



Minutes of the European Forum Meeting

European Regional Conference in Borås, Sweden, August 8, 2015

The meeting started at 8.30.

Welcome: Diana Bell (Great Britain), member of the European Forum Committee, welcomed everyone and introduced other members of the Committee.

Introduction: Reporters: Ingrid Christiansen (Norway) and Dagmar Ullmann (Germany); Timekeepers: Unity Harvey (Great Britain) and Lavinia Soul (Great Britain); Organizers of attendance sheets: Ann-Katrin Swärd (Sweden) and Johanna Juva (Finland).

Words of Inspiration: Ingibjörg Jónasdóttir (Iceland) emphasized the outstanding work of women at the beginning of the last century when women's movements were fighting for equal rights in their countries. In Scandinavia, as well as in other regions or countries all over the world, we can find many impressive examples that demonstrate the success of women standing together in unity. In 2015, 100 years of women's suffrage was celebrated in Iceland. In Norway this important jubilee was in 2013. In 1975, during International Women's year, all women in Iceland were encouraged to participate in a demonstration by taking a day off on the U.N. Day in October stressing the importance of women's contribution to the theme 'equality – development – peace'. It was a great success. By remembering the accomplishments women fought for we can strengthen our motivation to carry on. Ingibjörg's words of inspiration urged us to be a strong force together and make our voice clear.

8.40 **Business Meeting** chaired by Diana Bell (GB).

In Memoriam: Deceased members were honoured. Marianne Skardéus (Europe Regional Director, Sweden) read a poem, presented a white rose and held a minute's silence.

Minutes of EF in Indianapolis 2014: No comments. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda: There were no matters arising.

EF Operational Guidelines: The guidelines were updated. Changes were accepted by voting as written in the rules.

II Goals

Amendment: to collaborate with, and support the regional Director.

IV Finances

e) Sentence deleted: *There should not be any money left over at the end of the biennium.*

V Organizational Structure

b) Sentences deleted as they are a repetition of a): *The new representatives send their*

vote for committee chair to the current Forum Chair by May 1st. The name of each country's representative is submitted on a nomination form to the current chair of the European Forum by March 1st of even-numbered years. The current chair then circulates the names of the new representatives to: all state organization presidents, current Forum representatives, and incoming Forum representatives.

e) Sentence removed, see VII. d): *The Forum committee decides the theme and format of the pre-conference seminar at the European Conference.*

f) Information:

European webmaster, Eyglo Björnsdóttir, Iceland. www.dkgeurope.org

State Webmaster, Ebba Gamstedt, Sweden 2015-2017.

VII Areas of Activity

a) Sentence changed: *The agenda of the forum meeting [...] agenda* changed to: The itemized agenda for the Forum meeting, and minutes of the previous meeting, should be available on the European website one month before the date of the meeting.

d) Sentence changed: *The European Forum Committee plans [...] conference* changed to: The Forum Committee may decide to hold a pre-conference seminar at the European Conference. The committee decides the theme and format.

h) Sentence corrected: [...] eight countries [...].

Financial Accounts: On behalf of Heli Piikkilä (Finland), treasurer of the EF, Diana Bell introduced the financial statement of the European Forum 2014-2015 and the budget for the next year 2015-2016. A mistake was corrected: INCOME Carried forward from 2013 – 2014 (*not: 2008 -2009*).

Matters arising from the accounts: There were no matters arising.

Proposals: There were no proposals from the European states. Two proposals were from the European Forum Committee:

Proposal 1. The Regional Director has to use the amount of money she has received from the European Forum for travel costs within the biennium.

Proposal 2. To ask DKG in Austin if they would pay travel costs for the European Regional Director.

Proposed by Riet Smits / The EF Committee.

Proposal 1 and proposal 2 were accepted.

European Website: Report from Eygló Björnsdóttir (Iceland), our webmaster. The cost for the website is very low. The website can be used for information, but not in an interactive mode. Eyglo pointed out that more information and articles should be sent from the different countries. All members are invited to add their e-mail-address to the mailing list of the European website and then they will automatically be informed as soon as new information is published.

More possibilities to communicate: DKG page / European group on Facebook, Euforia and MyDKG which will soon be found on the international website.

On behalf of the European Forum Committee Dagmar Ullmann thanked Eygló for her outstanding work for the European website.

EuForia: Report from Joan Carroll (Great Britain) who was not present, editor of the European e-newsletter EuForia since its inception in 1999. Diana Bell read the report from Joan Carroll in which she asks for a new editor and thanked everyone for the interesting work she has had. Joan explained that Loetitia Stone (GB) was responsible for naming EuForia – it is short for European Forum and also linked with the word ‘euphoria’.

There are two questions from the report to take home to the members:

1. Is Euforia a useful way to keep contact between the European members?
2. Is there anyone who can take on this work after Joan Carroll?

Opinion was divided on these questions at the meeting and so it was decided that Diana Bell will send e-mails to the State Presidents for a clearer answer from members, if this is positive then an interested person will be sought for the editor’s job.

Barbara Kern (GB) received a certificate and a Swedish scarf as a gift for Joan Carroll who has been responsible for EuForia for 16 years. The European members thanked Joan for her fantastic work and commitment which brought a lot of benefits to DKG Europe.

DKG Song: Report from Marika Heimbach (Germany), Past Europe Regional Director. Marika mentioned the important role of music for DKG. A motion to find a new song with emphasis on contemporary music / text was passed in Amsterdam 2013 and a European competition was announced. Up to now there are three songs – from Norway, Great Britain and The Netherlands – they were presented at the Europe Luncheon on August 6. The contest should go on, perhaps even in the U.S.

Malala Yousafzai, the Nobel Peace Prize Winner 2014. On behalf of the DKG Europe State Presidents Marianne Skardeus (Sweden) has sent in an application to make Malala an honorary member of DKG. This young woman is an advocate for peace and education, especially for girls’ rights to education. The membership committee will decide if she will be asked.

The European Achievement Award: The award was granted to **Drs. Trijny Schmitz du Moulin** (The Netherlands). Riet Smits (NL) emphasized Trijny’s excellent work and background as a DKG member. Trijny has held many positions on chapter, state, regional and international levels, she was member of the 1996-98 Ad-Hoc-Committee when Europe became the fifth region in DKG and served as the European Regional Director 2006-2008. Riet pointed out that Trijny has a special talent for building bridges between members, chapters and state organizations. Ria Bleeker (NL) presented the award, a silver pin, to Trijny and explained the symbolic significance of the design (silver round - the circle of the society-, a ruby in the centre, with a golden female symbol).

The business meeting closed at 9.30.

Number attending: 120

The business meeting was followed by a lecture: **A study on the popularity of the teaching profession in Estonia** presented by Dr. Katrin Saks (Estonia). She was introduced by Liilia Oberg (Estonia). The study was based on a thorough questionnaire answered by young students, and it revealed the problems in getting young people to choose the teaching profession. Margarita Hanschmidt (Estonia) led the discussion that followed.

Kristiansand (N) / Rastede (D), August 30, 2015 Ingrid Christiansen, Dagmar Ullmann