

Minutes of the General Assembly 2014

Bari, Italy

Sunday, April 6, 09:30-18:00, Hotel Boscolo

Monday, April 7, 09:30-13:00, Hotel Boscolo

Participants

Board Members

Jean Roy, France, President

Alin Tasciyan, Turkey, Vice-President

György Kárpáti, Hungary, Vice-President

Klaus Eder, Germany, General Secretary

Delegates

Bojidar Manov, Bulgaria

Diana Nenadic, Croatia

Nanna Frank Rasmussen, Denmark

Eva Zaoralova, Czech Republic

Essam Zakarea, Egypt

Maria Ulfsak-Seripova, Estonia

Matti Rämö, Finland

Isabelle Danel, France

Dennis Vetter, Germany

Yael Shuv, Pablo Utin, Israel

Umberto Rossi, Italy

Atsuko Saito, Japan

Blagoja Kunovski, Macedonia

Dana Linssen, The Netherlands

Öyvör Vik, Norway

Dana Duma, Romania

Eulalia Iglesias, Spain

Eva Af Geijerstam, Sweden

Walter Vian, Switzerland

Lyudmila Novikova, Ukraine

Maja Bogojevic, Montenegro

Jack Mener, Belgium

Departments

Leo Bankersen The Netherlands

Philippe J. Maarek, France, Legal Affairs

Barbara Lorey Delacharriere, France

and

Anne Brishoual, secretary

Jack Mener, who was attending as guest because he registered after deadline, was eventually accorded a right to vote and represent Belgium by the GA. Klaus Eder welcomed the delegates and presented the newcomers to this assembly, thanking everybody for their engagement. He specially thanked Jean Roy for his valuable support in all these years.

The agenda started with the report of activities followed by the reports of the Board Members and directors of departments.

A few remarks:

Barbara Lorey underlined that Morocco would have a strong interest in becoming a FIPRESCI member because they are running a lot of small festivals.

Klaus reminded that deadline for sending candidates or jury reports are often not respected and he appeals to all for respecting those regulations in order to keep our association running. Klaus pointed out that each national section is responsible for its members and has to be actively participating.

György Kárpáti reminded that many people do not respect the specifications in writing the reports to be edited and everything has to be reformatted manually, which is very time-consuming. Philippe Maarek and Klaus pointed out that, English being the website language worldwide, French is also accepted because it is in the statutes, this was accepted by the assembly years ago. Therefore reports in French and sometimes Spanish are also exceptionally published on the website. Unfortunately there is a lack of time to find editors for all languages. Pablo Utin and György Kárpáti are both doing a great job with the website, but it would be great to have two more people because of the 70 festivals per year! A copy-editor would be as well badly needed to check all possible mistakes before editing. All reports were unanimously approved by the general assembly.

Elections of a new Board

Number of votes: 26 - Majority: 14

Before proceeding with the vote, Klaus asked the three candidates about their “time budget” available for FIPRESCI, they all confirmed their willingness to engage themselves even if it is sometimes difficult to find a time limit.

Alin Tasciyan was unanimously elected as President with 1 abstention

György Kárpáti was unanimously elected as Vice-President with 1 abstention and 1 “no”

Dana Linssen was unanimously elected as Vice-President with 3 abstentions

Jean Roy was unanimously elected as Honorary President

The board decided to discuss the new election of an ADVISORY COMMITTEE consisting of:

4 Honorary Presidents: Michel Ciment, France

Andrei Plakhov, Russia

Derek Malcolm, UK

Jean Roy, France

1 Honorary Vice-President Dan Fainaru, Israel

5 Advisory Members Jose Carlos Avelar, Brasil

Jonathan Rosenbaum, USA

Eva Zaoralova, Czech Republic

Eva af Geijerstam, Sweden

Samir Farid, Egypt

Eva Zaoralova and Eva af Geijerstam, who were present at the GA, immediately accepted this new task. All 10 members will belong to an extended board.

This proposal was unanimously approved by the GA with 3 abstentions.

All juries of 2013

Jury Requests

The GA confirmed that, FIPRESCI having two official languages, English and French, all candidates appointed by their national section have to know at least one of these two languages, and this for the good understanding of movies. Each candidate will get a letter asking him to confirm this point as well as his participation in order to avoid any last minute cancellation.

The national sections should take care not to propose “small coverage” candidates for big international juries which need international coverage and only propose them for smaller events because this makes no sense and they won’t be selected at the end. They should look more precisely and carefully into the qualifications and specialisations of their candidates before proposing them for juries. The candidates should also add a few words on their request underlining the importance of the media they will be covering. The board mentioned a possibility to accredit the FIPRESCI website as an official publication as well. All jury requests received after the deadline are automatically put on a waiting list.

Special cases approved by the GA

Klaus underlined the increasing difficulties in composing the juries because of air-ticket restrictions worldwide. Does it make sense to continue with a jury dominated by political decisions or should we stop cooperating? This matter was discussed by the GA checking one jury after the other and some suggestions were agreed upon as follows:

Thessaloniki:

The decision was made to support our Greek friends, if the festival says “no Greek member in our jury”, we should cancel it, give up for a few years and let them clear the matter and step in again after the conflict has been settled.

Hong Kong

This festival doesn’t offer long distance tickets and if there is no candidate, the festival has to be cancelled because probably nobody can afford to fly to Hong Kong on his own expenses.

Istanbul

Because of budget problems a smaller jury with only one prize and 3 members instead of 6 should be composed.

Buenos Aires

Offers invitations for Latin American colleagues exclusively. Why not accepting this condition since we already are doing it with European festivals and see what happens. If it doesn’t work, then we will have to cancel the jury or put it on hold.

Reykjavik and Vienna

Both festivals want and insist to have their own people composing the jury. This is not acceptable, if they are too dominating, the juries have to be cancelled.

Cairo

Has to catch up with Dubai and Abu Dhabi for the selection of Arab Cinema.

San Sebastian

This special case and event was thoroughly discussed by the assembly:

San Sebastian offers neither ticket, nor accommodation, this jury has to be composed from colleagues who are on their invitation list only. On the other hand it is a good showcase for the FIPRESCI Grand-Prix. Proposal to downsize the jury to 3 members already invited, and if the festival wants 5, they have to offer accommodation for 2 FIPRESCI members, in that case and if necessary there would be 2 prizes.

Most of the films are viewed in Cannes. FIPRESCI members have the possibility to vote for the best film of the year.

Proposal:

1. Keep the Grand Prix in San Sebastian and give a Lifetime Achievement Award to a filmmaker
2. Choose the Grand Prix among the best FIPRESCI awarded films of the year only

This vote should be split in two terms:

A first round proposed to all FIPRESCI members with a total of about 100 titles, each member selecting 3 movies out of the list.

A second round with a short list (10-15 titles) composed of the most voted films will then be sent out to choose the winner.

For this purpose a special page would be opened in the website to discuss the list and allow the members to vote online.

The Fendel incident

Dennis Vetter explained this problematic and serious case and asked the GA for advice. The GA confirmed that film critics also working for PR agencies and industry cannot and may not belong to FIPRESCI and apply for juries. According to internal arrangements, Heike Fendel has been confirmed as a jury member in Istanbul without a right to vote, but since the public is not aware of this restriction, with her name appearing as a FIPRESCI jury member in the Istanbul catalogue, our image is therefore endangered.

Klaus suggested to put a note in the jury confirmation text advising that the jury president should make sure and check that none of the jury members has any contacts to PR or industry. It is our duty to keep our profession clean respecting its ethical criteria.

A letter will be sent to all national sections reminding that PR involvement is absolutely forbidden.

Felice Laudadio

On Monday morning, Felice Laudadio, our host, came to visit us and Klaus thanked him again in the name of FIPRESCI for his tremendous generosity and exceptional support during the last 25 years. He heartily invited us again next year in Bari where the festival will take place from Sa. 21st to Sa. 28th of March 2015.

On this occasion Felice agreed with the idea to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the mutual cooperation between him and FIPRESCI as well as 90 years of FIPRESCI. He underlined that Bari is the home of Italian cinema, particularly for documentaries and short films. Klaus congratulated him for the great 1 min. “pills” documentaries from the archives which were presented at the beginning of each screening. Felice also congratulated us for having a “first young lady” as president of this FIPRESCI “old lady” becoming 90 next year!!!.

Alin suggested that this 90th anniversary in Bari will be an excellent opportunity to promote FIPRESCI. The delegates were requested to do a brainstorming about all events in their own country to help prepare this project and develop ideas in the next months.

The board would be pleased if the delegates could attend this event planning to stay a few days longer next year, this in order to give a stronger coverage of the festival and honor Felice’s generous invitation.

Anne Brishoual
April 23, 2014