

Rapporteurs

Mr Jari Lybeck (Secretary General of EURBICA 2004-2008)

Director: Provincial Archives of Hämeenlinna, Finland

Arvi Kariston katu 2 A

13100 HÄMEENLINNA, FINLAND

Tel: +358-3-656 4620

Fax: +358-3-653 3810

E-mail: jari.lybeck@narc.fi

Christine Martinez

Responsable des Relations internationales

Direction des Archives de France

56 rue des Francs Bourgeois

75141 Paris Cedex 03

Te : 00 33 1 40 27 63 74

Fax : 00 33 1 40 27 66 36

E-mail : christine.martinez@culture.gouv.fr

1 Administration: Who We Are

1.1 Executive Board

The Executive Board has included 11 members in all of whom two have retired during the report period. Martine de Boisdeffre (Director of the French Archives) elected as president in 2001, continued for a second mandate 2004-2008. Jari Lybeck (Finland) remained as General secretary, while Andreas Kellerhals was appointed as vice-president when Mrs Nalecz left. The other members of the board are : Joan Boadas (SPA); Natalija Glazar (Slovenia); Peter Kartous (Czech Republic); George Mackenzie (Scotland); Angelika Menne-Haritz (Germany); Slawomir Radon (Poland); Yusuf Sarinay (Turkey). There was a problem with Italy, formerly represented by Salvatore Italia. When he retired, no follow up was given by Italy to the General Secretary's letters.

1.2 Membership

In April 2004 the number of EURBICA's members (ICA Categories A-D in Europe) was 1050. The number of Category A members was 83 and that of Category B members 28. The membership is based on the membership of the Council of Europe with two exceptions (Belarus and the Vatican are members although they do not belong to the CE).

Israel, represented by the National Archives and the professional association, had the status of observer. It was accepted as a full member in 2004 (General Assembly of Vienna) as far as the National Archives are concerned. The professional association became a full member in 2005.

2 Programme: What We Do

2.0. Meetings

The Executive Board met as follows (usually twice a year):

- 2004 : August (Vienna)

- 2005 : June (Paris) and November (Abu Dhabi)
- 2006 : May (Warsaw) and Curaçao (November)
- 2007 : April (Berlin) and November (Québec)
- 2008 : April (Ljubljana)

General Assemblies took place as follows:

- 2004 : August (Vienna)
- 2005 : November (Abu Dhabi)
- 2006 : May (Warsaw)
- 2007 : April (Berlin)
- 2008 : the General Assembly will be held in Paris in November

From 2006, the General Assembly took place in Europe. It was decided in 2007, during the General Assembly in Berlin, that the GA would be organized in Europe, if possible in connection with another European professional event.

2.1 Seminars, Conferences, Symposia

The Direction of the French Archives organised an international conference on certain key issues of archival description, namely on the DTD (Document Type Definition), EAD (Encoded Archival Description) and EAC (Encoded Archival Context) in Paris on 7-8 October 2004.

The Head Office of the Polish State Archives organised the 11th International Conference “Colloquia Jerzy Skowronek Dedicata” in Torun on 20-21, 2005. Its theme was archives and non-traditional carriers of information. Participants of the conference came from 20 countries. The conference was realised in the context of EURBICA.

From 18 to 20 May 2006, EURBICA and SPA organized jointly with the Head Office of State Archives and the association of Polish Archivists the VIIth European Conference in Warsaw. The title of the conference was “Archivist : profession of the future in Europe”, and professionals’ debates focussed on competencies, education and training, and professional mobility. The conference attracted more than 450 participants.

Moreover seminars and workshops were organized as well in the framework of EURBICA projects (see below).

2.2 Publications and Communications

- EURBICA’s Website (accessible through ICA Website, www.ica.org);
- Regular information to members and observers (all categories) by mail, both in English and French.

2.3 Studies, Actions and Projects

- A so called European Legal Database is one of the top priorities of EURBICA. The idea is to collect all European archives and related laws into an on-line database with comparative analysis. A prototype provided by the Directorate of French Archives was presented in European and International conferences from 2004 to 2007, such as the international congress, the DLM Forum, the European conference, and the European Commission meetings in Brussels. The working group (France, Finland, Switzerland, United Kingdom) met several times and prepared guidelines and models (including other countries : Slovenia, Turkey and

Lithuania). In 2005, the project was identified as a priority by the European Union in the framework of the archival cooperation (Council recommendation of 14 November 2005). Therefore, in 2007, the European Commission granted the project with 70 000 euros in the framework of the EU IDABC programme.

The first version of the completed database will be presented in the international congress in Kuala Lumpur, and officially launched in Paris in November 2008 during the French Presidency of the European Union. EURBICA and ICA will ensure the maintenance of the database. The database will be proposed to other branches of ICA which could be interested.

- The second EURBICA core project focuses on a methodology to train the records management trainers. On 11-12 November 2004 three ICA bodies, namely EURBICA, Committee on Professional Training and Section for Education and Training as well as the National Archives of Finland organised a training seminar in Helsinki. It was called *Seminar on Teaching Records Management and on Further Education/Training of Teachers* and was attended by 18 experts from nine countries. The seminar was the starting point for a larger project the aim of which is to produce methodologies to be used in training records management trainers. After the CPT was suppressed, the Section on archival education and training was involved in the project with a deep commitment of its chair, Hans Scheurkogel, who gave the project its final orientation. When Hans passed away in December 2006, the Archiefschool in Amsterdam accepted to participate in the project and Peter Horsman took the intellectual leadership of the project, whose manager is Jari Lybeck. A working group was set up comprising Peter Horsman and Thijs Leaven (The Netherlands), Kristjana Krinstindottir (Iceland), Christine Martinez and Edouard Vasseur (France) and Jari Lybeck (Finland). Two workshops were organised in 2007 and 2008 : the first one was hosted by Iceland in Skogar (may 2007), the second by the Archiefschool. A third and last one is planned in October in France. A handbook presenting a new approach for learning was drafted, case studies were developed by the members of the working group.

The draft manual was presented in PARBICA XIIth conference (Noumea, October 2007).

A website is currently being developed. The methodology and its tools will be presented in KL international congress.

- The participants to the VIIth European Conference held in May 2006 in Warsaw voted a resolution asking EURBICA and SPA to examine the possibility of creating a European competency model. A working group was set up comprising France, Spain, Finland, the professional associations of France, Catalonia, Sweden, The United States, ARMA international and the Academy of certified Archivists. A meeting of part of the working group was held in Madrid (October 2007) during the international conference of professional associations, while discussion groups were set

up during the CITRA in Quebec (November 2007). The conclusion was that it was impossible to propose a single model, but instead a methodology to create a competency model could be elaborated. Moreover, it was decided by the steering committee of SPA that the project would be restricted in a first step to Europe. The working group will meet again in KL.

EURBICA is currently preparing the VIIIth European Conference which will take place in Geneva in May 2010. A programme committee has been set up chaired by Andreas Kellerhals (Switzerland) comprising Didier Grange (SPA), Natalie Ceeney (UK), Jussi Nuorteva (Finland), Hartmut Weber (Germany) and Martine de Boisdeffre (France). One of the objectives of the conference is to establish connections between generations.

2.4 Other Activities

President of EURBICA has attended the meetings of EBNA (European Bureau of National Archivists). President is entitled to attend the meetings also in case when he or she is not a National Archivist.

In the framework of the European project of a digital library, Martine de Boisdeffre has been appointed as vice-president in the board of the foundation which coordinates the implementation of the project. Martine de Boisdeffre is representing EURBICA and therefore the European archival profession in the EDL foundation based in the Netherlands.

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4 Overall Assessment of Activities during 2004-2008

During this 4 years period, EURBICA has developed three major projects (the legal database, the train the RM trainers methodology and the European conference) according to its action plan. It was decided to limit EURBICA activities to a few core projects in order to be sure that they would be completed, and they will be by the end of 2008.

Nevertheless, the board had to cope with some problems. The main difficulty has been the lack of reactivity of most of EURBICA members. For instance, it was asked for more exchanges in the field of electronic records and archives management. Therefore, a specific rubric was created in 2006 in EURBICA website, where members can post relevant information in this field. Only France and Finland have by now send information. Actually less than 10 members are actively participating to the branch activities.

EURBICA has developed projects for its members. Nevertheless, the legal database and the “train the records managers trainers” project can be considered as pilots for ICA, and be available outside Europe, as they conceived and implemented with a multicultural approach and free softwares.

5 Looking Ahead: what We Would Like for the Future

ICA priorities should be defined in close relationship with the strategic plan developed by the organisation, and correspond to concrete objectives, which does not appear in the last version of the strategic plan. We consider that the 4 priorities which are now the basis of ICA programme will still remain priorities, whatever the objectives of the plan are.

It is very difficult to develop successfully an international project especially when it involves several countries or institutions on a voluntary basis. ICA should think about setting up an experts network (to replace the former committees), who could support the programme commission and help to implement the projects in their field of expertise.

A close co-operation should be developed between ICA bodies (branches, sections and projects groups). For instance, a representative of SPA should be appointed in each branch executive board, as it is the case for EURBICA. The European Conference is organised both by EURBICA and SPA (European associations). The programme commission should comprise members from branches and sections not in its permanent composition, but according to the specific objectives it wants to achieve.

A specific attention should be paid by ICA to the functioning of branches and the way they could be involved more effectively and efficiently in the implementation of ICA strategic plan, not only by having a representative in the Executive committee.