

ECIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2012

Date: **20th of October 2012**

Location: **Sint-Lucas School, Brussels, Belgium**

Present: **Participants – see addition I**

Minutes: **Elke Kaiser, Secretary General ECIA**

No.	Subject	Action
1.0	Opening	The president of ECIA Joke van Hengstum opens the meeting and welcomes the attendees. She feels happy about the high number of participants on the occasion of the 20 th anniversary of ECIA and thanks for coming to Brussels.
2.0	Minutes General Assembly 2011, Valencia	<p>The minutes were distributed by email. Under point 8.0 “ECIA database” it has to be changed: Vanessa explains that not selling addresses of members is a core value of SDIB. The assembly agrees upon the minutes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Agreed</p>
3.0	Actual Information	<p>The report of the board for 2011/2012 was distributed by email. No questions arise. Attached to the report was the excel sheet with the European data about the profession and education of interior architects. It was done in September 2010 in connection to the revision of the European directive for professional education and a meeting with the European Commission, DG Internal Market & Services. Changes for each country should be given to the general secretary of ECIA to keep the data actual.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">All</p> <p>For a lot of EU countries in eastern Europe the ECIA has no information at all. National organisations do not exist, the profession develops slowly. Individual interior architects are very interested in getting international contacts. If the participants have any knowledge about the profession in Eastern Europe, contacts to schools or professionals the board of ECIA is very thankful for hints.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">All</p> <p>The ECIA board has decided to publish a regular ECIA email-newsletter for a better communication and knowledge about the activities of ECIA to make the organisation better known. The attendees are asked to take care that the ECIA newsletter is send to the members of the national organisations. The house organ will start after the general assembly.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">All</p> <p>Every national organisation may send content for the newsletter to Carlo Beltramelli next to the existing possibility to put their info on the website of ECIA, The information about what and how to send will reach the national organisations after the first edition.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Carlo Board</p>

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4.0	Full Membership of ESL	<p>The Estonian organisation "Eesti Sisearhitektide Liit ESL" was observer member and wants to become full member of ECIA now. The participants have no objections. So ESL is affiliated as effective member of ECIA.</p> <p>ESL has contact to Latvian interior architects and is going to give some information to the board of ECIA.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ESL</p>
5.0	Financial Report 2011 Budget 2013	<p>The financial documents were distributed by email. The treasurer Laurence Bonsma explains, that the income in 2011 was 18.500 Euro and the expenses 16.700 Euro, so the net income accounts for 1.700 Euro. The travel expenses were a bit higher in 2011. As a problem like always appear the outstanding membership fees of some national organisations.</p> <p>Due to the loss of members in the national organisations the income of ECIA lowers for 1,500 Euro in 2012.</p> <p>Per asks if it could be a strategy to lower the fee to have more countries in ECIA with a higher amount of members to strengthen the force of ECIA. It seems not to be a question of fees. New organisations pay 50 Euro per year as observer member. It is important to see the benefits of ECIA. The coming newsletter and the website are good instruments for that. But the website is too static. It needs more action.</p> <p>In the meeting the idea arises to establish a personal membership in ECIA. It is difficult to check the people and seems not to be the right way in the countries with national organisations, But there could be a way for interior architects in countries without a national organisation. The board is going to attend to this matter.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Board</p> <p>The balance of 2011 and the budget of 2013 is accepted by the assembly,</p>
6.0	Statutes - Proposal for new category of membership for National Registration Institutions	<p>The French organisation FNSAI does not exist anymore. Still the connection to France is very important and the registration organisation CFAI wants to become member of ECIA.</p> <p>Thierry Conquet explains the role and history of CFAI. In 1981 an association governed by the law of 1901, the Bureau of Qualification of Professional Interior Architects (OPQAI) was born of an agreement between the National Council of the Order of Architects (CNOA) and the National Union of Interior Architects (SNAI) with the support of the French authorities. This association began the process of officially recognizing Interior Architecture and its professionals. In 2000, self-governing and independent of all unions and syndicates, it becomes the French Council of Interior Architects (CFAI). The CFAI has three roles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To define Interior Architecture's code of deontology and its range of expertise, • To recognize and designate the professionals who may exercise this function, • To motivate the quality of the training and schools that prepare students for this profession. <p>Around 1000 persons are enrolled at CFAI. They pay a yearly fee of 220 Euro. The interior architects are registered according to an accepted level of education and practical work experience.</p>

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Joke presents the change of the statutes to have a new membership category for institutional members. It was distributed by email. No objectives are seen.
 According to the statutes in the case of a proposal to modify the statutes more than two thirds of the Effective Members are present or represented. ECIA has 14 Effective Members at the moment, 11 are present. The assembly adopts the change of the statutes. CFAI is welcomed to become the first institutional member of ECIA. The statutes change is a good way to connect also other registration organizations and bodies in the Netherlands, Germany and Spain with ECIA.
 As membership fee the board suggests 500 Euro. The assembly agrees.

With the official registration of the statutes change the following other points have to be changed:

- Name of the Swedish organisation has to be changed to Sveriges Arkitekter
- Admission SBID, ESL
- Cancellation of FNSAI
- The date of change has to be updated.

Board

7.0 Election of board members

For the following board members the term ends:
 Mia van den Broeck – end of third term
 Hallgrimur Friogeirsson – end of first term
 Joke van Hengstum – end of second term
 Joke explains that she will definitely finish in two years and requests to search for a new president.
 Joke and Hallgrimur are willing for a reelection. The attendees affirm their reelection.
 According to the statutes for Mia a reelection is not possible after three terms. Two candidates are interested in being board member. Mika Karkulahti from Finland and Jan Geysen from Belgium introduce themselves.
 A secret ballot is arranged. Thierry Conquet and Nina Nihoul count the votes. 11 attendees are allowed to vote. The result is 6 to 6 votes and one vote is invalid. A second secret ballot is done.
 The result:
 Mika Karkulahti – 5 votes
 Jan Geysen – 6 votes
 Jan Geysen is welcomed as new board member. Joke thanks Mia for her work on the board over six years, hands over a present and wishes her all the best for the future.

8.0 National Organizations / Matters arising

Update of the Charter of Interior Architecture Training:
 Kees Spanjers informs about the work on the update of the Charter. The working group consists of 13 persons with a different professional or educational background from various European countries. The work takes longer than expected. It was originally planned to present a result on the general assembly. Now an important basic discussion about the entry level of the profession takes place. The need, content and length of professional practice training is discussed intensively.

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Three levels are defined:

level 1 – BA, 3 years degree

level 2 – MA and beyond

level 3 – professional practise before registration

For level 1 and 2 the competences have to be defined without writing a curriculum. It is difficult to find the right wording not wanting to tell teachers what to do. At the moment the group looks at existing curriculums to learn about it. Kees requests the participants to send curriculums. It could be helpful to put an announcement in the email-newsletter to get material of schools. A proposal of the update will be ready for the board beginning of next year. Afterwards it will be given to all national organisations for review.

**All
Carlo**

Report IFI:

Joke van Hengstum asks Sylvia Leydecker as Regional Leader of IFI for Europe to report on her regional work for IFI. Sylvia tells that she started her engagement with IFI two and a half years ago at a board meeting of IFI in Zurich, then organised a German and European think tank and went to the global think tank in New York. She describes her impression of the general assembly 2011 in Taipeh. The Regional Leaders of IFI haven't met yet. So far there is no framework for their work.

The participants agree not to look back to IFI, but to see the future relationship of ECIA to IFI and the role of Europe within IFI. Joke addresses two questions towards Sylvia to bring these issues to IFI : What aims has IFI for Europe? Could ECIA be member of IFI for the European national organisations?

Sylvia

Report National Organisations

Italy:

For the first time the wording "Interior Architect" was used in a speech at the Politecnico di Milano. That could be valued as a success. At the moment problems appear with the payment of clients and the economical situation.

Belgium:

The educational committee went to all schools with courses in interior architecture last year. The 60th anniversary of AINB in 2012 will be celebrated with an event in May 2013.

Switzerland:

The national organisation just celebrated the 70th anniversary. VSI-ASAI is now part of REG - the Swiss Register for architects and engineers. Members could register from now on.

Furthermore VSI-ASAI has changed the admission procedure. A committee has to decide now. Degrees of foreign schools are accepted, if they are recognised by ECIA.

The Netherlands:

BNI underwent a restructuring of the office and the board. The board stepped down completely. Some weeks ago a totally new board was built up.

Kees informs about the big event "in Amsterdam World Interiors Event 2013" and invites the participations to come. He will contact all national organisations with information about the event.

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Sweden:

The new organisation "Sveriges Arkitekter" for all architects is now 10 years old. It was founded by five organisations. Schools in Sweden are weak on their educational aims for interior architects. Only a small number are well educated professionals. A lot of schools are more going into a "design" education. The national organisation is arguing with the schools.

Norway:

The national organisation has problems with getting the fees. NIL has a lot of old members. It's necessary to reach the younger professionals.

A lot of interior architects come with BA degrees from abroad. They find work in Norway. NIL wants to find a way to relate them to the organisation, perhaps not as full members. Moreover they discuss in the organisation what to do with professionals who have a Bachelor in interior architecture and a Master in another subject.

Finland:

SIO is doing a study about all education in Finland which has to do with interior design. The organisation received 15.000 Euro from the government for this study.

SIO has a good development with growth of the membership. The new secretary general is doing good work.

It's interesting to see the cooperation in education for interior architecture with other economic faculties.

As Helsinki is World Design Capital in 2012, SIO had a lot of work this year.

Great Britain:

SBID checked the members for fulfilling the standards and excluded some who did not hold the standards. It is important for the association to keep a certain quality level to show professionalism.

Cooperation with universities from USA and Canada started for research programs with internships in Great Britain. An interesting project began with students in the second year course. For one year they go one day a week in practice.

The president of SBID visited the deans of many schools during the last year and went to the government to present the association and their aims. SBID wants to gain more influence.

Two years ago an international design award was set up with success. Perhaps it is possible to combine it in 2013 with the interior design event in Amsterdam.

The members receive two newsletters per month and two magazines. The staff in the office of SBID consists of nine people. Actually an insurance policy especially for members is built up.

Moreover Frazer Hay McDonald is working on a document about knowledge competence, which will be ready next year and perhaps could be used international. Vanessa Brady will give more information in 2013.

Estonia:

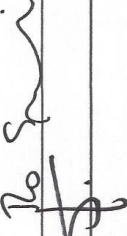


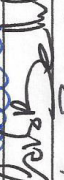


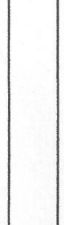
ESL worked on documents with three steps to become an interior architect. They are ready now.

France:

It's doubtful, if it will be possible to found a new national organisation for interior architects in France after the loss of FNSAI. A small association, named UNAID (Union Nationale des Architectes d'Intérieur, Designers), with 70 – 80 members exists, more going into decoration. The French association of designers AFD with 800 – 900 members seems also not to be an alternative.

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		<p>Christine Borella points out, that on the website of ECIA the logo of Carlo CFAI should replace FNSAI.</p> <p>In France there are 83 schools for interior design with very different level. The first six schools now have the highest educational level of five years.</p> <p>CFAI works together with the ministry of culture and the national organisation of professional registration.</p> <p><i>Island:</i></p> <p>FHI has 75 members, but only around 10 work in the field of interior architecture. The qualification and the level of education will raise with the courses the students do abroad.</p> <p><i>Germany:</i></p> <p>The title interior architect is protected. Only members of the chamber of architects are allowed to use it. Around 5000 interior architects are member of the chamber. Hereof are 800 member of BDIA. Altogether BDIA has over 2000 members. Recently an interior architect was elected to the board of the Federal Chamber of German Architects.</p> <p>BDIA has a new board since one year and a new secretary general. The office is going to move from Bonn to Berlin in the beginning of next year.</p> <p>One school newly offers a bachelor in interior architecture with a length of five years, thereof two years of practice.</p>	
9.0	Next general assembly	The next general assembly will take place in September 2013 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, in combination with “in Amsterdam World Interiors Event 2013”.	
	Closing	Per plays the flute.	

Name	Country	Function	Signature
Mercieca, Maria	Malta	Treasurer MIDA	
Cushieri, Eddie	Malta	Architect	
Wachter, Thomas	Switzerland	President VSI / ASIA	<i>T. Wachter</i>
DALPIAZ Dalbiez, Susanne	Switzerland	Member VSI / ASIA	<i>S. Dalpiaz-Bachmann</i>
Brady, Vanessa	Great Britain	President SBID	<i>V. Brady</i>
Karkulahti, Miika	Finland	President SIO	<i>Miika Karkulahti</i>
Arentz, Benedicte	Norway	Vice President NIL	<i>Benedicte Arentz</i>
Schmitz, Verena	Germany	President BDIA	<i>V. Schmitz</i>
Leydecker, Sylvia	Germany	Vize President BDIA / Regional Leader IFI	<i>S. Leydecker</i>
Borella, Christine	France	Past President ECIA	<i>C. Borella</i>
Conquet, Thierry	France	Past President CFAI	<i>T. Conquet</i>
Martens, Stefan	Belgium	President AINB	<i>S. Martens</i>
Nihoul, Nina	Belgium	Boardmember AINB	<i>N. Nihoul</i>
Geysen, Jan	Belgium	Member AINB, Candidate for Board ECIA	<i>J. Geysen</i>
Reinholtz, Per	Sweden	Sveriges Arkitekter	<i>P. Reinholtz</i>
Ronnemark, Kerstin	Sweden	Architect SIR / MSA <i>=(member of SA)</i>	<i>K. Ronnemark</i>
Pöldme, Priit	Estonia	President ESL	<i>P. Pöldme</i>
Lember, Jutta	Estonia	Secretary General ESL	<i>J. Lember</i>

Spankie, Ro	Great Britain	Course Leader IA BA, University of Westminster, London	
Spanjers, Kees	Netherland	Past President ECIA / BNI	
Van der Hidde, Roland	Netherland	Past President ECIA	
Schilder, Gerrit	Netherland	Past Secretary General ECIA	
Scholte, Hill	Netherland		
Van Hengstum, Joke	Netherland	President ECIA	
Van den Broeck, Mia	Belgium	Board ECIA	
Friogeirsson, Hallgrímur	Island	Board ECIA	
Beltramelli, Carlo	Italy	Board ECIA	
Bonsma, Laurence	Switzerland	Treasurer ECIA	
Kaiser, Elke	Germany	Secretary General ECIA	
Harrington, Selma	Ireland	President ACE	
Jobi, Joachim	Germany	Former Brussels Office BAK	