



European
Language
Diversity
Summit

**Europako
Hizkuntza
Aniztasunaren
Goi Bilera**



Minutes of the meeting of the Organising Committee 31st March, 2015, Miramar Palace

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

1st meeting

Miramar Palace, Donostia. 31st March 2015

Attendance:

Haizpea Abrisketa (Kontseilua)
Carme Arenas (LINGUAPAX Int.)
Maria Areny (CIEMEN)
Asier Basurto (DSS2016 – Kontseilua)
Paul Bilbao (Kontseilua)
Davyth Hicks (ELEN)
Tomasso Nodari (UNPO)
Simona Skrabec (PEN Int.)

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Paul Bilbao on behalf of the Technical Secretariat has explained that ECMI is the last member of the Organizers Group but it has been impossible for them to attend the meeting.

1 – RECAP OF THE PROJECT AND VOTE OF APPROVAL:

The Donostia 2016 European Capital of Culture has been presented.

The European Language Diversity Summit Project has been presented. Some proposals have been made:

- To use “promotion” instead of “cultivation”
- To use “civil society” instead of just “society” when convenient
- To use the terms “language community” and “language group” as defined in the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights
- To insert a mention of the potential economic benefits of the language diversity.

After accepting this proposals the committee has expressed his compliance with the project characteristics and all participants showed their commitment to go ahead.

2 – ORGANISATION

The Project structure proposal has been presented. In general all the members do agree.

The participation of the *big language* organizations has been addressed. It is desirable that organizations that do agree with the principles of the Project support it. It is not clear the criteria in the case of National State-Culture organizations like British Council, Instituto Cervantes, Goethe Institut, Alliance Française, EUNIC ... Those are public institutions so the doubt is about their political influence.

The option of constituting a Honorary Committee has been analysed. The group do agree on doing it. The profile of its members has been discussed. They can not be too controversial in the political field. Maybe, the way to avoid that is choosing only non-European politicians. Most of the members of the Honorary Committee should be intellectuals and artists.

The technical secretariat will send a Honorary Committee members profile proposal so that every organization in the Organization Committee will be able to propose candidates in the following weeks.

3 – PRESENTATION: BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE PROTOCOL

The reference compilation has been presented.

More references have been mentioned and the group decided to include them:

- Vade Mecum: EBLUL
- Multilingualism Report from the European Parliament (3)
- EU Charter of Fundamental Rights)
- Girona Manifesto on Linguistic Rights
- Declaration of Quebec

The references must be presented in alphabetical order

4 - AGREE ON PROTOCOL PRINCIPLES

The first draft of the protocol principles has been presented. In general the members agree with the skeleton proposed.

For the following development of the documents it is preferable to use concrete and measurable concepts instead of more undefined words like “promote”. One way to do this could be to create a progressive scale of terms.

It is necessary to create some kind of monitoring mechanism so that the fulfilment of the protocol can be evaluated.

In general, the terms used in the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights are going to be the main source for the Protocol. That is the reason, for example to use *Onomastics* instead of *Linguistic Landscape* or any other option.

It us preferable to use the term *language user* instead of *language speaker*.

5 - WORK SCHEDULE / DISTRIBUTION OF TASKS

The main task to be done by all the Organising Committee members is to propose people for the Scientific Committee. The Technical Secretariat will distribute a SC member profile scheme to help all the members suggesting names.

Other tasks

Task	Deadline
Feedback about the Protocol Skeleton presented	4 th May
Suggest events, forums, spaces and organizations to present the project	1 st July
Propose resources and ideas for communication that can be used to spread info about the project.	4 th May

In 2015 the main milestone of the project are the Organization Committee meeting in Donostia on July and the Scientific Committee founding meeting in October.

Donostia, March, 2015

