

**Minutes of the 58th General Assembly
Fort de France, 16 November 2003**

Apologies:

Josep BRACONS (Catalonia), President
Magda CARNECI (Romania), President
Katy DEEPWELL (Ireland), International Member
Christophe DOMINO (France), President
Léonida KOVAC (Croatia), Vice-President AICA
John Peter NILSSON (Sweden), International Member
Carlos PEREZ REYES (Spain), President
Lisbeth REBOLLO GONÇALVES (Brazil)
Tineke REIJNDERS (Netherlands)
Lars SAARI (Finland), President
Efi STROUSA (Greece), President
Allison THOMPSON (South Caribbean), President
André TOLSTOI (Russia), President
Laura URAZBEKOVA (Kazakhstan), President
Jin-Sup YOON (South Korea), President

Agenda

- 1- Minutes of the Meeting of the Administrative Council in Toulouse on 1 March and Matters Arising
- 2- Reports of the President and the Secretary-General
- 3- Treasurer's Report: Budget and Anticipated Revenue from Subscriptions in 2004
- 4- Elections (2 Vice-Presidents and 10 International Members)
- 5- Reports of the Commissions and Presentation of New Sections
- 6- Future Congresses
- 7- AICA Publications and the Reorganisation of the Website
- 8- Projects and Programmes of the Executive Bureau and National Sections, 2003/2004
- 9- Reform of AICA's Statutes and Regulations
- 10- Composition and Reform of the Commissions
- 11- Any Other Business
- 12- Date of Next Meeting

Henry Meyric Hughes (HMH), President of AICA, opened the meeting at 09.15 hours.

HMH thanked all those who had been responsible, and their teams, for organising this year's Pre-Congress and Congress on the islands of Santo Domingo (Marianne de Talentino and Laura Gil), Barbados (Nick Whittle and Allison Thompson) and Martinique (Michel Monroe and Christine Dorléans, from AMCA and Dominique Brébion, and Suzanne Lampla, from AICA South Caribbean). He welcomed Eleanor Heartney, the new joint President of AICA USA and noted with pleasure that her Co-President, Carey Lovelace, had attended the first part of the Congress, in Barbados. He then went on to read out the list of members who had sent in their apologies.

1. Minutes of the Meeting in Toulouse on 1 March and Matters Arising

HMH gave a quick summary of the various topics which had been discussed at the last meeting of the Administrative Council in Toulouse. The minutes of this meeting are to be found at the following website address:

<http://www.aica-int.org/n121/minutes/eng-minutes-ca.html>

2. Reports of the President and the Secretary-General

HMH ran quickly through each of the points in this report, which had been distributed to all those present (attached as an annex, in three languages). Christian Chambert (CC) asked about the latest situation with regard to developing the AICA website. He urged that information about all activities organised by AICA, such as round table discussions, be posted on this and distributed by e-mail. HMH replied that this was already the practice and that there were plans for extending the use made of the website, in future. He could not give the latest run-down on progress with developing the website, but had plans to invite Olivier Henry, AICA's webmaster, to make another short presentation at the next meeting of the Administrative Council, in Paris.

The President's report was put to the vote by the Assembly. It was unanimously approved.

The Secretary General, Ramón Tio Bellido (RTB) then also gave a summary of his report (attached as an annex, in three languages).

Since there were no questions on this, the report was put to the vote by the Assembly. It was unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

Angelica Bäumer (AB) read out her report and asked if anyone would like to ask any questions about this.

CC suggested deleting the term 'international', in the first paragraph, since all AICA members had to pay an annual subscription, whether or not they were international members. He also commented that it was very difficult to pay over the annual subscriptions at the beginning of the year. AB replied that it was essential for all Sections to make a real effort to do this, because the Bureau started to run up expenses from the beginning of the year and depended on members' subscriptions, as its principle source of income. CC asked whether the Treasurer expected the same level of income in 2004 as in 2003. AB reminded him that the levels of both the annual budget and of the Association's activities were affected by the level of grant received from other sources; RTB emphasised that it was impossible to plan activities in advance or to organise anything, without additional funding budget. Summing up, HMH underlined the importance for the Association of receiving members' subscriptions as early on as possible in the new financial year. He emphasised the fact that the Bureau had only limited resources to cover a very large volume of administrative work.

The Treasurer's report was put to the vote by the Assembly. It was unanimously approved.

Before continuing with the agenda, HMH invited the organisers of the Pre-Congress and the Congress to take the microphone. In passing, he expressed his regret at the absence of any critics from the Haitian Section of AICA, owing, no doubt to financial reasons.

Marianne de Tolentino gave an account of the organisation of the Pre-Congress at Sano Domingo, from 6 to 8 November. She began her report, by stating that Nick

Whittle had been the first to suggest the idea of a Pre-Congress in Santo Domingo, two years previously. She voiced her deep regret at the lack of subsequent involvement by the rest of the South Caribbean Section, to the extent that no one from outside had participated in the Pre-Congress and no one from the Dominican Section had been invited to give a paper at the Congress itself. She ended up, giving with a brief description of the successful programme organised for the participants in the Pre-Congress.

Nick Whittle began, by thanking the participants in the Congress for having made the journey to the Caribbean. He reminded those present that AICA South Caribbean had been founded in 1997 and that since then, with the support of Haydee Venegas and the Porto Rican section, it had organised two symposia, in 1998 and 2001, which had introduced and elaborated on the main themes chosen for the Congress. In concluding, he expressed his determination to publish the conference proceedings as quickly as possible, though the timing of this would depend on the financial situation.

Finally, Suzanne Lampla spoke in the name of Dominique Brébion and her colleagues in charge of the part of the Congress which was being held in Martinique. Her preliminary conclusions were that the Congress that the Congress had stimulated a number of fruitful exchanges. She ended, by reminding the audience that the organisation and logistics of the Congress had been facilitated by the creation of AMCA, and that AMCA had provided the main legal and financial support.

Before the debate was drawn to a conclusion, Anne Dagbert took the floor, to express her dissatisfaction with all the things that had gone wrong with the organisation of the Congress and with the lack of proper advance about arrangements. She hoped that it would be possible to learn the appropriate lessons from the problems which had arisen, so that these would not be repeated on future occasions. HMH insisted that there was little point in dwelling on the organisational imperfections, though he gave his assurance that the Paris Bureau was already working on means of ensuring that there would be an improvement in the organisation of future Congresses.

4. Elections (2 Vice-Presidents and 10 International Members)

Vice-Presidents

RTB explained that two Vice-Presidents, Aleksander Bassin (Slovenia) and Christian Chambert (Sweden) had come to the end of their mandate. He said that the Executive Bureau wished to recommend Evelyn Weiss-Ott (Germany) and Efi Strousa (Greece) as suitable replacements – the former, because of the work she had already been doing for the Association, ~~and because the current German President, Walter Vitt found it difficult to attend the Association's meetings;~~ and the latter, on account of the active role that she had played, since assuming the Presidency of the AICA Hellas and because of her role, both in organising an international seminar in Greece, to honour the memory of Eleni Vakalo and in supporting the recent Workshop for critics and curators in Istanbul. (In passing, HMH took this opportunity of expressing his thanks to AICA Hellas for their generous donation of 1,000 Euros to the Paris Bureau, in memory of Pierre Restany. This sum had gone to help AICA Turkey with the cost of organising the regional Workshop in Istanbul).

CC, for his part, proposed Taava Koskinen (Finland), as a candidate. The latter accepted and stressed that she would focus on involving a younger generation of critics in AICA's activities.

The Assembly put these candidates to the vote and the results of this secret ballot were, out of 27 votes registered: 20 votes each for Evelyn Weiss-Ott and Efi Strousa,

and 10 votes for Taava Koskinen. [RAMON/ANNE-CLAUDE: what to we do about these figures, which do not add up?! – Someone from Finland, or elsewhere, is bound to complain!].

International Members

RTB stated that the Bureau needed to assist the Assembly with drawing up a list of new International Members, representing the widest possible geographical spread, and pointed out that, as a corollary of this, it would be necessary to try and avoid electing several members at one time from the same Section.

CC once again nominated Taava Koskinen (TK) as a candidate, and there ensued a discussion on the eligibility, or otherwise, of a candidate who had already been elected for one year at the previous General Assembly. RTB affirmed that TK's re-election would contravene the current Statutes. At the end of a somewhat heated discussion, a decision was taken to reject Taava Koskinen's candidature. [Ramon: we

seem subsequently to have proved wrong in this. Do you agree? – and, if so, what can we do, to make amends? Would it not be simplest, to propose at the next Administrative Council meeting that we should formally apologise to Taava and, in the exceptional circumstances, invite her to join us for one year, as the 11th International Member?]

In the end, the Assembly proposed the following list of candidates:

Laimute Kreivyte Lithuania), Marie-Luise Syring (Germany), Irini Savvani (Greece), Aleksander Bassin (Slovenia), Myrna Rodriguez (Porto Rico), Samuel Herzog (Switzerland), Christopher Martin (United Kingdom), Eleanor Heartney (United States), Hiroshi Minamishima (Japan) and Manli Lin (Taiwan). Given that there were only 10 eligible candidates for the ten available vacancies, this list was voted on, exceptionally, by a show of hands and unanimously approved.

Report of the Commissions and Presentation of New Sections

Financial Oversight Commission

Members:

Haydee Venegas, the Chair of the Commission, read out a written report (not yet received by the Paris Bureau).

Commission for new Members

Members of the Commission: Evelyn Weiss-Ott (Chair), Angelica Bäumer, Carey Lovelace, Aleksander Bassin.

The written report was read out aloud by Evelyn Weiss-Ott, the Chair of the Commission. The report, in English, is given below:

Report:

121 applications were submitted to the Commission

85 members have been accepted

36 members have been refused

The reasons for refusal were:

- not long enough member of AICA National chapter (at least one year)*
- not enough publications*
- reporter and not art critic*

Bridgetown, Barbados, November 11th, 2003

Evelyn Weiss-Ott (Chairman)

Samuel Herzog raised a query about the last-named reason for refusal and the distinction that was being made between art criticism and reporter. Evelyn Weiss

stated that the two professions had nothing in common – particularly with regard to content and style.

6 Forthcoming Congresses

2004: Taiwan

Chauhsin Chen took the microphone, to explain that the 38th AICA Congress would be held in Taipei, around the period of mid-September 2004. The dates would be settled, in connection with the Kwangju Biennial. The main theme of the Congress would be 'The End of History and the "Posties" of Contemporary Art: The New Tendency of Art and Its Cultural Production in the XXIst Century'. This theme would be sub-divided into 4 sessions: 'The Cultural Production of the Contemporary Arts'; 'Arts Governance and Local Discourse'; 'The Hetero Forms of Contemporary Arts'; 'The Posties of the Contemporary Arts and Its Future'. Those requiring further information are requested to look up the following internet site: <http://aicatw.adsltdns.org> or to contact Chauhsin Chen (Director) or Zoë Chen (Coordinator) at the following e-mail address: aica_tw@yahoo.com.tw (See Chauhsin Chen's report, attached, as an annex – still awaited).

2005: Slovenia

Aleksander Bassin indicated that he was going to prepare this Congress in collaboration with Brane Kovic. He envisaged taking advantage of the close proximity to Venice, by fixing dates for the Congress, immediately before or immediately after the opening of the Venice Biennale – i.e. around end May/beginning June. The main theme of the Congress would be focus on problems of 'Art Theory and Art Criticism'.

Aleksander Bassin's Report:

With authorization of Slovenian Ministry of Culture the Slovenian section will organise the Congress and the General Assembly in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 2005. At this moment Ljubljana is well known among the art critics and art artists, Slovenia as the part of middle Europe is on boarder line between globalisation and regionalism in nowadays art. There are many international manifestations going on; in Ljubljana the International Print Biennial since 1955, 4 years ago Manifesta 2 has taken place and there are a lot of other art events not only in Ljubljana but in other centres like Koper, Maribor, Celje, too. The main theme during the Congress will be Art Theory and Art Criticism in praxis concerning the nowadays international exhibitions i. e. Biennials. The time of Congress will be one week beginning with the end of May or in the first week of June, depending of the prewiev of Vennice Biennial, so that the participants can go directly, probably by ship from Koper to Venice, or by bus because it takes only 2 hours from Ljubljana to Venice. There will be even some good direct connections by train from Ljubljana to Venice (about 2 hours). Slovenian section invites everybody to be present at the opening of the new International Print Biennial during the time of Congress and of some international exhibitions, too.

7. AICA Publications and the Reorganisation of the Internet Site

[Ramon]

8. Projects and Programmes of the Executive Bureau and the National Section, 2003/2003

Projects of the Executive Bureau

HMH decided not to offer any detailed information about planned future activities for the coming year, since these – notably, the Round Table in San Sebastian, at the opening of Manifesta 5, the re-organisation of the website, and publications under the AICA Press imprint – were already outlined in his report. RTB nonetheless insisted on drawing members' attention to one important aspect of all this, before passing on to the reports from the National Sections – namely, the principle that the Executive Bureau and the AICA Administrator should not, in any circumstances, be the only people involved in the execution of activities. He stressed the importance of the National Sections becoming directly involved in all activities taking place in their territory. Thus, for example, the Round Table in San Sebastian would have to be organised in collaboration with AICA Spain.

A propos of this, Liam Kelly asked for further details about the collaboration that AICA had established with Manifesta. HMH explained that the convention that AICA had signed with the International Foundation Manifesta (IFM) covered a period of three years and was aimed at securing financial assistance from the European Community, under their Culture 2000 Programme. He added that, for practical reasons, the San Sebastian project would probably have to be organised in conjunction with IKT, which was organising its own Annual Congress at the same time.

Reports from the Sections on Activities in 2003/2003

RTB then went on to report on information received from a number of other Sections:

-ACCA (Catalonia)

The Section was celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary this autumn with a series of lectures, involving HMH and RTB, among others

-AICA Slovakia and AICA Hungary

Les présidentes de ces deux sections (Jana Gerzova et Erzsebet Tatai) ont publié les actes d'un symposium réalisé les 15 & 16 octobre 2001 à Budapest et à Bratislava. Cette ouvrage, intitulé *Conceptual Art at the turn of Millenium*, porte sur l'art conceptuel réalisé dans ces deux pays.

-ABCA (Brazil)

The Section continued to publish a half-yearly review. The Bureau had received the two numbers for 2003 (April and September), which contained, among other things, detailed information about the forthcoming AICA Congress and a tribute to Pierre Restany.

-AICA Mexico

This Section had published an annotated compilation of texts, which had appeared in reviews between 1900 and 1950

-AICA Romania

Magda Carneci, President of this Section, had undertaken to organise a project, in conjunction with the Thessaloniki Biennial, which would focus on issues of art criticism in the Balkans. This project was supported by AICA Paris, which would like to offer the same kind of assistance as in the case of the recent Workshop in Istanbul. An application would be submitted to the European Cultural Foundation (ECF) for a grant, to cover the cost of the participation of young critics and curators from the region.

RTB termine son intervention en indiquant que de manière générale, les activités des sections sont consultables sur leur propre site Internet.

RTB closes his speech by reminding that the activities of the sections are, in general, available in their own web-sites.

The
presidents
of these
2 sections
(J.G. &
E.T.)
have
published
the
proceedings
of the
symposium
organised
on 15 & 16
oct. 2001
in
Bud. &
Brat.
under the
title
"C. Art at
the Turn
of the
Millenium".
HMH
gives an
excellent
summary
of the
conceptual
art in
these
2 countries.

France

Anne Dagbert read out a report on the Section's activity, in the name of its new President, Christophe Domino:

- At the end of September, AICA France had published a work on *Authors' Copyright* (*Droit d'auteur et critique d'art: problèmes et perspectives*), based on a study and information day that the Section had organised on 12 October 2002
- The Section was organising a series of three-monthly meetings, open to the public, at the Maison Européenne de la Photographie, in Paris, in the form of spoken reviews of critical activity. For the session on 12 December 2003, the Section had invited Henry Meyric Hughes to come and to talk about the current artistic scene in London
- The Section envisaged putting in place a programme of critics in residence, which would provide an interface between critics/researchers and their chosen place of residence
- The Section planned to organise a number of study days in October 2004, in conjunction with AICA Poland and AICA's Executive Bureau in Paris, as a part of the forthcoming Polish Year in France (*L'Année de la Pologne en France*)

-AICA USA

Eleanor Heartney announced that plans were proceeding for a symposium in 2004-2005 on the relations between art and art criticism, within a social and cultural framework

AICA Finland

Taava Koskinen announced that the Section was preparing an educational seminar, financed by the Ministry of Education. Candidates' applications would be selected at the beginning of 2004

AICA Greece

Irini Savvani announced that the Greek Section had succeeded in obtaining increased funding for its activities. Among other things, she herself had benefited from a grant, to enable her to present a paper at the Annual Congress.

AICA Sweden

Les dernières activités de la section sont consultables sur le site Internet, à l'adresse suivante : www.aicasweden.org

AICA Irlande

Liam Kelly rend un dernier hommage à Dorothy Walker, ancienne présidente de la section irlandaise, décédée cette année.

9. The Reform of AICA's Statutes and Regulations

HMH introduced this topic, by reminding those present that the reform of these texts had been the cause of endless and, ultimately, debilitating debate, over the previous few years. He thanked the many Sections and individuals who had contributed, by making concrete suggestions. At the same time, he felt it was now necessary to move on and reminded those present that he was determined to suspend discussion of statutory reform until the end of his Presidency, if the Assembly could not now reach agreement on the changes incorporated into the new text, which, he believed, came as close as was possible to commanding a broad consensus of approval.

The last activities of the sections

can be consulted on the web-site:

Liam Kelly says a few words in homage

of Dorothy Walker, former President of the Irish Section, who passed this year.

*apart from HMH
a tradition!*

At the last meeting of the Administrative Council, which had been held at Bridgetown on 10 November, those present had concentrated on the Statutes. The version now being proposed had undergone a number of modifications, as a result of this. The version of the Regulations now being proposed had been swiftly adapted, to take account of these changes to the Statutes and would be finalise, as soon as the Statutes had been approved. Consequently, HMH proposed voting on a new version of the Regulations at the next Administrative Council meeting, around February 2004, in Paris.

At its recent meeting in Bridgetown, on 10 November, the Administrative Council had voted on, and approved two motions: one would result in the abolition of the dual category (or two step) membership and had been almost unanimously approved (with one abstention); and the other, which was aimed at omitting any explicit reference to 'modern and contemporary' art, had been defeated by 13 votes to 4, with one abstention.

HMH explained that transitional arrangements would need to be put in place for a limited period, if the move to a single category of membership were to be approved that day by the General Assembly. The Presidents of the National Sections would be given until 15 February, to decide whether all, some, or none, of their 'national' or 'associate' members should be offered membership of the International Association, and to communicate a list of names and contact details to the Executive Bureau. After this period of dispensation, any remaining 'national' (etc.) members would have to apply for membership of the (international) Association afresh, in the same way as anyone else, under the new rules. Membership cards and stickers would henceforth only be issued to full international members of the Association; associate categories of members might continue to exist in a number of countries, but their existence would be of no future concern to the Paris office.

HMH then went on to summarise all the minor changes to the Statutes, since the revised version had been circulated in July.

Christopher Martin also read out the new proposed text of Article 1, paragraph 1, which he had elaborated, in close consultation with HMH, as follows:

« The International Association of Art Critics (AICA = Association Internationale des Critiques d'Art) is an international, non-governmental association of art critics whose professional activity is criticism in all media, teaching, or curating exhibitions. Its function is to promote the understanding (and critical appreciation) of the visual arts in all their histories and manifestations. Its members are primarily concerned with the modern and contemporary arts of all cultures. The Association brings together art critics of all nations who wish to develop international cooperation, and examine, and report on the economic, political and social forces that shape art. »

Liam Kelly (LK) suggested that the phrase 'critical appreciation' represented a problem and proposed replacing this with 'critical interpretation'. This was agreed, and HMH confirmed that it would be included in the definitive version of the Statutes. LK also stated that the text which had been submitted to the General Assembly, which had been further modified at the Administrative Council's meeting on 10 November 2003, had not been communicated to the members of AICA, as stipulated in the current Statutes, and that the General Assembly that day included too few members to be truly representative. In other words, he considered that this was not very democratic and asked whether it was really necessary to modify the current Statutes. HMH affirmed that the changes in the art world and the general operating environment were such that it was quite imperative to make certain changes to the

2 treaties
any
adopted
statute of

constitution, and that he had been mandated to do this, at the time of taking over as President.

CC supported LK's view and regretted not having received a fair copy of the latest version of the text before the meeting (the reason for this being the breakdown of the office photocopier in the Centre Frantz Fanon).

RTB reminded members of the procedures which had to be followed, and which had been duly followed. Thus a revised version of the Statutes, which was to be voted on at the General Assembly had been drawn up, at the end of one year of intensive consultations with the National Sections and with individual members, and circulated in mid-September, two months ahead of the Assembly. The problems which had arisen were attributable to the breakdown of procedures at that point – notably, the late submission of comments and proposals for further changes from a number of quarters, including proposals for textual amendments by the Swedish Section, only two days in advance of the Administrative Council meeting.

HMH proposed moving forward and not dwelling on difficulties which the Bureau had encountered along the way, in its efforts to implement changes to the Statutes. He continued with his analysis of the new text which would be put to the vote.

Article 1 had been discussed, and the proposed modifications accepted, and the term 'Advisory Board' deleted from paragraph 4 and elsewhere.

Articles 2.3.5 and 6 had not been subject to further significant changes, and there were no comments on these from the floor.

Article 4, dealing with 'Honorary Members' was a new addition, which passed without comment from the floor.

Article 7, on the 'General Assembly' posed problem for CC:

« q) to warn, formally to reprimand or, in extreme circumstances, to expel, National Sections or individual Members who are in breach of the Statutes and Regulations, or who stand accused of serious misconduct (see II 5 c), above) »

He proposed that a Section or individual which, or who, was threatened with expulsion should be given the right to be represented by a lawyer. RTB replied that this would be clearly specified in the Regulations, which would be revised, in turn, as soon as the Statutes had been approved. HMH proposed deferring discussion of the new Regulations until the February meeting of the Administrative Council.

Article 8, 'Administrative Council', paragraph 1:

The Association is run by the Administrative Council, which is composed of:

- a) Presidents of all the National Sections
- b) Former International Presidents of AICA
- c) Ten International Members, elected from the Membership at the General Assembly, on the grounds both of geographical balance and of the platform they present, as a basis for election. (The International Members are elected annually and may only be re-elected three more times, with or without a break in between)
- d) Chairmen of Commissions set up by the General Assembly
- e) A representative of Archives de la critique d'art, with voting rights for matters concerning the Archives only.

LK commented on the fact that the Vice-Presidents were missing from the list. It was agreed that they would be inserted into the final version of the text. CC insisted that former Presidents and Vice-Presidents should remain on the Administrative Council. HMH considered that this would not be very democratic, because the Association's Executive had to be constantly renewed, through an electoral process. He accepted, however, that former Presidents and Vice-Presidents might be allowed to attend meetings of the Administrative Council, on condition that they were not given a vote.

Articles 8 and 9 were not subject to any changes of substance, and there were no comments on these from the floor.

Article 11, on 'Elected International Members' was a new addition, as follows:

Ten International Members are elected from the membership by the General Assembly on the grounds both of geographical balance and of the platform they present, as a basis for election. The International Members are elected annually and may only be re-elected up to 4 more times, with or without breaks in between.

The Assembly noted that the phrase 'up to 4 more times' in this Article should be replaced with 'up to 3 more times', and that this change would be incorporated into the new text. Taava Koskinen asked what change this meant, in relation to the current Statutes. HMH explained that, in the new text, Elected Members could be elected three times without a break – something which would not have been possible, in the past – and would thus be able to enjoy an unbroken mandate of up to four years.

None of the remaining Articles (12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21) needed serious modification. The Assembly were asked to note that the Administrative Council had effectively replaced the 'Advisory Board' in all matters, and that all references to it in, for example, articles 12,14 and 16 would be removed.

In conclusion, HMH indicated that any further changes to the final version of the text that would be sent out shortly afterwards would be confined to small matters of detail (including the renumbering of paragraphs and minor textual corrections).

The Statutes were then put to the vote of the General Assembly. They were passed by a majority of 24 in favour, with none against and two abstentions.

HMH explained that a motion would also have to be composed, and voted upon, for implementing the new Statutes, with respect to the integration of the two categories of membership and the adaptation of the different Sections' National Statutes to the new International Statutes.

Integration of the two categories of membership

All National Presidents were to be given a one-off opportunity of offering full membership of AICA to those who had hitherto been classed as 'associate' or 'national' members, without the need for subjecting them to any further formality or retrospective selection procedure. Presidents wishing to take advantage of this possibility – only available to fully paid-up members for the current financial year, up to 16 November – were asked to send the Executive Bureau a complete list of the names, full addresses, including e-mails and telephone and fax numbers of the individuals concerned by 15 February 2004, at the latest. At the same time, or as soon as possible thereafter, they were also requested to submit a standard, completed biographical form, for all members whose status had been modified, in this way – not as a means of testing their eligibility for membership anew, but for the records of the Association. Only when these formalities were completed would the new full members be integrated into the Association and granted the full rights of membership. 'Associate' or 'National' members whose names were sent in by their Presidents after 15 February would be treated in exactly the same way, and subjected to the same scrutiny, as new applicants under the new Statutes which had just been unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

Adoption of the new Statutes by the National Sections

The Presidents of the National Sections would have to set to work immediately on adapting their own Statutes to those of the International Association. Each Section was asked to send a copy of their proposed revised Statutes to the Executive Bureau,

so that a specially appointed Commission could check them for conformity with the International Statutes. Presidents were asked to make as few changes as possible, in adapting their own Statutes to those of International AICA, and to mark all such changes clearly, in order to facilitate the Commission's work.

RTB reminded Presidents of National Sections that the introduction of a unitary form of membership went hand in hand with the adaptation of the Statutes of the different National Sections and that one part of the operation was dependent on the other.

In closing the discussion, HMH reminded all Presidents of National Sections that a large measure of responsibility had been devolved upon them for ensuring that the highest standards were maintained, in ensuring that admission to the Association was only granted to new applicants who clearly met the criteria for eligibility, laid down in the Statutes.

The motion was put to the vote of the General Assembly and unanimously approved.

10 Reform of the Commissions and Constitution of the Commissions

Financial Oversight Commission

The members of this Commission were due to be replaced. Haydée Venegas, the Current President of the Commission, proposed replacing members on a rotating basis, so that one member would be replaced each year. In this manner, the know-how acquired along the way could be passed on to incoming members. It was decided that Brane Kovic should be the first member to leave the Commission and that a new member should be nominated to take his place, at the next Administrative Council meeting, in February 2004, in Paris.

Statutes Commission

RTB proposed that the nine Vice-Presidents should be regarded as de facto members of this Commission, and this was agreed. Evelyn Weiss-Ott was nominated to the Presidency of the Commission. It was agreed that the texts of the revised National Statutes should be sent to the Paris Bureau, in the first instance, and forwarded by the Bureau to the members of the Commission, for checking and endorsement.

Publications Commission

HMH pointed out that it had been agreed to set up a reconstituted Commission, which would cover publications and editorial policy in all areas, including the AICA Press and material place on the website. It was important that this Commission should be seen to be broadly representative of the membership, as a whole, so it would not be possible at this meeting to decide on the final list of members. However, HMH asked for volunteers, who would like their names to be considered in this connection, and the following asked for their interest to be registered: Christian Chambert, Samuel Herzog, Suzanna Sulic, Liam Kelly, Taava Koskinen. The final list would be agreed at the Administrative Council in February, and one of the first tasks of the Commission would be to propose a definition of its scope and remit.

11. Any Other Business

Administrative Council

Nick Whittle proposed varying the location of the Administrative Council meetings and holding meetings every other year, for example, in a different place. HMH took note of this suggestion and proposed discussing this at the next Administrative Council meeting. The main problem with this suggestion might be cost – especially, the fares and expenses of the Executive Bureau – but it was agreed that the idea might

be worth further consideration, especially if the Presidents of the National Sections showed an interest in funding these events.

Registration of AICA as a Not-for-Profit Association

RTB mentioned that the AICA Bureau wished to apply to the French State for registration as a 'not-for-profit Association'. If it were successful, this would greatly facilitate AICA's fund-raising drive from private sources, in support of its various activities, worldwide.

The General Assembly unanimously voted in favour of AICA's applying for the status of a 'not-for-profit Association'.

13, Date of the next Meeting

In closing the session, HMH confirmed that the next AICA meeting would be that of the Administrative Council in Paris, at the end of February 2004. The precise dates would be confirmed and communicated to the members of the Council around the end of November 2004.

The President closed the session at 14.00 hours.