

General Assembly of the ACE

Luxembourg, 18th and 19th November 2005

Notes of Meeting

Draft

Introduction

At the start of the Assembly the President, Marie-Hélène Lucas, recalled the early days of the ACE and highlighted the fact that the 15th Anniversary of the ACE coincides with the 15th Anniversary of the Luxembourg Ordre des Architectes et Ingénieurs Conseils (OAI). She then outlined the programme for the two days of the Assembly before proceeding to the business of the Meeting.

1.0 Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted without the addition of new points but the order of matters was slightly

altered as follows :

- Point 7.3. on the MRA text will be dealt with first
- Point 6.1 the request of the RIAI to debate the question of Future Recognition of Qualifications will be dealt with under this point in a closed session
- In Point 4.3 the debate and vote on the Resolution on Price Dumping will be taken before the debate and vote on the Deontological Code.

With these changes the agenda was adopted.

2.0 Adoption of Minutes

2.1 The Secretariat reported that no written comments were received on the notes of the last General Assembly and no comments were made from the floor.

The Assembly adopted the notes of the last meeting.

3.0 Report of the President

The President highlighted the importance of this Assembly being the first Assembly at which a President of the ACE will be elected and during which the Profession to Profession Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with the United States will be signed. She reported on her enjoyment of her tenure of office and she thanked the Members of the Board and the Secretariat in Brussels for the cooperative and hard work undertaken by them during her Presidency.

She then went on to deal with Item 7.3 reporting that there had been a request for some clarifications on the status of the proposed MRA from the ACE Member Organisation BAIK (Austria). She referred to a Memorandum that was tabled before the Assembly stating that it clarified the questions by recalling that the Agreement to be signed during the Assembly is not legally binding and that the wording has not been altered since adoption of the text in Milan 2004. The main change has been the addition of a Preamble and Covering Letter which explains the next steps required in the process towards the making of a legally binding Agreement. With this clarification the BAIK reported that it is now satisfied with the response of the Board and will be pleased to see the signing go ahead.

4.0 Elections and Top Items

4.1 Elections to the Executive Board

4.1.1 The two candidates for the Presidency, Juhani Katainen and Jean-François Susini, presented themselves and their programme to the Assembly. Following this there was a description of the voting procedures made by the ACE Legal Adviser, Jean-Pierre Vergauwe, after which the first round vote took place. The Heads of Delegation cast their vote and the whole procedure was overseen by an independent bailiff from Luxembourg. Counting took place confidentially in a separate room and the results of the first round were that Juhani Katainen received 155 votes with 14 countries and Jean-François Susini received 185 votes and 13 countries. This meant that neither candidate had achieved the required simple majority and so a second round, in which the votes only counted, was called.

The result of the second round was that Juhani Katainen received 155 votes and Jean-François Susini 185 votes and was therefore declared the winner and the President-elect of the ACE.

4.1.2 The Candidates for the ordinary membership of the Board then presented themselves to the Assembly. Firstly the five Members who will sit for one year in accordance with the rotation rule presented themselves followed by the 10 candidates for election. As the procedures for the election of the Board were slightly different these were again explained by Jean-Pierre Vergauwe and the first round of voting took place with Heads of Delegation placing their completed ballot papers in the ballot box. The ACE Legal Adviser and the Bailiff retired to a separate room to confidentially undertake the count and the Assembly proceeded to the Item 4.2. of the Agenda (see below).

Having completed the count, the ACE Legal Adviser and Bailiff returned and declared the results of the first round of the election. This first round was conclusive in that five candidates achieved the required simple double majority. The full results were:

RESULTS OF THE VOTE

NAMES	VOTES	COUNTRIES	ELECTED
André de Herde	28	5	
Olgierd Dziekonski	288	20	Yes
Jan Ketelaer	147	11	
Ourania Kloutsinioti	156	11	
Luciano Lazzari	300	23	Yes
Janis Lejnieks	14	3	
Fabian Llisterra Monfort	202	15	Yes
Katarina Nilsson	192	19	Yes
Kestutis Pempe	89	8	
Pierre-Henri Schmutz	270	19	Yes

Therefore the elected Members of the Board are:

Olgierd Dziekonski

Luciano Lazzari

Fabian Llisterra Monfort

Katarina Nilsson

Pierre-Henri Schmutz

The Assembly applauded the outcome of the results and ratified the full new eleven Members of the Board which will take office on the 1st January 2006.

4.2. ACE Strategy

4.2.1 Marie-Hélène Lucas presented the Executive Summary of the Political Agenda document reading it aloud to the Assembly. She went on to present the Political Agenda Document concentrating on the priority actions identified in that document. She then handed over to the Secretary General, Alain Sagne, who presented the new working structure and spoke about the content of the proposed Multi-Annual Work Programme. He emphasised that the two documents will be voted on as a package and the Assembly was invited to comment on the content of the documents.

The BAIK commented that it had some trouble in agreeing with some of detailed aspects of the documents although it has no opposition to the overall approach. Its main concern was expressed as being that the ACE is a representative body that operates through its Member Organisations. This must be more clearly stated in the documents.

The BAK suggested that the ACE could be referred to as the representative Organisation of the architectural profession at the European level and it called for the reference to a new Policy Book to be deleted from the Political Agenda. Finally it called for the reference to Regulated Professions to be inverted with the reference to the profession as there are 800 regulated professions in the EU and we are only concerned about our own profession.

The CNOA (B) expressed the view that research should not be restricted to Technology and the SADAS asked that the ACE seek to better discover how to track issues at European level and how to better inform Members of relevant resources of information.

A number of member Organisations commented on the paragraph that speaks about necessary resources to implement the Multi-Annual Work Programme expressing concern at the potential for a significant increase in the required budget of the ACE. At the end of the debate it was agreed that the Executive Board be mandated to take a closer look at the resources issue and to report back to the Assembly in April.

With the reservations expressed to be taken into account the [Political Agenda](#) and [Multi-Annual Work Programme](#) were approved by the Assembly.

Signing Ceremony of Mutual Recognition Agreement

At the end of the first day's business the signing Ceremony for the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) with the United State took place in the presence of the Luxembourg Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Luxembourg Minister for Public Works and a Representative of the US Embassy in Luxembourg. Speeches were made before the signing itself by Gaétan Siew, President of the UIA, Patrice Genet, President of the UMAR, Marie-Hélène, President of the ACE, Kate Schwennsen, President-elect of the AIA, Carlton Godsey, President of the NCARB and a brief intervention from the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The ACE Assembly applauded this significant moment and expressed its pleasure that the long years of negotiation have finally been brought to a conclusion. It now looks forward to the next status when official negotiations will take place and expressed its hope that the professions will be able to be fully involved as adviser in that process.

4.2.5. Communication strategy

The document included in the Papers was presented to the Assembly as a Working Document and there was no structured debate on the topic. Marie-Hélène Lucas expressed that the matter is being transferred to the new Executive Board for its consideration. Alain Sagne commented that the Policy is needed to assist the ACE in translating the good work it has undertaken in the previous 15 years to ensure a more public presence in the coming period of time.

4.3. SIM Directive

4.3.1. Alain Sagne reported on the current situation in the Parliament and the Council saying that the first vote at Committee level is due to take place on Tuesday 22nd of November 2005. This had been postponed from an earlier date and has had the effect of deferring the adoption of this Directive by some months. The UK Presidency has already confirmed that it will be handing the dossier on to the Austrian Presidency for development and the vote in the Plenary Session of the Parliament will not take place before January 2006 at the

earliest. Nevertheless he reported that the ACE is tracking developments closely and has been particularly concerned to follow the work on Professional Indemnity Insurance and Codes of Conduct.

4.3.2. He went on to report that the ACE has issued a statement on the need to give a derogation to the full text of the Qualifications Directive and that the current approach to Professional Indemnity Insurance is not workable in the current market. This statement was circulated to all Members of the IMCO. John Wright highlighted the dedicated work of the ACE on this topic with particular emphasis on the inputs of the Members of the Special Working Group and of the Secretariat. He emphasised that this work affects the daily life of Architects and that tracking it is of fundamental importance to the ACE.

4.3.4. European Deontological Code

John Wright introduced the work that has taken place in relation to the Deontological Code stating that it will, if adopted, not be binding on any of the Member Organisations nor in any of the National Codes of the EU. However he expressed the hope that those countries reviewing their existing Deontological Code or those without such a Code would use the document as a starting point and reference document in that work. He therefore clarified that the Assembly was being asked to adopt the text as a reference document and that it would not be notified to the European Commission at this stage. He explained that such a notification would be premature in light of the fact that the text of the Services Directive has not yet been adopted. There was a short debate on the content of the Code which centred mainly around the part of paragraph 1.6 in square brackets. The view was expressed that because this part could be misinterpreted it should be deleted. However this was not accepted by the Assembly and the Code was put to the vote. The result of the vote was that the Code as published was adopted by 35 votes for with 3 against and the 4 Observer Organisations voted in favour.

4.3.5. A lengthy debate took place about the **Resolution against Price Dumping**. This debate was provoked by the proposed amendment to the Resolution by the CNOA (B) who expressed the view that it should be much more positively worded and it highlighted the potential danger of referring to fee scales and provisions that could possibly be seen as restrictive practices in relation to bidding for work.

The debate illustrated that there was significant support for the undertaking of a political action through the adoption of a Resolution based largely on the wording submitted to the Assembly. However there was strong opposition to the making of cross references to the Deontological Code and, after some work, a new wording for the Resolution was proposed in which such references were deleted. The President highlighted the fact that this Resolution should be seen as marking the start of the new, more political, approach of the ACE and she called for a vote on the final version of the Resolution, which was projected for the Assembly. The resolution was unanimously voted and the Assembly applauded this result.

4.3.6. Sector Study

Alain Sagne reported that not a great deal has developed in relation to the proposed sector study but that there are a number of elements accruing all of the time. He said that the time is right for a review of the work to date and for the development of a fresh approach to this crucial subject. He underlined the importance of finding a way to undertake a sector study that would be acceptable to the profession and to the Commission so as to act as a basis for policy work at EU level.

4.4. Architectural Policy

4.4.1. European Forum for Architectural Policies

Marie-Hélène Lucas reported on the actions since the last Assembly concentrating on the very successful Event that took place in Luxembourg in June at which the Members of the Forum met with the Ministries of Culture from the twenty-five EU Member States. She emphasised that there is great interest in the activity of the Forum and she informed the Assembly that there was a Resolution tabled to congratulate the Luxembourg Presidency on its excellent work in this field.

Georg Pendl reported on the upcoming Austrian Event of the Forum, which will take place over 2 days in June 2006 (8 & 9) in combination with the National Austrian Architecture Day, in the framework of the official activities of the Austrian Presidency. He informed the Assembly that a call for papers was launched to all EU countries on the topic of Best Practice in Public and Private Procurement. He called on the Member Organisations to consider submitting papers under this call.

The SAFA (Finland) then explained that another Forum Event would take place under the Finnish Presidency, also as part of the official programme of activities, on 19-21 October 2006. The final agenda has not yet been

agreed, but it is expected that the Team will concentrate on the use of Architectural Competitions and on the second step in National Architectural Policies, which relates to the adoption of local architectural policies.

When asked, the BAK reported that they did not have any definitive news of a Presidency Event in the first time of 2007 when Germany will have the Presidency, though it is currently being considered.

Following these reports a brief debate of the reinforcement of the ACE involvement in the Forum took place and the Assembly approved of that involvement.

The **Resolution** already mentioned was then presented and with the addition of the phrase *and other relevant Ministries* after Ministries of Culture, it was adopted by the Assembly.

4.5. Co-operation with the European Parliament

4.5.1. Alain Sagne reported on the setting up and early work of the Intergroup Urban Housing. He highlighted that the Members of this Intergroup are involved with ten Parliamentary Committees and that some very positive work has already resulted including a draft European Charter on Housing on which the ACE was able to comment. Furthermore the effects of the Intergroup are assisting in the inclusion of Urban Regeneration, notably the renovation of social housing, as a valid activity for funding under the structural funds. Following the report a brief debate on the need to establish a Delegated Work Group on Housing and a Shadow Group for the Intergroup took place. There was significant support for these proposals expressed by several Member Organisations and the Assembly decided that the Shadow Group should be set up and that the Work Group on Housing should be considered by the new Executive Board when it considers the implementation of the Multi-Annual Work Programme.

4.5.2. FOCOPE

Alain Sagne reported on the Membership of the ACE in the Forum for Construction in the European Parliament (FOCOPE) saying that the Board has decided to renew Membership for one further year.

5.0. Report of the Secretary General

5.1. Alain Sagne referred the Assembly to the Mid Term Policies Document which is available on the ACE Website. He said that he would intervene as appropriate in other items of the agenda to update the Assembly on most recent developments.

6.0. Communication and Education

Philippe Boille reported that the work of the Permanent Committee has progressed during the past year and he thanked all of those who have led work particularly the Chairman of Work Groups.

6.1. Work Group Education

Jean-Paul Scalabre reported on the work of the Work Group Education reporting that it has progressed on the issue on Continuing Profession Development (CPD) and the implications of the Bologna Accord for the profession. He reported that the Work Group hopes to deliver papers to the first Assembly in 2006 on these two topics. He went on to report on the work of the Joint Working Party with the EAAE underlining its importance in the implementation of the Qualifications Directive.

Adrian Joyce expanded on the report of Jean-Paul Scalabre stating that the Advisory Committee of the Architects Directive is to remain in place until October 2007 and that there is a need for the EU-15 countries to make nominations to the Committee urgently. He also reported that James Horan, Chairman of the Diplomas Working Group, has been charged by the Commission to prepare a document on procedures for the assessment of qualifications that will eventually be the basis of assessments under the new Qualifications Directive. Finally, he reported that the European Network of Heads of Schools of Architecture had recently launched an inquiry by means of a questionnaire on the Competencies that professional offices expect of graduates. He urged the Member Organisations of the ACE to publish this questionnaire so that a wide sample can be delivered to the Heads of Schools of Architecture.

Konstantin Kleffel, as a Member of the ACE Panel of the Joint Working Party (JWP), expressed his view that this collaboration is a very important, highly effective and a most valuable work of the ACE and he congratulated the ACE on succeeding in this work.

Owen Lewis of the RIAI raised the concerns that the Irish Delegation has had over the years about the manner in which the new Qualifications Directive will go about the recognition of Qualifications. He stated that the concern has been much alleviated since the Advisory Committee is to be maintained until the end of 2007. However he called on the ACE to use this space to carefully consider the implications for validation and accreditation of programmes of education and for the profile of the architect. By this, he means that there is a need to look at the core competences of the architect and to anticipate that there will be more variety in the way that architects will be trained in the future and more variety in the expectation of clients of architects. These issues all impact on the Quality of Qualifications and the Irish Delegation expressed the wish that the ACE take time to carefully study and understand the potential evolution in this direction. In response, John Wright suggested that the UIA work in this area could be looked at and that a revision of the eleven skills and aptitudes of the Architects Directive could be undertaken. Konstantin Kleffel, as a Member of the Joint Working Party, reassured the Assembly that the issues raised by the Irish Delegation are already under consideration by the JWP and that it is intended that serious and well considered work will take place in this area.

6.2. Work Group on Environment and Sustainable Architecture

6.2.1. As the Chair of the Work Group was not able to attend the Assembly Philippe Boille reported that the work is ongoing on the guidelines for the implementation of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. It is expected that these will be put to the General Assembly in Spring 2006. He also reported that there is probably a need for the Terms of Reference of this Work Group to be reviewed by the next Executive Board in the context of the new structures of the ACE.

Alain Sagne reported on the ongoing work of the Energy Demand Management Committee which is the regulatory Committee of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. It seems that the CEN has adopted a high number of pre norms and that they are out for consultation with the Member States at the present time. He also informed The Assembly that the CEN Technical Committee 350 on the Sustainability of Construction works has been set up and that the ACE has been granted a Liaison status to this committee. He explained that a call for nominees to take up an observer seat at the Plenary Meetings and to participate in work groups will shortly be made to Member Organisations, while stressing the issue of scarce financial resources to support this activity in the ACE budget and hence calling on the assistance of the ACE Members in that respect. He also informed the Assembly that the Member Organisations of the ACE should lobby national standardisation bodies if they wish to nominate additional experts to the Work Groups of this Committee where the main technical work will take place. Adrian Joyce reported that the latest information on the Thematic Strategy for the Urban Environment is that it will be adopted by the Commission by the end of the year and published.

6.3. Urban Issues

Antonio Borghi, Chairman of the Work Group, reported that work has progressed well since the last Assembly. He said that there had been an effective Conference in Poznan at which the topic of Urban Regeneration and Architectural Quality was discussed. There were four ACE speakers. He finished his report by saying that he now looked to the new Executive Board to give further guidance to the Work Group in the context of the new structure of the ACE and that he intended to hold a Joint Meeting with the Work Group "Research" as there are several matters of joint interest between the two groups.

Alain Sagne reported on the setting up of a new URBACT network which is being led by the City of Poznan on the topic of Urban Regeneration of large Housing estates with an emphasis on Architectural Quality. He reported that there are now nine, maybe twelve, Cities committed to the network and that it is Krzysztof Baczynski of the ACE Member Organisation IARP who has been instrumental in the establishment of this network.

6.5. Research

6.5.1. László Miko, Chairman of the Work Group Research, reported on the first meeting of the Work Group back in September at which a lengthy debate on the involvement of the ACE in the ECTP took place. He reported that the Work Group is developing a view on how the architectural profession can be more effectively involved in Research activities and that it is to develop and maintain a database of experts from the ACE network so that the ACE has a reliable source on which to draw when there is a need for representation in projects or at conferences. He welcomed the proposal to hold a joint meeting with the Work Group Urban Issues and proposed that it takes place in Budapest in spring 2006. Finally he referred to the tabled questionnaire about National Technology Platforms calling on those Member Organisations who had not yet answered the questionnaire to do so.

Marie-Hélène Lucas reported on the presentation she had made at the Plenary Assembly of the ECTP and expressed the hope that there might be a valuable outcome from the Platform in the form of a joint technology initiative on the subject of regeneration.

6.6. External Projects

Alain Sagne reported on the progress in the Towards Class "A" Project stating that the ACE is capably represented by its Austrian expert Walter Unterrainer while the Secretariat is directly monitoring the contractual part of the ACE in the project. He referred to the leaflet that has been distributed to all Member Organisations, the nomination by the Executive Board of Livia Tirone to the Jury who will assess the award for the best example of Publicity for Energy Efficiency and he called on the Member Organisations to inform the Secretariat of any shining examples of exceptionally well performing energy efficient municipal public buildings that they are aware of.

Adrian Joyce reported on the work on the Build for All project congratulating the ACE Expert, Ewa Kurylowicz, for her delegated and hard work in making inputs to the deliverables which the Project will produce. These are a handbook and toolkit for the use of Public Authorities in putting accessibility criteria into calls for tender for Public works. He reported that the Launch Event of the project is due to take place in early 2006 in the presence of the President of the Commission, Mr. José Manuel Barroso.

7.0. Professional Practice

John Wright thanked very warmly all the members of the Permanent Committee for their hard and delegated work over the past two years. He noted that the Permanent Committee will no longer exist in the new structure of the ACE and he expressed the hope that active delegates to the Committee will remain active in their various topics in the years to come.

7.2. Competition Policy

Wolfgang Haack, Chairman of the Work Group, reminded the Assembly of the work carried out since 2002 on the Discussion Paper and on the meetings with the DG Competition. He highlighted the fact the ACE had prepared its Discussion Document before the Commission undertook its work in the area of Competition in Professional Services. He went out to report on the recent Follow up Communication of the Commission on Competition in Professional Services saying that it contained a poor definition of the client, a simplistic view of the market for architectural services and that they was no new information to be gleaned from the document. He emphasized the importance of adopting a revised Discussion Document but withdrew the requirement for the Assembly to vote as outlined in the Assembly documents. He finished by saying that it would be good for Member Organisations to have contacts at national level with their Competition Authorities and that the revised document will be put to the General Assembly in the Spring of 2006. In so doing he called for caution in the use of any study that the ACE might develop in relation to Competition issues as he was concerned that the Commission would use data delivered in its own manner and not necessarily in the interest of the profession.

Following an invitation from John Wright, Olgierd Dziekonski reported on the submission that had been made in Poland to its Constitutional Court relating to a complaint about the Public Procurement law in that country. The basis of the case is that citizens have a right to a Quality Public Domain and that the approach of the Polish law undermines that right as it allows selection for architectural services to be based on lowest price criteria and not on a quality based selection or economically most advantageous approach. He reported that the case will not come to a hearing for at least a year but that they hoped at least arrive at a court definition of what constitutes public interest.

Alain Sagne reported that a letter and a Draft [Position Paper on the Communication](#) This debate was provoked by the proposed amendment to the referred to by Wolfgang Haack have been sent to Commissioner Kroes. He further reported that a Press Release would be prepared and issued on Monday 21st November referring to the upcoming Conference on Regulation in Professional Services and that it would be accompanied by the adopted Resolution against Price Dumping.

In a debate that followed the CNOA (B) reported that the recent Communication is the first time that they have seen the Commission admit that they are some justified regulations for some situations. It suggested that the ACE should seek to find out exactly what they mean by this admission.

7.3. Trade in Services

7.3.1. Most of this item was dealt with at 3.0 above but John Wright reported that negotiations with Canada are progressing, with a meeting expected to take place in early 2006 and that contacts with Chile are currently being pursued through a fresh contact made by the ACE Secretariat with the profession in Chile. A further report on developments will be made at the next Assembly.

7.4. Procurement of Architectural Services

Paula Huotelin reported that work has taken place on this topic and that the Work Group has met and prepared a web page on the topic but that there is significant work left to do. She reported that this is a permanent topic of concern to the profession and that there is no end in sight for the work of the Work Group.

Thomas Maibaum referred to the tabled paper on [Recommendations and Guidelines](#) for the transposition of the Public Procurement Directives saying that it contains revisions from May 2005 and that Member Organisations should no longer refer to the earlier adopted version.

Hans Georg Brunnert made a presentation of the new matrix which forms the core of the Web Page referred to by Paula Huotelin above. It promises any user to conveniently gain an overview of the various ways in which Public Procurement and Architectural Competitions interact. He demonstrated the page stating that it is still under development and the work was applauded by the Assembly.

In summing up John Wright supported the comments of Paula Huotelin on the ongoing nature of this work and asked the Assembly for its approval for this work to continue. The Assembly gave its approval.

7.5. Registration and Licensing

Pierre-Henri Schmutz reported on the work of the Work Group referring to the Briefing Note and tables circulated with the Assembly papers. He announced that the principles on which the work has been progressing are clear and have been accepted by the Assembly. However he said that, to date the Assembly had not accepted the approach to the implementation of these conclusions and that he now called on the Assembly to do so. He said that there is a need to accept, at European level, that a tool which gives information on the level of qualifications, Professionalism and experience of architects is needed and he asked that a mandate from the Assembly to undertake this work be given to the Work Group. He emphasised that the work is not about the creation of a European register of architects, nor harmonisation of the profession at European level.

There was a considerable debate on this issue in which the thrust of the comments were that the intentions of the Work Group are legitimate but that detailed and careful work is required to bring it to fruition. There was some support for the publicity aspects of an ACE card and for the idea that it would facilitate free movement of architects in the internal market. In summing up John Wright spoke of the real need to have something in place for the external trade agreements that the ACE is currently engaged in negotiating and he called for the approval of the Assembly to the work. The work was approved with one Member Organisation voting against approval and one member Organisation abstaining.

7.6. Health and Safety

7.6.1. In the absence of the Chairman of this Group, Adrian Joyce reported that a meeting of the European Construction Safety Forum had taken place the day before the Assembly and that at that meeting it was announced that a review of the Mobile Sites Directive is currently under way and is being conducted by EUROGIP, a French Organisation. He emphasised to the Assembly the importance of this review and the fact that it vindicated the recent action of the ACE in signing the Bilbao Declaration and in calling for adequate research into the topic. He emphasised that there is now a valuable opportunity to redress the balance in this legislation so as to ensure a better approach to this important topic in the construction sector. He also referred to the questionnaire that has been circulated to the Member Organisations which is of fundamental importance to the initial work of the Work Group as it will allow for an accurate overview of how the Health and Safety legislation has affected the architectural profession. He requested that those Member Organisations who have not yet completed the questionnaire to do so.

8.0. Budget

Katarina Nilsson, Treasurer, reported on the meeting of the Finance Committee stating that it has approved the budget for 2006 and which shows approximately 3% increase due to normal expenses and for the permanent staff. In relation to the implications of the new structures of the ACE she reported that there will be a need to propose some adjustments to the budget for 2007 but that the Finance Committee will await the deliberation of the new Executive Board.

The Portuguese Member Organisation asked the Finance Committee to consider other ways of raising additional resources rather than relying on increasing the subscription of Members. They suggested looking at ways in which EU funding might be gained by transforming work priorities of the ACE into projects that could be funded by the European Union.

The BAK raised the issue of the agreement to hold the EU-10 subscriptions at a low level for the first five years of membership to which the treasurer replied that this has been discussed in the Finance Committee and a decision was taken to maintain the agreement as adopted. In summing up the Treasurer called for the approval of the budget which was unanimously forthcoming from the Assembly and she called for the Assembly to approve the appointment of the auditor (Geddes and Co). This was also unanimously approved.

9.0 Internal Affairs

9.1. In relation to the Implementation of outstanding work as a result of the adoption of the Statutes and By-Laws the Assembly mandated the Executive Board to pursue this work items in the early part of its mandate over the years 2006/2007.

9.3. A debate on the candidates for membership took place as a problem has arisen. There is a special situation developing with the Belgian Colleagues as three new applications for membership have been received by the ACE. This means that there are potentially five representative organisations for architects in Belgium being considered for membership and the Statutes limits the maximum number of Organisations per country to four. There are other matters of representation at national level which the issue raises and Marie-Hélène Lucas explained that there has not been time to fully consider this before the Assembly. In a brief debate it was agreed that there is an important work to do in considering these matters but that the particular situation in Belgium should not be the only factor considered. In other words there is a need to consider potential developments in other countries in revising the statutes of the ACE. The Assembly mandated the new Board to consider this matter together with other matters not mentioned in the implementation document such as where Assemblies will be held in the future.

9.4. Administrative Formalities for the EEIG were undertaken and the Secretary General reported that there is a need for the Statutes of the EEIG to be adapted in the light of the new Statutes of the AISBL. He stated that the principle change would be that the EEIG Members would be the mandated Delegates to the Finance Committee of the AISBL. This was put to the Assembly and the tabled amendments to the Statutes of the EEIG were unanimously adopted.

10.0 Any other business

10.1 There was no other business not covered on the items above.

11.0 Provisional Calendar of ACE meetings 2006

This calendar was adopted by the Assembly as circulated.

The Head of Delegation of the BAK, on behalf of the Member Organisations, thanked Marie-Hélène Lucas for her hard work during her Presidency, the OAI for its hospitality in arranging the Assembly in Luxembourg and for the work of individual members of the Executive Board.

Katarina Nilsson expressed thanks to the President on behalf of the members of the Executive Board presenting her with a gift in appreciation of her Dedication to the ACE.

End of notes