIETAR group regarding the meaning of SIETAR and what will be shared values and the range of expected professional qualities and characteristics of SIETAR groups and their individual members. More information will be made available about this as the project moves forward.

Financial Report: SIETAR Europa Treasurer, Ildiko Polyak presented the financial report for 2007/08 and the proposed budget for 2008/09. A copy of this report is appended to these Minutes. She responded to several questions and suggestions made by people attending the meeting. The accounts and the 2008/2009 budget were both approved by the Assembly

Financial Auditors Grant Douglas and Susanna Tungli were nominated and approved.

Alexander Scheitza announced that the **Global SIETAR Council** held its first meeting earlier in the Granada Congress. The SIETAR Global Council is an informal structure that includes Presidents (or their designates) of all SIETAR Groups worldwide. It is not an official organization, but rather an informal structure whose purpose is to facilitate and implement communication and cooperation between all SIETAR groups worldwide. One of its first initiatives was to facilitate cooperation between all SIETAR groups in planning and holding the Granada Global SIETAR Congress 2008. Participants at the SIETAR Europa General Assembly asked several questions about the Council and requested that information be provided to all SIETAR groups and individual members about how it was organized and will function. It was proposed that this information be made available on all SIETAR groups websites.

Future SIETAR Congresses: SIETAR France will hold its 30th anniversary congress late in 2009. All SIETAR members worldwide will be welcomed to participate and attend. SIETAR Europa's next congress will be held in 2010, location and dates are still to be determined.

Several SIETAR Europa members thanked the current Board for its hard work over the past year and a half. They were widely recognized and acclaimed for having committed themselves to many days and hours of challenging work in the governance of the organization.

The Annual General Assembly was adjourned at 19:15.

Respectfully submitted by Monica R. Armour (volunteer secretary of the Annual General Assembly), scrutinized and audited by Leslie Guggiari and Klara Falk-Bano