

## **FIPRESCI**

Fédération Internationale de la Presse Cinématographique  
SchleissheimerStr. 83, D-80797 Munich  
T +49 (89) 18 23 03, +49 (172) 850 53 02, F +49 (89) 18 47 66  
Email keder@fipresci.org - www.fipresci.org

---

### **General Assembly 2015 – Minutes**

---

Bari, Italy

Sunday, March 22, 14:00-18:30, Palace Hotel

Monday, March 23, 14:00-18:30, Palace Hotel

#### **Participants**

##### **Delegates**

Bangladesh: Ahmed Muztaba Zamal

Belgium: Jack Mener

Brazil: Myrna Brandao

Bulgaria: Bojidar Manov

Croatia: Diana Nenadic

Czech Republic: Eva Zaoralová

Estonia: Tristan Priimägi

Finland: Matti Rämö

France: Jean Roy, Isabelle Danel

Germany: Frédéric Jaeger

Hungary: György Kárpáti

Israel: Yael Shuv

Italy: Umberto Rossi

Japan: Atsuko Saito

Macedonia: Blagoja Kunovski

Netherlands: Leo Bankersen

Norway: Öyvor Vik

Poland: Barbara Hollender

Romania: Dana Duma

Russia: Alexey Gusev

Spain: Oscar Peyrou

Sweden: Eva af Geijerstam

Switzerland: Walter Vian

Turkey: Alin Tasciyan

UK: Derek Malcolm

Ukraine: Natalia Moussienko

##### **Individual members**

Pamela Biénzobas, Chile

Salome Kikaleishvili; Georgia

Maja Bogojevic, Montenegro

##### **Board**

Alin Tasciyan, President

György Kárpáti, Vice-President

Klaus Eder, General Secretary

### **Departments**

Leo Bankersen, Membership Affairs  
Carlos Brandao, Film History  
Barbara Lorey de Lacharrière, FIPRESCI-Awarded Films  
Philippe J. Maarek, Legal Department

### **Office**

Anne Brishoual

### **Guests in Bari**

Michel Ciment, Honorary President  
Andrei Plakov, Honorary President  
Berk Özler, Turkey, Mingus-Design

The three individual members shared 1 vote.  
Jean Roy and Isabelle Danel shared 1 vote.  
Number of votes at the General Assembly: 27 - Majority: 14

Opening the General Assembly, the General Secretary, Klaus Eder, first deeply thanked Felice Laudadio for his everlasting friendship and extraordinary hospitality, extended this year to the whole period of the festival, and for giving us such a prominent place in the festival in order to celebrate FIPRESCI's 90th anniversary. Selene Favuzzi, responsible for the hospitality service, was also warmly thanked for her great support and for taking care of our wellbeing with such engagement and efficiency.

Klaus Eder introduced Berk Özler, who was invited as special guest, and thanked him heartily for all his engagement in creating a new FIPRESCI website. With his company, Mingus-Design, he has been working one year pro bono. Berk said he was very grateful for this invitation to Bari and thanked Alin Tasciyan and Klaus Eder for the support they gave him during those last months. Berk underlined that he was very eager to make FIPRESCI more popular on social media. He also mentioned he intended, with the help of György Kárpáti, to permanently improve the FIPRESCI website in the future. Most technical problems have been settled in the meantime, and FIPRESCI owes Berk and his Mingus-Design team a lot of thanks. György Kárpáti informed that he could engage his students at the university to help uploading reports and keeping the site up to date.

Klaus Eder introduced the delegates. The minutes of the assembly of 2014 have been confirmed by the assembly.

Klaus Eder specially congratulated Jean Roy who was receiving a "Légion d'Honneur", handed over on stage by Philippe Maarek at the occasion of the FIPRESCI 90 years ceremony taking place on this same Sunday evening.

Alin Tasciyan underlined that to organize this joined celebration, together with Felice Laudadio who even with less financial means had agreed to this project, was quite a lot of work. It was particularly difficult to check the availability of film makers. Michel Ciment, Derek Malcolm and Klaus Eder had accepted to chair the master classes.

Klaus Eder pointed out that this job took a lot of time and was even quite depressing, sending invitations to filmmakers which remained sometimes unanswered. Andrzej Wajda sent a beautiful letter of agreement. And at the end the reactions to the master classes were quite positive. As a matter of fact Alan Parker and Jean-Jacques Annaud had never received a FIPRESCI Award, therefore it was a kind of elegant 'revenge' to honor them with a FIPRESCI 90 Award.

Klaus Eder suggested to check with Felice how we could publish the videos of the master Classes and if the delegates could write brief reports with photos of the guests to put on our website. To close this matter, Klaus pointed out that to do this job it would be necessary to have an event manager who will take care of these special events, master classes etc. Someone who is already engaged in a festival and has such experience would be very welcome to take over this task.

### **Activities of the Federation**

The new website has been the main topic in the last months. Alin Tasciyan suggested that every member should contribute to the website publishing interviews of filmmakers made by film critics in order to enrich our site.

Klaus mentioned that many festivals ask us to compose juries out of colleagues already attending the festival. It would also be a problem to find colleagues willing to attend sidebars because they are asked to cover the competition sections.

Frédéric Jäger proposed a new system for registering members to FIPRESCI. He said it could be an automatic procedure which could reduce this administrative task. This could also be applied to jury requests. Umberto Rossi pointed out that lately the circulars were published much too late, causing much inconvenience regarding jury applications because some deadlines were nearly over.

Klaus Eder admitted that, due to other priorities: website, preparations of the GA and of the special event in Bari, the last two circulars were delayed, but all juries were published before on the members area of our site. Philippe Maarek pointed out that unfortunately members were not checking the website regularly and would wait for the circulars. To make things easier he suggested to regroup the deadlines for applications to juries in each circular at a fixed date, like beginning of each month; according to some priorities settled in advance. The biggest problem is that very often colleagues would be informed only a few weeks before an event if they will sit on the jury they had applied for. The circulars, 4/year, should be announced 6-8 weeks before deadlines and critics should know at least 6 weeks before the beginning of the festival if they are selected or not, this also in order to avoid any visa problem.

Proposals unanimously approved by the GA with 1 abstention.

### **Financial report**

The results improved this year but were reduced because of technical problems (virus) on both Klaus' and Anne's computers, should hopefully be better next year. Voted unanimously with 2 abstentions.

### **Report Alin Tasciyan, President**

Klaus mentioned that he would have a kind of permanent Skype connection with Alin. He said he would appreciate it very much to have such an engaged person on board. Alin answered that she was very happy to do the job and had a pragmatic way of keeping things going on, it was a pleasure for her to work closely together with Klaus and György.

Report unanimously approved by the assembly.

### **Report György Kárpáti, Vice-President**

György Kárpáti pointed out that delegates complaining about their reports not having been published after 4 months was good news, this meaning that the website is getting more and more important for our members. He assured that he is proud of having created a group of 22 students regularly working on the website in order to catch up with old reports, by also checking the names, task which is sometimes difficult because of different languages. Therefore all members should regularly check the website for daily uploads and changes. He remarked that it is important but difficult to find native speakers with a good level and experience doing the job for free. His team of students have access to the website and are responsible for all changes. The "Undercurrent" magazine, as part of the site, should be taken care of soon.

Klaus joined that we need a copy editor, and that IMDB should be the reference for our website. Yael Shuv suggested that jury members should check the names themselves before sending their reports. Matti Rämö proposed that the national section should follow up with the text and remind that jury members should write in English even if not native. György confirmed that all uploaded texts have been checked before by native speakers.

Report unanimously approved with 1 abstention.

### **Report Dana Linssen, Vice-President**

Unfortunately Dana Linssen could not attend the general assembly this year and did not send a report of activity to the assembly (but a letter to the board). The assembly agreed that Alin Tasciyan should partly read Dana's letter and a printed version would be available to the delegates afterwards.

To this point Eva Af Geijerstam remarked that the materials for the GA were received too late and had no chance to be discussed with other members of the national section. Klaus said that to send out the materials one week before the assembly would be better, and would be realistic, and he would try to realize this in future, in spite of all workload particularly in this period of the year.

The assembly asked the General Secretary to inform Dana Linssen that she should make her future reports of activity available in time.

Dana Linssen was supposed to help the General Secretary with all "Talent Press" activities. It was, however, not clear if she wants to engage herself only in selected workshops (Berlinale), or if she feels responsible for most initiatives of this kind. The General Secretary quoted her negative answer in the case of the Rotterdam Trainee Project, where she had said she would not be in charge. Following the assembly, the General Secretary said he would discuss this question with Dana Linssen.

Klaus Eder added that she would have done a good job in Berlin, at the "Talent Press".

Report approved with majority and 6 abstentions.

## **Departments Reports**

Klaus took the opportunity to officially thank Leo Bankersen for the great job he achieved in catching up with unpaid FIPRESCI membership fees. Leo confirmed that some national sections still did not pay for a considerable period of years: Argentina, Egypt (made some small payments), Greece, Latvia, Portugal, Serbia, Turkey, Tunisia. The question was how come that a poor country like Bangladesh can pay, and Portugal, Argentina or Turkey don't! Philippe Maarek said we should apply the statutes which are very clear at this point: if a member-country doesn't pay it should not send members in juries. Klaus Eder replied that this could be dangerous because we don't want to lose more national sections (Chile is lost, Argentina on the edge). Therefore we should be more flexible but still apply the statutes more rigorously.

The general assembly had to make a decision because the statutes (article 20) stipulate that a member is automatically excluded after 3 years of non-payment. The GA decided that a member-country which did not pay should not be excluded automatically (example Argentina) but could send jurors in national juries only – regulation valid until the national section settles the membership fees. This resolution is valid one year until the next assembly in 2016.

This resolution was voted with majority and 2 abstentions.

Department reports don't have to be approved by the GA. Klaus Eder heartily thanked Barbara Lorey, Pamela Biénzobas, Carlos Brando and Philippe Maarek for their great support and enthusiasm. Carlos remarked that it is always getting more difficult nowadays to keep an history of cinema available because we are unfortunately not able to show films in 16mm or 35mm anymore.

## **All Juries**

There won't be any festival in Troia in 2015, what a pity after 30 years. Three more festivals were added to our list of festivals with our jury: Los Cabos in Mexico (Oct/Nov); Munich, Germany at the end of June; Drama Short Film Festival in Drama/Greece. Bojidar Manov had participated as an observer and found it to be a very serious festival.

Rotterdam. The profile of our jury should be discussed with the new fest head (one prize, two prizes, "Bright Future" or/and "Tiger Award".) The decision should be valid for the next years.

Klaus Eder remarked that it would be more and more difficult to find colleagues for the non-competitive sections or sub-juries at major festivals. Frédéric Jaeger proposed to focus on first features in the parallel sections (Cannes, Berlin, Venice) in order to downsize the number of eligible films. Klaus reminded that generally for major festivals the national sections should look for appropriate candidates and appoint well-known critics for the main competition and young critics for the parallel sections.

Festivals are running out of money and propose more often to compose our jury from colleagues already attending. Therefore the same names would appear every year.

Klaus Eder said it would be very important to add to every jury request an information on the publications someone is working for – because he has to "sell" the jury to the festivals. In the jury requests sent by all national sections this argument should be used to convince the festival to invite our candidates.

Philippe Maarek confirmed that, unfortunately, there is no general decision possible. Klaus has to negotiate each time with the festivals, otherwise we will remain in small festivals and disappear completely from the main ones.

The list of all juries of the year was confirmed by the general assembly.

### **Special Events**

National sections should provide us with a list of national first feature films to be considered as candidates for the European Film Award.

A new Latin American Award has been discussed, the Fénix. Pamela Biénzobas offered to take care. To be discussed: how can our Latin American colleagues be involved.

Special Event in Bari: On the 20<sup>th</sup> of March at the press conference a FIPRESCI trophy was officially attributed to Felice Laudadio to thank him for his generous hospitality and for allowing us to celebrate our 90th anniversary; and to Berk Özler, to thank him for offering us a new website.

Barbara Lorey said that the Bari event would only be the beginning of a series of celebrations. During this year she negotiates with a lot of festivals to present films which have won our FIPRESCI prize. She contacted festivals and some agreed already: IndieLisboa, Jerusalem, Cairo, Minsk, Miskolc and Bangalore. Still under discussion: Cuba, Spain (place to be discussed), Russia - Ivanovo, Tallinn, South America, Tbilisi and Carthage.

### **Any Other Business**

The German national section needs the FIPRESCI tax number and Philippe Maarek will take care of it. He confirms that, according to the statutes, in case of problem the original French version has to be applied.

Individual membership. Example: an US citizen living in Germany but not writing for German newspapers: In that case the national sections should sort it out and accept foreign members living in their country even if they are writing for foreign newspapers.

Philippe Maarek, the Federation's legal advisor, also stated: A women's association not accepting men could not become member of FIPRESCI because this would be a discrimination and is not acceptable according to the statutes.

To the question: Should we accept more individual members and open the door to young critics, different options were discussed and proposed. We should give them individual membership if not possible otherwise, but encourage them to become member of national sections. For the rest, to attract young people is not a matter of the board but of the national section.

The general assembly came to the conclusion that the general secretary is entitled to examine and decide each case individually as done in the past. Each individual membership request should remain an extraordinary case if a national section exists in the concerned country.

- BI&FEST Artistic Vice-Director, Enrico Magrelli, came to welcome us in the name of Felice Laudadio, who unfortunately could not visit us personally because of many other urgent duties. Enrico Magrelli welcomed us very heartily, thanking us for com-

ing from all over the world and wishing us a very successful and beautiful stay in Bari.

Alin Tasciyan, FIPRESCI President, informed that she would probably have to resign from the Turkish national section because of ideological disagreement.

Klaus Eder, FIPRESCI General Secretary, made a personal statement. He said that the introduction and establishment of a successor should start – with first looking for an "adjoint general secretary", as fixed in the statutes. This adjoint secretary could be proposed to the assembly of 2016; the whole transition taking two to three years. The assembly gave the General Secretary the mandate of beginning this procedure and to hopefully propose a candidate for an adjoint secretary next year. Klaus Eder informed that he would address himself to all national sections, asking them for support, asking them in particular to help searching for colleagues who might be able and willing to take over, as well as for colleagues who would be able to invest a part of their time budget in one of the numerous tasks of keeping our Federation running.

Regretfully the assembly was running out of time and had to drop the last point: Sponsoring - from our colleagues Steven Yates and Leo Bankersen. This topic should be discussed by the members of the board during the year and detailed at the next assembly.

April 2, 2015  
Anne Brishoual