

ECIA General Assembly meeting

Date: **24 September 2011**

Location: **Feria Valencia, Spain**

Present: **Joke van Hengstum, President ECIA**
Gerrit Schilder, Secretary General ECIA
Hallgrímur Friðgeirsson, ECIA board
Mia Van den Broeck, ECIA Board
Carlo Beltramelli, ECIA Board
Laurence Bonsma, ECIA Board
Thomas Wachter, VSI.ASAI, Switzerland
Kees Spanjers, BNI, the Netherlands
Vanessa Brady, SBID, United Kingdom
Maria Encamación Mena, CGDI, Spain
Elke Kaiser, BDIA, Germany
Christine Borella, CFAI, France
Per Reinholtz, Swedish Architects, Sweden
Nina Himpe, AinB, Belgium
Frazer Hay, United Kingdom
Virginia Busato, Italy (guest)
Lluis Soriano, CGDI, Spain

Excused: **Ida Festervoll, NIL, Norway**
Marika Laakko, SIO, Finland
Christine van Gemert, BNI, the Netherlands

Minutes: **Gerrit Schilder**

No.	Subject	Action
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1.0	Opening 11h00	Per plays the flute before President of ECIA, Joke van Hengstum opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the GA in Valencia and thanks the Spanish colleagues for the invitation.	
2.0	Minutes GA Iceland	The GA Iceland minutes were distributed by email and agreed on Agreed by the GA. Most actions are on the agenda and will thereby be discussed today. New ECIA information brochure has been printed and copies are available for those present	

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Information	<p>Joke van Hengstum explains that the German organisation has connections with Brussels. The EU Commission has presented the Green Paper 'Modernising the Professional Qualification Directive'. The idea is to have a professional 'card' to show levels of education. Joke thinks that for our profession will not benefit from it right away, but keeping in touch with them is appropriate. Maria Mena explains about the current situation in Spain that is now BAMA structured by the Bologna structure.</p>	Note
Common Platform	<p>Elke tells about the revision of the european directive for professional education. Relevant for interior architects is the general part of the directive demanding education of 3 years minimum, not the sectoral part of the directive as for architects with minimum 4 years of education. The German chamber of architects wants to have influence in Brussels on the update of the directive for raising the educational standard of interior architects, landscape architects and city planners. They had a meeting together with the european organisations at the European Commission, DG Internal Market & Services. Before that meeting the Commission asked for information about the existence of the profession, the number of professionals, the duration of education, the regulation of the profession, etc. in all EU countries. The data had to be collected. For some EU countries ECIA has no information at all.</p> <p>The chance to be integrated in the sectoral part of the directive with 4 years of education is very small. Interesting in the directive are the common platforms. Kees explains, that the aim of the platforms is to harmonise standards. For the revision of the directive the Commission will suggest a reduction of the member states from 2/3 to 1/3 for launching a common platform. So far 5 countries have a regulation for interior architects. 9 countries would be necessary for a common platform. Member states without regulation may adopt the common platform.</p> <p>Belgium is still waiting for recognition as a result of having no government for over a year now.</p> <p>Joke distributes an overview of the situation in Europe.</p>	
CIDI	<p>The South American umbrella organisation CIDI (Consejo Iberoamericano de Diseñadores de Interiores A.C.) representing some 20 countries, wants to get connected with ECIA on subjects like education, profession.</p> <p>Joke asks the GA if ECIA should look for cooperation, in a way it is more IFI matter.</p> <p>Christine thinks it still is a good idea to keep a link with CIDI because of the benefit of the profession. Especially looking at the work done by ECIA over the last 20 years.</p> <p>Vanessa informs about exciting connections and underlines the global feeling but still ECIA should focus on European issues.</p> <p>Elke points out that there is an Asian organisation that works on the same tasks as ECIA is doing. Still IFI is the designated organisation for professional awareness.</p> <p>Maria visit of IFI delegation last year showed that their goals are approached in a more general way. CGDI is in contact with CIDI and knows that they want to be helped by ECIA instead of IFI.</p> <p>Per opinion making and exchange of information should be in the light of lifting the profession of Interior Architecture.</p> <p>Joke proposes that the board will brief the NO's about how to go on.</p> <p>Joke, Malta managed to set up a NO. point to be discussed at agenda point 10.</p>	Action

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4.0	Financial	<p>Laurence Bonsma as the ECIA's treasurer explains the balance and open invoice member fees. Settled</p> <p>Balance of 2010 is in order, checking are fine, net income 4.412.16 euro but take in consideration the receivable amount/ open invoice member fee. An overview of this is handed out by Laurence. Note</p> <p>The outstanding total accounts receivable is ECIA's main concern. Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outstanding fees from several NO's give a blurry - Especially FNSAI is of a major concern
	FNSAI	<p>Christine explains that the federation has gone bankrupt. 900 officially recognised interior designers are the victims. Thierry Minssie is looking for possibilities to bring up a new federation in France. During a meeting in Marseille it was decided that Christine would attend this GA to explain about this situation. Joke; we have to accept that the receivable fees of FNSAI should be seen a loss. The missing fee of FNSAI will be rectify in the 2011 balance. This will show a deficit, already a 1.500 euro rectification has been but in effect in this balance. Christine hands out a letter of the chairman of CFAI, Etienne Prost, most of all pointing out the importunateness of a (future) French representative within ECIA. Note</p> <p>ECIA still looks for sponsors for specific project coming from commercial partners from the field of interior design. Action</p> <p>Cost savings are found by cutting back expenses on office and travel costs.</p> <p>For 2012 we reserve a 1.000 euro for our 20th Anniversary of ECIA.</p> <p>Daily work of the board should be completely financed by the fees coming from our NO. The idea of applying for EU or other subsidies are not on our agenda. If the daily work cannot be paid out of the fees, ECIA as an organisation will become vulnerable. Members must take their responsibility for the organisation by paying their fee.</p> <p>The General Assembly agrees with the presented accounts and discharges the treasurer and board. Agreed</p>

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5.0	Working groups	<p>Joke looking for new members within Europe is always a focus point for the ECIA. Most countries that are not a member of ECIA simply don't have a NO for the profession. We always promote and cooperate with individuals and other promoters to set up or create an (new) organization. Like we for the Maltese initiative that now is an NO under construction. Note</p> <p>Kees has set up a working group to revision of the European Charter Interior Architecture Training. This document is well recognized and used by government and schools European wide. The BAMA that is effective now all over Europe asks for a revision of the standards that belong to the Bachelor status. The working group consists of a broad variety of professionals that will have a closer look at the document. The goals is to present a new document at our GA of 2012. With the charter comes the recognition program, which is not very effective. For the moment only one school has an ECIA recognizing. After the charter a translation of that outcome has to be imbedded in the recognition program. Agreed</p> <p>Thomas; schools in Switzerland want to become member of the Swiss organisation. Maybe this is a good opportunity for the recognition program. Note</p> <p>Maria explains that for 6 years in Spain the NO tried to set up an exchange program with educational institutes. The goal is to professionalize graduated students by guiding through the first year of professional practice with help of CGDI. Note</p> <p>Vanessa tells about that sharing data for SDIB it is a core value, they selling addresses of members. Note</p> <p>A new working group is installed to map the alleged implications when CFAI (French register organisation) should become an ECIA member. Keeping in mind that this organisation is similar to the Architekten Kammer (Germany) and the Architektenregister (the Netherlands) statutes have to be changed to make it possible to accept these organisations as a member. The working group consist of: Christine Borella, Elke Kaiser and Gerrit Schilder Action</p>

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6.0	Educational recognition	<p>Frazer explains from his experience that internationally every where the same question pops up. What differences are there between schools and profession from country to country. Education is particular an insecure environment. Frazer set up some conferences with educational specialist on this issue and the first reaction was about real support. For details we advice to read Frazer's written report on this matter.</p> <p>Gerrit announces that he is appointed to prepare AKV St. Joost's official proposal to get the ECIA's Educational Recognition.</p> <p>Kees costs for having the peers over are between 1.500 -2.000 euro, that's a bargain.</p> <p>Frazer, a students congress would be a great opportunity for 'spreading the word' of this program.</p> <p>Thomas feels that the prospectus is not providing detailed information. Joke explains that there are detailed Forms explaining the whole process of edu. recognition, these forms will be distributed to all NO's via the mail.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Action</p>
7.0	Projects IAMA Mobile academy	<p>First see agenda point 10</p> <p>Carlo gives an overview of the Mobile Academy achievements and preparations for this upcoming event. The topic of this first event of Mobile Academy will be Marble. The tutor of the workshop will be Luca Scacchetti an architect from Milan, starting on the 18th of October. Carlo presents a paper (handed out to all) showing the I.A.M.A project.</p> <p>One of the aims of I.A.M.A. is to build a (students)network coming from these events.</p>	<p>Note</p>

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8.0	ECIA database	<p>Carlo prepared a draft for a brochure and presents it to the GA. Note The idea is to send to brochure/ or via website directly to the members of the NO's. For this action ECIA needs the data of the individual members of the NO's.</p> <p>Thomas is a little sceptic about the idea of 'selling' our member databases to third parties. Note</p> <p>Maria says similar exchange of information is already happening in Spain. Companies and members of CDGI are thereby connected via a digital network. Note</p> <p>Vanessa explains that selling addresses of members is a core value of SDIB. They are very keen on guarding and maintaining this data because of the financial benefits for the organization. Note</p> <p>Per explains that ECIA is representing 16 professional organizations and not 7500 individual members. We could only serve our NO's to reach the 7500 professionals that are in their data bases. Note</p> <p>Kees speaks for BNI and declares that the Dutch association is completely against this proposal. Both for legal as commercial reasons. Note</p> <p>Joke concludes that when this is about making money ECIA should no go along with this idea. New modern forms of communication are a better solution for reaching the individual interior architect/ designer. Note NO's have to maintain their section of the website in order to update and refresh the database and information coming out of it.</p> <p>Frazer points out that ECIA should map out its position instead of 'bothering' about the individual member. ECIA is high up in the food chain not the other way around Note</p>

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9.0	re-election of board members	<p>This agenda point was taken care off before point 7. The reason for this was that some delegates had to leave the GA earlier.</p> <p>Note</p> <p>Joke announced that two board members both Carlo and Laurence agreed for re-election. The GA unanimous agrees on another term for the both of them.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Gerrit Schilder has to resign as a board member and secretary general after 6 years of duty. Following ECIA's letter to the members earlier this year, in which Joke announces Gerrit's resignation, one candidate applied for the job of board member. Elke Kaiser was formally brought forward by the BDIA two weeks before the GA.</p> <p>Settled</p> <p>Elke introduces herself to the GA explaining why she applies for the job. She quit her job with BDIA and finds thereby time to become a board member.</p> <p>Note</p> <p>The GA unanimous agreed vote for Elke as new board member of ECIA.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>Joke official asks Elke to become the new secretary general and she agrees on taking this position within the board.</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>The board 2011-2012 consists of: Joke van Hengstum, President Elke Kaiser, Secretary General Laurence Bonsma, Treasurer Carlo Beltramelli, board member Mia van den Broeck, board member Halli Friðgeirsson, board member</p> <p>Joke spoke to Gerrit and let him know that the ECIA is very grateful for all his efforts during his period 'on board'! Gerrit stepped down and Elke was congratulated by all present.</p> <p>Photos were taken of past and present board and of all attending this GA.</p>

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10.0	National Organisations/ Matters arising:	<p>FNSAI Doesn't exist anymore, plans to launch a new national organisation are 'under construction'. There is an intention of taking CFAI (French register organisation) on board of the ECIA family.</p> <p>Statutes have to be changed to make it possible to accept CFAI as a member.</p> <p>Malta Applied for an observer membership the GA welcomes this.</p> <p>FHI Architects, Interior Architects and Landscape Architects are talking about merging the three associations to one bigger organisation similar to Swedish Architects.</p> <p>VSI.ASAI Economically the Swiss situation is quit strong due to Franc versus Euro exchange rates. Has doubts about the 3 year bachelor studies that are now in place and not followed by a Master course. Fees and honorarium calculations are also a hot issue. Code of Conduct is revisited and look at.</p> <p>CDGI A translation of the educational changes is on its way.</p> <p>SDIB Busy on intellectual property, education is also a core value of SDIB al in close collaboration with the government. Also the fee issue is high on the agenda. Around 44 organisation that focus on interior design exist in the UK, SDIB is already the biggest and still growing. An international award was launched this year under auspices of SDIB.</p> <p>Swedish Architects From the Nordic Meetings the Icelandic initiative is welcomed see FHI. SA provide their members with a certificate so to prove their abilities. Very few new interior architects are trained in Sweden, only 15 last year!! This is an alarming situation. Design schools in Göteborg and Stockholm are confronted with this, with different outcome.</p> <p>SIO Finland has about 500 members + 100 students, only two schools within the country are accepted. One can apply with a port folio if not trained at one of the accredited institutes. There is a new president; Mika Kurkulathi.</p> <p>AiBN Steven Martens is since a year the president. No government, no decisions made on their proposed recognition of the title, interior architect. Membership is growing despite the political situation. More and more members are coming from the Walloon region.</p> <p>BNI A new architects title act is effective from this year on. Biggest change, you need a Master in Interior Architecture so to call yourself a interior architect.2013 is the event BNI is working on.</p> <p>AiPI There has been an attempt to open up the discussion about the profession and title. Still architects and universities are in power.</p>	<p>Note</p> <p>Action</p> <p>Note</p>
11.0	2012 meeting schedule	<p>For our 20th anniversary the next GA will be held in Brussels in October 2012 coinciding with the 60th anniversary of AiBN, the 2013 GA will be hosted by the BNI at the Inamsterdam event.</p>	Settled
12.0	closing	<p>The GA was closed at 18:20</p>	Settled

