



NEWS

EUROPEAN *Dyslexia*
ASSOCIATION
AISBL

www.dyslexia.eu.com

Vol. 14 No. 6 December 2008

**WE HOPE YOU HAD A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS
and we send
EVERY GOOD WISH TO OUR MEMBERS
and READERS for 2009**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Saturday 23rd May 2009

This is the preliminary date for a new General Assembly of EDA in Belgium at the offices of a Notary's office.

This has become necessary as there were not enough Effective Members present or by proxy at the General Assembly on 15th November 2008 so the required changes to the Statutes under Belgian Law could not be made nor any decisions confirmed.

There is a full explanation on pages 17 and 18 of this issue of *EDA NEWS*

ALL EFFECTIVE MEMBERS MUST SUBMIT the required documentation by 1st May 2009. Effective Member organisations ignoring this request cannot legally be regarded anymore as Effective Members from 23rd May 2009 (the date of the next General Assembly) if they do not prove that they are "legally constituted according their own national laws and customs" (Section 2, Article 4 of the Statutes).

Jennifer & Robin Salter
Joint Editors

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EUROPEAN *dyslexia*
ASSOCIATION
AESBL

European Dyslexia Association

Extraordinary General Assembly

held at

Ecole de Stockel, 61, Rue de Henri Vandermaele in 1150 Brussels-Woluwé St. Pierre

Saturday 15th November 2008



1. Opening by the Chairman, SR Michael Kalmár

The Chairman opened the General Assembly at 10:15 a.m. and welcomed the delegates and guests. He expressed his deep gratitude to the host, **APEDA-Belge**, and especially to **Marianne Hallet** and **Eleni Grammaticos**, who organized the provision of the venue and refreshments.

2. Welcome from the host APEDA Belge, Eleni Grammaticos

Mrs. Eleni Grammaticos, President of APEDA Belge, welcomed the audience and presented their recently published booklet "Le petit guide des dyslexiques - Comment les dépister et les aider en classe" (*The small guide for dyslexics - how to identify them and to help them in the classroom*).

3. Report on strategies in the frame of the European Parliament, Mrs. Maria Panayotopoulos - Cassiotou MEP

On the eve of the 14th November 2008 the office of Mrs. Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou MEP informed the Board she was not able to attend. Her office also sent the manuscript of her speech in French to the EDA-Board which was translated for the meeting by **Dr Anne-Marie Montarnal**, President of APEDA France in the following terms (*the original French text follows in italics*):

The European Actions against "DYS"CRIMINATION

The aim of the European Parliament is to give an equal opportunity to the 'DYS' children to succeed at school and to access to employment.

The European Parliament has adopted the Written Declaration 64/2007 against "dys"crimination and social exclusion" (by 410 European MEP's).

The initiatives taken by the European Commission are the following:

- the budget was voted for policy in favor of "dys" persons to help children and parents.
- A pilot project was voted with the same aim, requiring letting the "dys" difficulties and the best practice better known.
- The European Action Plan for 2008-2012 will concern not only the disabled but also the "dys" persons.
- The PROGRESS program has a budget to help several NGO's for disabled children and "dys" children.
- The Seventh Research Program and Regional Development Program will finance research in the "dys" field.
- The "All Life Training Program" will help persons with special needs.

Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou concludes how important it is:

- to develop new technology and research,
- to improve the teacher and remedial teacher training,
- to be aware that health, education and employment are concerned in "DYS" persons.

**LES ACTIONS EUROPEENNES
EN FAVEUR DE LA LUTTE CONTRE LA 'DYS'CRIMINATION**

Chers amis,

Je vous remercie vivement de votre invitation et de l'opportunité qui m'est aujourd'hui offerte de m'exprimer sur un sujet qui intéresse beaucoup de parlementaires européens, à savoir la discrimination dont sont victimes, quelques fois durant toute leur existence, les individus souffrant de troubles 'dys', et notamment les enfants.

Nous essayons, au niveau européen, de lutter contre la discrimination en général, et en particulier à l'égard de tous les troubles 'dys'.

La terminologie 'dys' recoupe en effet la dyslexie, la dyspraxie, la dyscalculie, la dysphasie et les troubles de l'attention avec ou sans hyperactivité.

Actuellement, 10% des enfants au sein de l'UE sont atteints de troubles 'dys'. L'objectif du travail des parlementaires européens est d'offrir à ces enfants les mêmes opportunités que les autres, en leur offrant un soutien depuis leur petite enfance jusqu'à leur insertion

professionnelle. *Je vais tenter de vous présenter les initiatives qui sont menées au niveau européen en faveur de la lutte contre la 'dys'crimination en vous présentant les actions du Parlement européen (1) et celles de la Commission européenne (2).*

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1) LES INITIATIVES DU PARLEMENT EUROPEEN:

En tant que députée européenne, j'ai pu, avec le soutien de mes collègues, être à l'origine de différentes actions visant une plus grande prise en compte des problèmes de 'dys'crimination.

A) Les initiatives prises dans le cadre de l'Intergroupe Famille et Protection de l'Enfance:

Malgré le fait qu'il n'est pas toujours aisé de prendre des initiatives dans ce domaine au risque d'empiéter sur la compétence des Etats membres, **l'Intergroupe 'Famille et Protection de l'Enfance' du Parlement européen** (lequel je préside), s'est notamment penché sur la problématique de la discrimination des enfants 'dys'.

Ainsi, une discussion a été organisée dans le cadre de l'adoption de la **déclaration écrite 64/2007 sur la 'dys'crimination et l'exclusion sociale des enfants 'dys'**: cette déclaration a été signée conjointement par mes collègues Richard Howitt, Kathy Sinnott, Roberta Angelilli, Anna Zaborska et moi-même, et par la suite approuvée par 410 députés européens.

Cette déclaration écrite:

- établit la nécessité d'une meilleure reconnaissance au niveau médical, social et éducatif des troubles 'dys';
- invite à un diagnostic et une prise en charge précoce de ces enfants;
- appelle à une collecte de données, à l'établissement d'indicateurs communs aux Etats membres sur les troubles de l'apprentissage, la création d'une Charte européenne des 'dys' et enfin à la création d'un réseau pluridisciplinaire européen.

Toujours dans le cadre de la déclaration écrite, nous avons eu l'occasion, le 18 septembre 2007, de poser une question à la Commission européenne. Cette question, à laquelle le Commissaire européen à l'éducation, la formation, la culture et la jeunesse Jan Figel a répondu, avait pour objet le lancement d'une **'Stratégie pour les droits de l'enfant: contre la 'dys'crimination et l'exclusion des personnes souffrant de troubles 'dys'**.

Il est souvent opportun de poser des questions aux représentants de la Commission européenne afin de les sensibiliser, contribuer à une prise de conscience sur certains sujets, comme celui concernant les enfants 'dys', et les inciter à prendre des initiatives en la matière.

B) Les initiatives prises dans le cadre des commissions parlementaires:

En ma qualité de membre de la **commission des 'Droits de la Femme et de l'Egalité des genres' du Parlement européen**, j'ai eu l'opportunité de présenter des amendements dans le cadre du projet d'avis sur le budget général de l'UE pour l'exercice 2009. J'ai ainsi réussi à défendre avec succès:

- **Le maintien des lignes budgétaires** affectées au développement des politiques en faveur des personnes souffrant de troubles 'dys' et de handicaps, en particulier en vue d'un soutien envers la jeunesse et les parents.

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• La commission a également voté en faveur **du projet pilote** que j'ai présenté, visant à la mise en place d'un financement afin d'assurer un meilleur soutien des parents et des éducateurs des enfants souffrant de troubles 'dys', dans le respect de l'égalité des chances entre les femmes et les hommes.

Afin d'atteindre cet objectif, le projet pilote souligne l'importance:

- de la prise de conscience des inégalités persistantes entre les personnes qui souffrent de troubles 'dys';
- de la discrimination à l'encontre des proches et des parents des personnes 'dys';
- de la nécessité de sensibiliser l'opinion publique au sujet des troubles 'dys', des échanges de bonnes pratiques et de la coopération entre organisations dans le domaine des 'dys'.

Enfin, j'ai récemment eu l'occasion de rencontrer la Commissaire européenne à la santé, Mme Vassiliou, et de discuter avec elle de l'importance des 'dys'. La Commissaire a manifesté un intérêt concernant les personnes souffrant de troubles 'dys' et m'a fait part de sa volonté de promouvoir une meilleure prise en compte des problèmes 'dys' au sein de la Stratégie européenne pour la Santé.

II) LES INITIATIVES DE LA COMMISSION EUROPEENNE:

Concernant les troubles 'dys', la Commission soutien les actions des Etats membres et œuvre pour une prise de conscience des troubles 'dys'.

Il a été rappelé qu'au plan européen le plan d'action pour 2008-2013 se concentre certes sur les personnes handicapées, mais s'avère également pertinent pour les personnes souffrant de troubles 'dys'. En effet, ce plan d'action prévoit des mesures pour l'égalité d'accès à l'enseignement, aux services. Plusieurs programmes européens ont abordé cette question:

- **Le programme PROGRESS** prévoit un financement par la Commission européenne de plusieurs ONG et notamment des organisations réunissant les parents et les enfants handicapés, et les enfants 'dys'.
- **Le Septième programme-cadre de recherche et de développement régional** prévoit la possibilité de financement de projets de recherche sur les enfants atteints de troubles 'dys'.
- **Le programme 'Formation tout au long de la vie'** vise quant à lui à intégrer des personnes avec des besoins spécifiques. Il offre aux participants handicapés des fonds supplémentaires et contribue à financer la création de réseaux.

En guise de conclusion, nous pouvons dire que le problème des 'dys' en Europe est de plus en plus pris en compte, vu le pourcentage de jeunes qui peuvent en être touchés si la prévention n'a pas lieu à temps. Ainsi, des mesures, à titre préventif notamment, sont prises par les Etats membres. Mais les mesures législatives ne suffisent pas, comme nous pouvons le constater dans mon pays, la Grèce. C'est pourquoi je crois qu'il est impératif de se

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*donner les moyens, notamment à travers **les nouvelles technologies et la recherche**, et se préoccuper de la formation et du travail des éducateurs.*

*Aussi, il est nécessaire d'avoir une **vision pluridisciplinaire des problèmes 'dys'**; en effet, trois domaines doivent ici être recoupés: celui de **la santé, de l'éducation et enfin celui de l'emploi et de la lutte contre les discriminations**. Par conséquent j'ai toujours pensé qu'il était judicieux de rencontrer les responsables de ces secteurs au niveau européen.*

Il existe des perspectives d'avenir dans ce domaine et des événements récurrents,..., lesquels, je pense, contribuent à une sensibilisation accrue de la société civile aux problèmes de 'dys'crimination.

The President thanked Dr. Anne-Marie Montarnal for her assistance. The Discussion with Mrs. Panayotopoulos MEP had to be postponed due to her absence.

4. Appointment of Tellers

The attending delegates appointed **Dr. Steve Alexander** as Teller of the Assembly by acclamation..

5. Establishment of a Quorum

The Teller advised that out of the 30 Effective Members of the EDA delegates the following **10 Effective Members** were present or were represented by valid proxy, as follows:

1. *Österreichischer Bundesverband Legasthenie*: SR Michael Kalmár
2. *Bundesverband Legasthenie und Legasthenie*: Christine Sczygiel (President); Annette Höinghaus
3. *FINDERS (Finland)*: Airi Valkamen (President)
4. *Ordblinde I Danmark*: Lars Sander
5. *Italian Dyslexia Association AID*: Dr. Roberta Penge (President), Marina Locatelli
6. *FMLS Sweden*: Sven Eklöf (CEO), represented through valid proxy by Lars Sander
7. *Dyslexia International (DI[TT])*: Christopher James Ian, Dr. Vincent Goetry
8. *Dysleksiforbundet I Norge*: Marianne Grønner (General Secretary)
9. *APEDA-Belge*: Eleni Grammaticos (President), Marianne Hallet (General Secretary)
10. *Northern Greek Dyslexia Association*: Lia Milioni (President), Georgia Barou

The Teller also advised that **3** of the 11 **Adherent (non-voting)** Members of the EDA were present, as follows:

1. *APEDA France*: Dr. Anne-Marie Montarnal (Vice-President)
2. *Czech Dyslexia Center*: Hana Ajmová (President), Maria Cermakova-Hejcova
3. *Lithuanian Dyslexia Association*: Dr. Reda Gedutiene

The Teller informed the meeting that under **Article 9** of the EDA's Statutes, the **General Assembly** shall be deemed to be validly constituted only if two-thirds of the **Effective Members** are present or represented by proxy and that under **Article 10** of the Statutes two-thirds of the **Effective Members** have to be present at the General Assembly for valid deliberation. The Teller therefore advised that the General Assembly had **NOT** the power to make valid decisions.

6. **Adoption of the Agenda**

As two-thirds of the Effective Members were not present, it was necessary to convene a further General Assembly under **Article 10**, under the same conditions. The new Assembly will have the power to make valid and final decisions irrespective of the number of the members present or represented by proxy.

The approval of proposals is therefore postponed to the next General Assembly.

7. **Adoption of the Minutes of the previous General Assembly held in Luxembourg on 15th November 2007**

The Approval was postponed to the next General Assembly.

8. **Final Approval of the New Statutes**

The Approval is postponed to the next General Assembly.

9. **The Chairman's Annual Report: SR Michael Kalmár**

9.1 The Board of Directors

As of the General Assembly on 15th November 2007 in Luxembourg, the EDA Board has consisted of 5 members: **Michael Kalmár** (Austria), **Marta Bogdanowicz** (Poland), **Karin Brúnger** (Germany), **Raymond Claes** (Luxemburg) and **Lars Sander** (Denmark).

At the following Board Meeting on 15th November 2007 **Prof. Dr. Marta Bogdanowicz** (Poland) declared her resignation as Board Director of the EDA. The Board expressed its deep gratitude to all the extensive work she has done for the EDA.

Steve Alexander (UK) accepted the Board's invitation to become a co-opted Board member again.

At the Board Meeting in Berlin, 7th to 9th March 2007 **Prof. Dr. Giacomo Stella** (Italy) accepted the Board's invitation also to become a co-opted Board Member. Since December 2007 Raymond Claes has been unable to attend Board Meetings but plans to rejoin the work of the Board in the coming year 2009.

There is no Board Director whose term of duty ends today. All Board Directors are elected until the General Assembly 2011. Unfortunately, there have not been any nominations for elections for further Board Members from the membership of the EDA.

9.2 Board Meetings

Following the 10th General Assembly 2007 the newly elected Board Members met briefly on Saturday 15th November 2007 in Luxemburg.

The next meetings took place in Berlin (7th to 9th March 2008), Rome (13th to 15th June 2008) and at the occasion of the convention of our German member, **Bundesverband Legasthenie und Dyskalkulie** in Berlin (4th to 5th October 2008). Yesterday, November 14th 2008 the Board met here in Brussels and will continue its meeting this evening and tomorrow.

To save money and time, there were a large number of telephone meetings and often several daily contacts via e-mail between Board Members.

The Board agreed future Board meetings for 23rd to 25th January 2009 in Bruges (Belgium) (main agenda point **Preparation of the 3rd All-European Dyslexia Conference**; 22nd to 24th May 2009 in Brussels (including a General Assembly with the main agenda point **Change of the Statutes of the EDA** in the presence of a Notary); 30th October to 1st November 2009 in Bologna (Italy); 8th to 10th January 2010 in Bruges (Belgium) in order to finalize the preparations for the 3rd All-European Dyslexia Conference; 22nd to 25th April 2010 in Bruges on the occasion of the 3rd All-European Dyslexia Conference (including a General Assembly of the EDA).

I want to emphasize the fact that all **Board Members** as well as the **Joint Editors** of **EDA NEWS** are volunteers who do their duty for the EDA only in their time off and in their holidays. They do not receive any compensation for their work for the EDA; some of them even partly pay their own travel and accommodation for Board Meetings and General Assemblies. Only a small compensation for their expenses such as telephone, postage and Internet bills can be paid.

All the administrative work (which would normally be done in a European-wide NGO such as the EDA would be fulfilled by an experienced paid staff) is done by our volunteers. Their work is not comparable to officials of many of our member organisations, who have official offices, paid staff and enough financial resources to pay external experts. In the EDA, there are at the moment only 5 struggling hard workers.

This affects the EDA's capability to join EU-granted projects, as most of them require - apart from financial contributions - formal employed staff. I shall say more about this later.

9.3 Communications

9.3.1 EDA-NEWS

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank cordially the co-editors, Robin and Jennifer Salter, for their enthusiastic work in producing the **EDA NEWS**. The **EDA NEWS** continues to be the main, although limited source of information about the EDA's activities. Since April 2005 Robin is producing the **EDA NEWS** electronically as a PDF file and e-mails them to all EDA members. The content of the newsletter, however, is still a problem for the co-editors in that the vast majority of member associations do not send in information for publication. The Board repeats asking every member association to send information about their own association and their activities directly to the co-editors on a regular basis.

Please use the **EDA NEWS** to advertise your conferences and later to report on them. If anything of interest in the field of dyslexia appears in your newspapers, please send it to Robin and Jennifer. Also, please send them items from your own newsletter that might be of interest to other members. Although a translation into English improves the impact of your information, the Editors are willing to publish it in your mother language as well. All member associations should be aware that they are free to translate the newsletter or any part of it into any language but should acknowledge the source.

Members may have future issues of the **EDA NEWS** e-mailed to up to three addresses by just informing Robin Salter (robinedasalter@hotmail.co.uk).

There is a strong desire expressed by many member organisations to receive abstracts or minutes from the National Conferences or other important events organised by EDA members via the **EDA NEWS**.

All the members are urgently asked to send news and texts to the **EDA NEWS**.

9.3.2 Website

a) The website www.dyslexia.eu.com was set up by Robin Salter with the help of Ian Smythe. In November 2006 Robin asked to be taken off that duty.

b) Past-President Alan Sayles helped us to get www.europeandyslexiaassociation.eu. For unknown reasons this address does not work yet.

c) We plan, that all future issues of the **EDA NEWS** will be available on the website as well as a number of pages on the EDA itself including objectives, current projects and activities. All EDA members who have a website will be asked permission for the EDA website to give a link directly to each member's site.

d) Future plans include information in a number of languages, conference papers and reports, lists of European activities and conferences, etc.

e) The Website design has to be completely renewed and the site www.europeandyslexiaassociation.eu has to be made working. The Board is not skilled enough in this field and they have no further time provisions to solve this issue. As well there is no financial reserve to outsource this work. So the Board relies on the help from the member organizations to solve these problems.

9.3.3 Corporate design of the EDA

At the 2007 Luxemburg Extraordinary General Assembly (Presidents' Meeting) the attending Presidents and delegates found consensus about the basics of the new Corporate Design of the EDA. I want to express my gratitude to the German member **Bundesverband**

Legasthenie Dyskalkulie for their support by modernising the design of the official letters of the EDA. But far more has to be done. As well as regarding this issue, the Board relies on the help from the member organizations to solve these problems. The coordinating Board Director on both issues is **Lars Sander**.

9.3.4 **E-mails and Postal Addresses of Members**

We ask urgently **all the members of the EDA to inform the Board accurately and quickly** about changes of addresses of their Presidents, Chief Executive Officers (CEO's) and other Board Members which especially are responsible for International Contacts and for Finance. Without an employed staff the EDA Board is wasting a lot of their limited time for the EDA, exhausting their private phone bills and even then sometimes do not find a contact for our member organisations: for a few of our members we have even lost contact.

It is vitally important for the impact of the whole EDA to keep open and to ameliorate the communication channels between the members and the Board.

9.4 **European Dyslexia Awareness Week**

This is a slow but growing event. In 2005 we had reports of dyslexia awareness weeks or days being held in ten European countries, but in 2006 we had no reports at all. In 2007 three members reported about dyslexia awareness week activities: **British Dyslexia Association, Steirischer Landesverband Legasthenie, Catalan Dyslexia Association**; in 2008 **Steirischer Landesverband Legasthenie** and the **British Dyslexia Association** only.

There exists an EDA brochure explaining the purpose of the week and giving suggestions of possible activities. Members can ask for a copy in MS-Publisher format or in .doc-Format from the Chairman or the Secretary of the EDA.

For the future, the Board has worked out **the following text** which could be used as **a press release template** for our member organisations in the coming **Dyslexia Awareness Week**. **Steve Alexander** will add the results of recent Anglo-American research, which will back the text from the academic side. Comments, wishes for changes and additions from the EDA members or their academic contacts are welcome:

More than 50 Million People with Dyslexia in Europe

The European Dyslexia Association (EDA), "The Voice of People with Dyslexia in Europe", is the umbrella organisation for Dyslexia in Europe. It represents 40 Dyslexia organizations in 26 European countries. Research findings indicate that at least 50 million people in Europe are dyslexic and may face impaired access to education and work.

Dyslexia is a difference, which makes the acquisition and use of reading, spelling and writing skills difficult. This difference is neurological in origin.

The cognitive difficulties underlying these differences can also affect organisational skills, calculation abilities and other cognitive and emotional abilities.

It may be caused by a combination of difficulties in phonological processing, working memory, rapid naming, sequencing and the automaticity of basic skills.

Researchers acknowledge that there are many possible causes of dyslexia, including genetics. There is no relationship between a person's level of intelligence, individual effort or socio-economic position and the presence of dyslexia.

Despite increasing legislation and policy supporting equal opportunities in many European countries, the experience for many people with Dyslexia is an educational system that does

not identify and meet their needs and employers who may be prejudiced to the challenges in the workplace.

The EDA calls upon the European Commission to work with the EDA to make early identification of dyslexia across Europe the norm, lifelong learning opportunities a reality and challenge the current discriminatory practice of many employers. The failure to have unbiased systems of assessment can mean that Dyslexia is undetected in some cases and access to education and employment is further impaired by a person's country of birth.

In the 21st Century this lack of equal access is unacceptable and the EDA with the European Commissioner wants to eradicate prejudice, enable countries and societies to embrace the learning difficulties of Dyslexia and therefore maximize opportunities for more than 50 million children, adolescents and adults across Europe.

The final text will be at the disposal of our member organisations.

Please remember: Since 2005, the **European Dyslexia Awareness Week** will always be the week beginning with the first Monday of October which is designated as Dyslexia Month:

2009 - 5th to 11th October

2010 - 4th to 10th October

1011 - 3rd to 9th October

9.5 Membership Affairs

In September 2008, the Board accepted the **Portuguese Dyslexia Association (APDIS)** as **Adherent Member**.

After approval of the new organization the EDA will have 41 member organizations in 23 EU-countries plus Norway, Switzerland and Northern Cyprus (30 Effective ones and 11 Adherent).

The Board decided to take serious action about termination of membership due to lack of payment of subscriptions and due to serious offences (such as not providing the legally needed documents for the update of the Statutes of the EDA).

The Treasurer has sent out a repeated number of reminder letters regarding unpaid membership fees.

The Board is very concerned about the financial situation of EDA and about the enormous amount of time and work the Board Directors, especially the Treasurer (and his volunteer team) have to spend contacting "forgetful" members to guarantee a financially healthy base for EDA's activities.

9.6 Outstanding Fees at 31st October 2008

For the period 2002 - 2006: 4.213,16€ from 8 members is still outstanding.

If there is no contact and/or no payment or any arrangement made with the Treasurer there will be a Board decision to terminate the membership of the failing organisations under Article 5 of the existing Statutes.

For 2007: 2.965,33€ from 13 members

For 2008: 4,428.83€ from 20 members (out of 40!)

There are 6 pages (out of 30) of Board Minutes and equivalent time taken up by the Board Meeting in Berlin which had to be dedicated to this subject - what a waste of time!.

These outstanding fees make it impossible for the Treasurer to build up a reserve for major events such as Conferences and activities of the EDA.

You will find more details and an updated statement in the Treasurer's Report.

9.7 EDA's Public Activities and Representation

Whilst a lack of finances and the regular vocational life of the Board's Directors are restricting the EDA's activities, it has still been possible to provide substantial activities and personal official EDA representation in some instances, especially when it is subsidised by member organisations.

9.8 The 2nd All-European Dyslexia Conference in Luxembourg 2007

This was a great success in view of the content, the presentations and the EDA's reputation. Unfortunately, the number of delegates attending was seriously restricted by industrial action by the rail workers both in France and Germany.

9.9 EDA Symposium at 16th National Conference of Bundesverband Legasthenie Und Dyscalculie in Berlin 2nd - 5th October 2008

The Symposium presented leading scientists and practitioners from different European countries (*Chair: Vice-President Karin Brünger*):

- **Charles Hulme** (York): "Reading, Language, Phonology and Intervention"
- **Maria Kavkler** (Ljubljana)/**Marta Bogdanowicz** (Gdansk) "Rights of Students and Adults with Dyslexia in Europe, Analysis of the European Dyslexia Association Questionnaire"
- **Helena Serra** (Portugal): "The Activities of the Portuguese Dyslexia Association"
- **Chris Singleton** (Hull): "Dyslexia at University Level: Policy, Identification and Support"
- **Margaret Snowling** (York): "Dyslexia: Research and Current Perspectives"
- **Giacomo Stella** (Modena): "The role of phonological short term memory in reading acquisition. A comparison between regular and irregular orthographies"
- **Franck Ramus** (Paris): "Genetic Bases of dyslexia"
- **Raymond Claes** (Jungerlinster): "Dypatec: A EU sponsored Multilingual Guide for Parents of Children with Dyslexia" (cancelled)

9.10 Attendances at Conferences

9.10.1 The President **Michael Kalmár** was invited to speak greeting words on the behalf of the EDA at the opening ceremony at the afore-mentioned German BVL-Conference 2nd to 5th October 2008 but due to the delayed flight to Berlin it was not possible to address the conference.

9.10.2 Vice-President **Karin Brünger** represented the EDA at the National Conference of our Italian member **Associazione Italiana Dislessia** (AID) in October 2008 in Rome and spoke greeting words on the behalf of the EDA at the opening ceremony.

9.10.3 **Karin Brünger** attended the event *Inclusion of disabled pupils at school - No discrimination anymore!* organized by the **Education Department at UNESCO** in the frame of the GLOBAL ACTION WEEK on the 23rd April 2008 in Paris.

9.10.4 Due to time problems **Michael Kalmár** was not able to follow the invitation from our Styrian member **STLL** to give a speech at their 10 years Jubilee event on 24th October 2008 in Graz/Austria.

9.10.5 Due to time problems neither the President nor the Vice-President were able to accept the invitation of our Spanish member **DISFAM** to speak at the National Convention of the umbrella organisation **FEDIS** 7th to 9th November 2008 in Palma.

9.11. UNESCO

Vice-President **Karin Brünger** is in charge of liaison with this UN Organisation in Paris. She is in contact with high officials and tries to construct strong ties between the EDA and the UNESCO. The first but difficult step is to be accepted as a *non-governmental organisation in operational relations with UNESCO*.

9.12. European Parliament

9.12.1 **LA DEUXIEME JOURNEE DES DYS:** The 2nd DAY OF 'DYS' Conference on 10th October 2008 at the European Parliament, Strasbourg was cancelled as a consequence of the collapse of the roof of the big hall of the European Parliament.

The title of the Conference was: *Specific Pedagogics for DYS-Children* organised by the major French "DYS" organisations **FLA** and **APAJH**. There were supposed to be lectures and workshops in French and English by professionals of different European countries. **Michael Kalmár** had been invited to give the key-note speech about *Les politiques de prise en charge des enfants Dys dans différents Etat members*.

Board Director **Lars Sander** had been invited to join a round table discussion on the subject *Du repérage au diagnostic, une équipe autour de l'enfant*.

Past EDA Vice-President, **Marta Bogdanowicz** was to talk about *Que sait-on des adultes porteuses de troubles Dys en Europe*.

Vice-President of our member **DISFAM**, **Iñaki Muñoz Salas** was to talk about *Comment les Dys en Espagne d'aident enter eux?*

The Conference will now take place on 18th March 2009 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Mr. Vincent Lochmann, representative of the two major French "DYS" organisations **FLA** and **APAJH** (both umbrella organisations for people which Dyslexia, Dysphasia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia and Specific Learning Difficulties), will pay a visit to this Conference in order to discuss about the EDA's impact on that conference and about a closer cooperation between the EDA and other "DYS" organisations in Europe for common targets.

9.12.2 **Mrs. Panayotopoulos MEP** has sent a long report about the activities of the European Parliament regarding people with "DYS" which was delivered at the II. All-European Dyslexia Conference in Luxemburg by her assistant.

All the member organisations have been informed of the **Written Declaration in favour of people with "DYS"** which was accepted by the majority of the Members of the European Parliament.

The EDA Board is in e-mail and phone contact with Mrs. Panayotopoulos who has expressed

the wish to join the Conference in order to meet representatives of the people with dyslexia in Europe.

SR Kalmár said he wanted to recall that, although the text of that Written Declaration did not meet the EDA's intentions and basic beliefs, the Board had decided to support it. The reasons for this were pragmatic:

- to raise the profile of Dyslexia in the European Parliament, although the "wording" may not be entirely appropriate
- to strengthen the relations between our members and their National Members of the European Parliament
- to obtain a list of the signing MEPs, which could be used for further action in the European Parliament.

The EDA Board of Directors has worked out a new version based on the Written Declaration for further discussions with Mrs Panayotopoulos and Mr. Lochmann, as follows:

To The European Parliament,

- having regard to Rule 116 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas it is estimated annually that **far** more than 10% of **the population children** are affected by one or other "dys"-type ~~special~~ **specific learning** disability such as dysphasia, dyspraxia, dyslexia, dyscalculia or attention deficit disorder, etc., and whereas the statistics on these ~~disorders~~ **difficulties** need to be refined,
- B. whereas this type of "dys" ~~difference~~ **handicap**, which badly impairs communication from a very early age, goes unidentified in many Member States,
- C. whereas research, including in the 7th framework research programme, into these ~~special~~ **specific** learning disabilities must be stepped up **including the democratic elected representatives of the people with these differences**,
- D. whereas the only way to prevent resultant "dys"crimination against affected children, **adolescents and adults** is to give them ~~special~~ **specific**, early, intensive and multidisciplinary treatment in appropriate structures (**preferably inclusively either in mainstream the normal school environments with extensive appropriate special care, or in a specialised establishment**),

Asks the Commission and Council:

- to draw up a charter for ~~"dys"~~ children, **adolescents and adults with "dys" differences guaranteeing the right to access and to receive appropriate identification, support and opportunity to achieve their full potential in education, training, employment and all aspects of life.**
- to encourage the recognition of "dys"-type problems as a **manifestation of difficulties, which challenges the people affected in navigating through life in a largely non-"dys" friendly world, and of the fact, that there is no relationship between a person's level of intelligence, individual effort or socio-economic position and the presence of a "dys" difference handicap:**

- to promote best practices regarding:
- to making information accessible,-
- taking timely steps to spot, screen, systematically diagnose and treat these **disorders at disabilities from** an early stage. designing effective **pedagogical inclusive, multidisciplinary pedagogical, further educational social structures within both the ordinary and the specialist educational environment** for young children, adolescents and **young** adults to achieve their full potential in education, training, employment and all aspects of life, **adapting structures for integrating young people with these disabilities into the world of work;**
- to promote and encourage the creation of a European multidisciplinary network on specific learning difficulties **including the democratically elected representatives of the people with these difference,** and by this means to collect and study information and promote the coordination of cross-border actions, as well as institutional dialogue.
- to instruct its President to forward this Declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission and the Parliaments of the Member States.

9.13. Publications

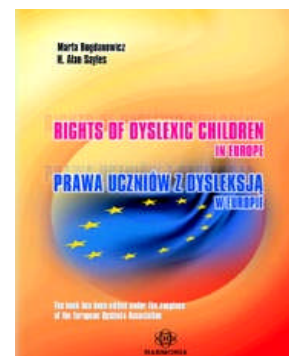
9.13.1 The EDA was invited by **Dr. Ian Smythe** to contribute 1200 words under the theme *Adult support in Europe* (as a working title) for the planned British Dyslexia Association's publication, provisionally entitled ***The Employment Dyslexia Handbook***. It wishes to provide a format similar to that of the original BDA Handbook, where the reader is given good information in small digestible chunks written by experts and practitioners in the field. The intention is not only to highlight how they can support the dyslexics in their organisations, but also how they can encourage the dyslexic individual to develop and demonstrate their strengths.

The Board accepted the offer and will deliver the text by 7th January 2009 under the responsibility of **Dr. Steve Alexander** and **Lars Sander**.

9.13.2 The content of the last Central Information EDA leaflet, which was produced without any costs for the EDA (by courtesy of the Austrian publisher **Lernen mit Pfiff**), has been revised. The new content and changes will include our new ideological documents already finally formulated and decided at the 10th General Assembly in Luxembourg 2007. Lack of manpower and no support regarding the design of the leaflet are responsible for the leaflet not having yet been re-published.

Our Austrian sponsor is ready to take over the printing costs again.

9.13.3 I want to remind you of the publication by Board Members **Marta Bogdanowicz** and **Alan Sayles** of ***The Rights of Dyslexic Children in Europe***. The ISBN is 83-7134-171-7 and it can be ordered for €12,90 plus postage from the distributor: **Verlag Lernen mit Pfiff**, A-114 Vienna, Austria, Hietzinger Kai 191, email: www.lernen-mit-pfiff.at Tel: 00-43-1-8797999. **Marta Bogdanowicz** (University of Gdansk) and **Marija Kavkler** (University of Ljubljana) presented the results of a follow-up questionnaire for adults and students at the II. All-European Dyslexia Conference in Luxembourg and at the EDA Symposium in the frame of the BVL-Conference in October 2008 in Berlin.



9.14. European Disability Forum (EDF)

The EDF is an organisation developed by the EU to act as an umbrella for all disability-related associations in the EU.

At present the EDA is listed as an Associate member of the EDF.

The Board of the EDA has recently applied for an increase in the EDA's level of membership in the EDF and to become a Full Member. The Board wishes to play a greater role in Europe, consequently to upgrade our influence on EU policy on "disability" and possibly benefit from future funding initiatives.

The EDA will intend to participate at follow-up actions regarding the EDF's European-wide campaign "1 million 4disability", but fears a lack of manpower may restrict it.

9.15. EU Granted Projects

9.15.1 **INCLUDE (Overcoming Beneficiary Barriers to Dyslexia and Improving the Quality and Availability of Screening, Skills Training, Competency and Understanding)**, website: www.includedyslexia.eu

The EDA was a partner in this BDA led **EU Leonardo project**. The EDA had the role in valorization and dissemination of the results.

All the costs were covered by the EU. The project leader, BDA, is still improving technically the product (especially the sound of the CD). It will be at the disposal for our member organisations after completion.

9.15.2 **CallDYSC (Collaborative Additional Language E-Learning for Dyslexic Children)**

The EDA has become a partner in this Telekom Hungary-led **EU Leonardo project** as well. The final meeting and conference will be held 5th - 7th February 2009 in Budapest.

The objectives of the project are:

- To create a blended learning environment where the dyslexic pupil, normally excluded from language learning, can thrive through integrated e-learning linked to computer moderated peer interaction with human supervision. This will include the extensive use of multimedia in an adaptive personalised interface designed to accommodate personal learning preferences.
- The project's website: www.calldysc.eu

Here again, the EDA has the role in valorization and dissemination of the results. All the costs are covered by the EU.

Vice-President **Karin Brünger** will report in detail later this General Assembly.

9.15.3 The Board is involved in the bid for a dyslexia related project led by **IARD/Italy** in co-operation with our member **DYSPEL** (Luxemburg). There has not yet been any reply to the bid.

9.15.4 **DyPaTeC-PPROJECT (Dyslexia – Parent's and Teachers' Collaboration)**

Different Members of the Board have worked in different functions in this 3 year project, which finished with a final conference in July 2007 in Luxembourg. Board Director **Raymond Claes** was Co-coordinator of it. The final product, **A Guide for Parents**, is now available in 6 languages. For more information contact: Raymond Claes (rclaes@pt.lu).

The German version can be ordered from: Verlag Lernen mit Pfiff, A-1140 Vienna, Austria, Hietzinger Kai 191, email: www.lernen-mit-pfiff.at; Tel: 00-43-1-8797999.

Conclusion on Project Involvement

- With more man/woman power we could go deeper in this scene
- Now we have finished one project and are still involved in the other (and maybe another one), which seems to cover our travel expenses/accommodation and maybe a little bit more to cover other EDA's budget costs.
- At the moment the Board decided that its limited workforce does not allow being proactive in this field.



Photos taken at the General Assembly in Brussels October 2008

9.16 Changes of Statutes of the EDA

The most important agenda point in this General Assembly is the final legal step to implement our new Statutes by a Notary act according to the new Belgian organisation legislation 2002. Therefore it would have been absolutely required that all two-thirds of the **Effective Members** should be represented personally or by proxy in the presence of a Notary.

But, as by 9th November 2008 only a few Effective Members (of the 20 needed) confirmed their attendance and as only 5 Effective Members (of 29) have transmitted the identification documents required by the notary to prepare the legal documents, it seems that the only possibility to meet the requirements of the new Belgian legislation is a further General Assembly.

According to the current Statutes of the EDA, the attendance at a General Assembly of two-thirds of its Effective Members present or by proxy will constitute a quorum for valid deliberation in such a case.

The Article 8 of the Statutes states that a General Assembly without the required quorum cannot decide anything.

In that case, a new General Assembly must be convened under the same conditions (another 3 months period notice, same agenda). It will then give a valid and final decision of the proposals IRRESPECTIVE of the number of the members present or represented by proxy (Article 10).

This will give the Board the time to get the needed documents from the members, which are required by the Notary to prepare the legal documents.

The preliminary date for this General Assembly is 23rd May 2009; the venue has to be the Notary's office quite near to the venue of this General Assembly.

To prepare the legal requirements **the Board urgently needs from each Effective Member organisation** a document stating its corporate name (in the local language and in English), legal kind of association and registered office (we have not got all of them in our records!) as well as a copy of its identification documents.

Identification proof: In every European country there is a governmental body who is in charge of registration of the statutes of any association, charity or other legal entity and which is in power to edit a state document that proves that this entity exists.

All member organisations are urgently asked to transmit this document to Michael Kalmár by postal service (Penzinger Straße 66/13, A-1140 Vienna, Austria) as soon as possible.

Member organisations ignoring this request cannot be regarded anymore as Effective Members as they are not proving that they are “legally constituted according their own national laws and customs” (Section 2, Article 4 of the Statutes)

9.17. Future Activities of the Board (in preparation)

9.17.1 3rd ALL-EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA CONFERENCE IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OSTENDE-BRÜGES 22nd to 24th of April 2010

There is a basic agreement of understanding between the two organisations. A meeting of the EDA Board with the representative of the **KHBO** took place yesterday, 14th November 2008 here in Brussels.

Please start promoting this big and important event to your own members, friends and the academic world via newsletters and journals.

A call for papers including the first information about venue and timetable of the event will be released soon.

9.17.2 Execution of the Decisions of the General Assembly 2007 and the intentions of the general assembly 2008.

9.17.3 Preparing a Draft of the New Bye-laws

Discussion of and preparation in accordance with the soon to be changed Statutes.

9.17.4 Timetable of big Dyslexia Related Events

The target is that the EDA becomes an information centre about the planning of big events by other organisations related to Dyslexia like IARLD, IFLA, IDA and our member organisations so as to avoid time collision.

This will provide more contacts to other organisations in our field and improve our role in the Dyslexia World.

9.17.5 Contacts to the EU Commissioners of Education, Communication, Anti-discrimination, Social Welfare, Health and Multilingualism.

9.18. Thank You

To all of the Board Members and member organisations' officials who have supported my Chairmanship and enthusiastically pursued the objectives of the EDA. A special thank you to **Raymond Claes** for his enormous work in preparing and organising the II. All-European Dyslexia Conference 2007 in Luxembourg and of course to all attendants here today in Brussels and last, but not least, to **Marianne Hallet** and **Eleni Grammaticos** from **APEDA-Belge**.

10. Discussion: The Chairman's (Annual) Report

- The website should include a "reading machine"
- The German member BVLD offers to check the possibility to outsource the membership fees payment issue to an external partner. The results will be sent to the Board.
- The AID will take over the responsibility for the layout of the EDA Central leaflet according to the corporate design (Marina Locatelli).
- European money for the infrastructure of NGOs is not common. This is an important point for the future work. This work should be based on "the world of politics" and the "dys"-angle.

11. Speech: 'Online training' produced by Dyslexia International: Dr. Vincent Goetry
This was headed by a short report about **Dyslexia International (former DITT)** by **Christopher Ian**:

- DITT Dyslexia International Tools and Technologies has a new name: **Dyslexia International**.
- Dyslexia International and all friends and supporters of Dyslexia International (no fees required) - including all EDA colleagues working with us - has a role at UNESCO as a non-governmental organisation in operational relations with UNESCO
- DI has regional ambassadors in all 5 world regions. Larry Moffett is the regional ambassador for Europe but DI wants to work in Europe with the EDA as a key network.
- DI asks for nominations of key teacher training contacts in Ministries of education to receive an invitation to their conference in Paris 2010, February 3rd to 5th. All EDA members are invited to fill-in the forms on sharing good practice.

Christopher Ian presented a gift from DI to the attendants: The CD "*The Mystery of the Lost Letters*", produced by DITT a parcel with 10 CDs. DI hopes the attendants can use these FOR LOBBYING PURPOSES in contacting the people in your country paid to provide teaching and training and who can influence how teachers are trained or know who does this.

Dr. Vincent Goetry presented a speech on the structure of the FREE ONLINE TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAMME supported by a PPP.

The French version is almost ready. The English version will be ready in 2009. It will be distributed by DI to EDA when ready.

The Chairman of the EDA, **Michael Kalmár** thanked Dr Goetry for the speech, but expressed his big surprise that an 'ambassador for people with dyslexia' had been created by a member organization of the EDA.

He emphasized strongly that there is only one voice of the people with dyslexia in Europe – the **European Dyslexia Association** – represented by its executive Board of Directors, the democratically elected representative of 50 million people with Dyslexia in Europe.

12. Financial Report by the Treasurer: **Dr. Steve Alexander**

The delegates received hard copies of the Report. The relevant charts are part of these Minutes. The Report was a summary of the financial accounts and movements of the EDA's finances during the years 2007-2008.

Introduction

The main source of income for the EDA remains membership fees. The accounts position I inherited show unpaid fees, in some cases, going back to 2001. Originally and as repeated to the Assembly last year the level of arrears stood at €20,325.16 (up to December 2006). A combination of reminders and direct approaches to members has reduced the debt to €4,216.16. However, €2,965.33 remains unpaid from 2007 and in 2008 we still await receipt of €4,271.29. Getting members to pay on time is a challenge but our systems of recording and chasing up are now much better.

Budget

In a full year and if all members paid, the income from membership fees would be circa €9,000. The budget for 2008 had a total predicted expenditure of €9,800. With just over a month to go actual expenditure is approximately €7,660.93.

Operating Statement 2008

1. Membership renewal notices were sent out in June 2008 and to date we have received €4,151.29.
2. Additional income was received during this period from our involvement in two ESF projects combining to offer €3,200.
3. The largest single item of expenditure for the EDA relates to travel costs (circa €3,500). These cost are incurred when we pay for speakers to attend EDA events/conferences or travel linked to EDA board meetings.
4. A significant expenditure item during this period relates to fees to Felix and Felix (the EDAs accountants). The fee level of €2,174.55 includes work undertaken to amend the Charities statutes.
5. The EDA Board are all volunteers and this severely limits our ability to access funds from ESF as we do not appoint any paid staff.
6. At any one time our cash reserves at the bank hover between €4,000-6,000.

Summary

We continue to make progress in receiving unpaid membership fees, although the non-payment rate from June 2008 is concerning. More difficult is the position of non-paying members over a number of years and at each Board meeting, the Board discusses whether some members should now be excluded for non-payment.

The low level of income significantly inhibits the work that the EDA can undertake. This coupled with the volunteer input of the Board combined with limited capacity to make the best impact for Europe's 50 million dyslexic people through its member countries.

13. Report of the External Auditor: Lars Sander as proxy for Sven Eklöf presented the Report for the European Dyslexia Association for the Year 2007.

The EDA General Assembly in Luxemburg November 2007 was not able to elect an External auditor. I was nominated by the **Swedish Dyslexia Association** (FMLS) in February 2008 to this commission of trust and appointed by the EDA Board at its meeting in Berlin 4-5th of October 2008.

I have taken part of EDA's present and new Statutes, the Minutes and reports from the General Assembly 2007 in Luxembourg, the Minutes of the Board meetings during 2007 and partly for the year 2008. I have also taken part of the EDA's communiqués and websites.

I have taken part of Results for 2007; income statements, profit and loss account. Balance sheets with assets and debts for 07.01.01 and 07.12.31. Copies of bank accounts standings for 07.12.31. Notes on Outstanding invoices for 2005-2008, preferably subscription claims.

I have not taken part of Notes on item 407000 "Doubtful amounts", € 3317. Therefore I can not say anything about this asset more than I think it's important for the General Assembly to consider it unsure. I have not been able to check the Accounts on location, due to geographical distance and practical difficulties. My belief is however that an audit in this case can be effective and valid since there is a good openness and transparency in the Board activities and reports. The incomes and turnover are as well limited, and has no room for a detailed and expensive external audit.

I have not taken part of the Draft budget for the following financial period as stated in the new Statutes, Section 6, Article 16.

From the Boards report you can read that the Total assets at the end of 2007 are € 19.559, of which € 3317 is unsure. In Cash there is € 5915.31 at Bank account no BBL 310-1239414-34.

The Profit for 2007 is € 3186.75. The General Assembly must consider that this profit mainly consist of unsure assets in membership subscription claims.

Conclusion

After taken part of these documents I make the following conclusion. The lack of resources in both financing and administration are obvious and a hindrance to EDA's development.

Another problem is Subscription payments. Far too much of the assets are claims – unclear how secure they are – for membership subscriptions.

Far too many of the members do not fulfil their duties to pay subscription fees.

Far too much of the Boards valuable time is spent on this issue.

Recommendation

Based on my conclusion I will make the following recommendations.

The General Assembly and the Board should identify and address a few basic, strategic and

crucial issues in order to take EDA forward. In my opinion these issues are 1) funding and financing and 2) the establishing of EDA as a fullbodied NGO, recognized by EDF, UN and EU.

I think it is a good tactic to focus on Internet information, services and interaction. A good Internet service can help to communicate EDA's purpose, aims and goals, which can contribute to solve the basic issues of funding and recognition. A good Internet service is cost efficient and can also be an incentive for members to communicate and interact and in this way strengthen the common cause.

The General Assembly and the Board has to address the problem with unpaid subscriptions. There should/must be a difference in service and influence between those who pay and those who don't.

Finally, in my audit I have found no cause not to approve the activities of the Board, and the Balances and Accounts for the year 2007. I recommend the General Assembly to approve it too.

The attending delegates expressed their gratitude to Sven Eklöf and discussed the content.

The approval of the Financial Report was postponed to the next General Assembly.

14. Approval of the Balances and Accounts for 2007

The Treasurer presented the Balances and Accounts for 2007. The delegates received hard copies. The relevant charts are part of these Minutes.

The EDA's accountants **Felix and Felix** retrospectively audited the accounts and have prepared the Operating Statement and Balance Sheet for 2007 for approval.

Explanatory Notes

Operating Statement

- a. Expenditure is broadly in line with budget
- b. The profit/loss figure is an accumulated surplus over operating cost for 2007 (It assumes a total revenue input of €14,025).

Balance Sheet

- a. The members amounts includes unpaid fees and ESF contributions from previous years
- b. Doubtful amounts refers to outstanding unpaid fees
- c. Amount written off (fees now unlikely to be received have not been formally written off by the Board)
- d. The EDA has 3 bank accounts:
one is dormant and one is in the UK (Barclays) and is a mechanism to pay volunteer expenses for Robin Salter as Joint Editor of *EDA NEWS*
- e. Trade Debts refers to unpaid bills (such as the accountant)
- f. Prior year surpluses combine to give a book value of €14,229

Summary

The accounts have been audited by **Felix and Felix** and of are an accurate account of income and expenditure for the EDA. I recommend they are accepted.

The approval was postponed to the next General Assembly.

15. Approval of the Draft Budgets for 2008 and 2009

The Treasurer presented the Draft Budgets for 2008 and 2009. The delegates received hard copies. The relevant charts are part of these Minutes.

Points to Note

- a. Primary income remains membership fees and prompt payment is critical; especially in 2009.
- b. The Calldysc project comes to an end in 2009 with the final conference in Budapest. However, the budget for the EDA looks unlikely to be fully drawn down because of ESF restrictions.
- c. Budget Allocations are broadly in line with expenditure
- d. Web-site costs in 2009 are likely to be less now that initial set up costs have been incurred

Summary

The approval was postponed to the next General Assembly.

On behalf of the attending delegates the **President** expressed his gratitude to **Dr. Alexander** for his accurate work and presentation.

16. Decision on Annual Subscriptions for coming years

The President proposed to discuss this issue in the frame of the working groups.

17. Approval of New Members of the EDA

The approval was postponed to the next General Assembly.

18. Election of the External Auditor for the next General Assembly

The Swedish Member **FMLS** has nominated **Sven Eklöf** for this duty. As the current Statutes of the EDA do not include regulations to implement an External Auditor, the Board of Directors will discuss this issue and will make a decision.

19. Short reports from the attending Member Associations

19.1 Dyslexia International – see Agenda Point 10.

19.2 Czech Dyslexia Center:

It will organize on 21st January 2009 an event in Most (Czech Republic) as part of their Dyslexia Week. Member organisations of the EDA are invited to participate.

The Catalan Dyslexia Association will send more information by E-mail to the EDA Chairman to distribute to all the EDA-members.

19.3 The Northern Greek Dyslexia Association prepares a summer camp for dyslexic children and their parents with the focus on the social dimension. They ask to contact them if any further information is wanted (milionilia@yahoo.gr)

19.4 FINDER (Finland) has just completed an EU project on diverse learners that involved 1700 dyslexic adult learners. The research indicated that 60% of those did not know they were dyslexic. The 2009 dyslexia week will be used to make a conference. Airi will send more information about this to EDA NEWS.

19.5 Norway Dyslexia Association this year organised courses for adolescents (13 to 18 years) to learn to speak English in England. NDA will organise it next year as well. Marianne reported about a membership of appr. 6000 members. A Dyslexia Friendly Schools Project has started.

In their conferences the NDA is using translation services. The NDA, in future, will inform the EDA Members via the EDA NEWS.

19.6 The German Bundesverband Legasthenie und Dyskalkulie (BVL) presents an impressive PPP reporting about their activities (author: Annette Hoinghaus, (hoinghaus@bvl-legasthenie.de))

20. The CALLDYSC-Project: Karin Brünger

A Report is being prepared.

21. Working Groups' Discussions

Due to lack of time, these discussions had to be postponed to the next General Assembly.

22. Questions from Members

No Questions

23. Exchange of views

Mr Vincent Lochmann talked about common strategies of the European DYS-Movement and planning of the DYS-Conference at the European Parliament in Strasbourg on 18th March 2009 (15.30-16.30). Based on the published agenda of the cancelled conference views of future strategies and possible agendas were discussed.

The main issue of the conference will be: Dys- in school – from start to end. Two main issues: 1. Detection and assessment – 2. How to help. It should not be a lonely scientific congress.

Regarding this conference, the DYS-Movement expects more co-operation with the EDA.

A long and interesting discussion on the topic of “dys” - “disabled” and the differences in different cultures. The attendant delegated offered ideas for the content of the congress.

The interest from the audience clearly indicated that the topic is important. Also that there is a wide-spread approach to the different aspects of this topic.

It became obvious that the EDA and the DYS-Movement are in a win/win-situation to work together.

The President of the EDA offered to hold a “political” key-note at the conference based on the content of the Written Declaration of the European Parliament but formulated by the targets and intentions of the EDA and the DYS-Movement. A draft will be sent to the organizers of the DYS-Movement.

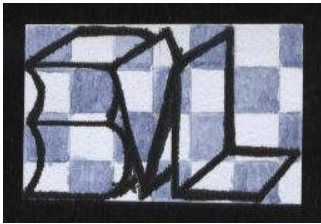
24. Any Other Business

No application for permission to speak

25. **Address by the President:** SR Michael Kalmár

After shortly summarizing the General Assembly, **Michael Kalmár** thanked the delegates for a fruitful and exciting day. He wished them a safe journey home.

The General Assembly closed at 5.30 pm.



16th German Congress on Dyslexia and Dyscalculia
Free University of Berlin, 2nd - 5th October 2008

in German and English Language



Left to right

Dr Chris Singleton, Dr Marija Kavkler, Helena Serra, Karin Brünger, Dr Giacomo Stella

It is hoped to publish a report in the next issue of *EDA NEWS*



Dyslexia – making links: from theory to practice

27 - 28 February 2009

The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford

Building on the success of the 7th BDA Conference ***Dyslexia – Making Links in March 2008***, the BDA is organising another two-day Conference specifically for practitioners in the UK and Europe.

Visit www.bdadyslexia.org.uk for up-dated details.

There is an option to attend an additional two day training course on SpLD linked to the conference themes.

There will be master classes based upon research and practice in a range of subjects. Each Masterclass will include a Researcher and Practitioner to provide information on the learning difficulty and practical advice on the most appropriate teaching. Implications for practitioners will be discussed. A interactive element will enable delegates to ask detailed questions as part of the Masterclasses.

Prestigious speakers will be attending including:

Dr Joel Talcott
Professor Maggie Snowling
Professor Charles Hulme
Professor David Sugden

Dr Ian Smythe
Dr Eva Gyamarthy
University Jyvalskya , Finland

The conference as a whole will include time for delegates to ask questions of the experienced presenters as well as an Exhibition.

Two 'Round the Table' discussions will also be run over the two days, chaired by a Key Academic made up of Master Class presenters who will respond to questions from the audience.

For more information or to book a place please contact Katherine Dumas at the BDA Education Office on katherined@bdadyslexia.org.uk or call 0845 251 9003 and select Option 4. You can also monitor updates on the Conference at www.bdadyslexia.org.uk



Dyslexia Awareness week 2008 3 - 9 November

The BDA held its Dyslexia Week in November 2008 when it launched its **Accessible Formats Policy**. The object of the Policy is to encourage all organisations to ensure that all communications and publications are accessible in alternative formats at the same time and at the same price as conventional formats.

The BDA also up-dated its **Friendly Style Guide** which includes information on formatting, software and web design. The aim is to encourage everyone from those in business to schools and colleges to improve their communication to become dyslexia friendly. The BDA would like everyone to adhere to the BDA's policy and to try (if not already doing so) posting publications, newsletters and correspondence online via websites. The BDA is also encouraging its members to contact employers, local radio stations, newspapers and Members of Parliament. (as does the **European Dyslexia Association** and Members of European Parliament during its Dyslexia Week 5 – 11 October 2009).

In November, the BDA launched (for the whole month) its **Wake Up 2 Dyslexia** campaign with the aim of raising awareness and funds for the BDA and its local Dyslexia Associations and local Support Groups.



new offices are at:

**Unit 8, Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane
Bracknell RG12 7BW
United Kingdom
Tel: Helpline: 0845 251 9002
Office: 0845 251 9003
Fax: 0845 251 9005**



EUROPEAN *dyslexia*
ASSOCIATION
ASBL

EDA BOARD NEWS



The Board of the EDA is delighted to announce that it has co-opted to the Board **Dr Anne-Marie Montarnal** (France) who was Secretary of the EDA from 1987 – 1993 and is a former President of **APEDA France**. She will bring to the EDA her previous experience and will be a valuable asset as a first-language French speaker.

EUROPEAN DISABILITY FORUM (EDF)

GREAT NEWS !

At their Meeting on 15/16 November the Board of the **European Disability Forum** accepted the application for **full membership** of the **European Dyslexia Association**. The EDA will now be able better to play its part in the “Dys” campaign and in influencing policy within the EDF towards the interests of its members and of dyslexic people generally.

Associazione Italiana Dislessia

11th Italian National Congress

Rome

31st October - 1st November 2008

Essere 'DYS'
(to be 'DYS')

The Congress was held at a Center in the Park of the Gemelli Klinik which belongs to the Vatican and was attended by about 800 delegates. **Karin Brünger** opened the speeches for the EDA in English (translated into Italian by **Roberta Penge**) and spoke about the EDA's plans and the forthcoming Conference in Bruges in 2010. The next speaker was **Franck Ramus** (translated from English to Italian by **Louisa Lopez**). This was followed by a speeches in Italian by **Roberta Penge**, **Antonella Gagliano** and **Enrico Profumo**.

In the afternoon there was a round table discussion with further lectures. There was a 'warm' atmosphere to the Congress and the Congress Dinner was held in the same complex. On the Saturday, several workshops were held.

It was noted that in Italy there will soon be a national law for children with learning difficulties at school following some influence from the EDA Board Member and President of AIT, **Dr Giacomo Stella**.



UNESCO

On 10th December 2008 **UNESCO** celebrated the **60th anniversary** of its ***Universal Declaration of Human Rights***. Many of its networks around the world have organised events for this symbolic celebration in order to promote the rights enshrined in the Declaration and sensitize the general public about the essential contribution of UNESCO in the reinforcement of rights pertaining to its fields of competence.

At UNESCO's headquarters the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of a Culture of Human Rights was presented to **Stéphane Hessel** who participated in drafting the Declaration and has been an untiring champion of human rights.

The **EDA's** representative for UNESCO is our Vice-President, **Karen Brünger**.

BOOK LIST

The full Book List is available on our website. The Editors will be pleased for any suggestions or recommendations for inclusion in our Book List (**in any language**) which they have read and which are recognised as being of value to parents, teachers and other professionals concerned with dyslexia in their countries.

D = in Deutch E = in English F = in French

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>ISSN</u>
E <i>The Rights of Dyslexic Children in Europe</i>	Marta Bogdanowicz Alan Sayles	Verlag Lernen mit Pfiff	83-7134-171-7
E <i>Motivating Learners in the Classroom – Ideas & Strategies</i>	Gavin Reid	Paul Chapman Publishing 2007 www.paulchapmanpublishing.co.uk	
D <i>Lautschulung</i>	Michael Kalmár	Verlag Jugend und Volk e 13.20 in österreich über die Schulbuchaktion erhältlich	978 3 7100 1338 6
D <i>Handbuch Legasthenie</i>	Renate Hofmann & Michael Kalmár (Hg;ed)	Verlag Lernen mit Pfiff 21.90 euros	3 902285 49 4
E <i>Dyslexia: An International Journal of Research & Practice</i>	Ed. Angela Fawcett	John Wiley& Sons Ltd 2008 75 pages	1076-9242
E <i>100 Ideas for Supporting Pupils with dyslexia</i>	Gavin Reid & Shannon Green	Continuum Intl. Pub. 2007 128 pages £8.49	0-8264-9398-X
E <i>BDA Dyslexia Handbook</i>	Ed. Ann Cooke & Jennifer Owen Adams	British Dyslexia Assoc. £12 2008	
E <i>My Life File</i>	Ersin Öztoycan	Harris at export@moufflon.com.cy 2008 10.50 euros	
E <i>The Dyscalculia Toolkit</i>	Ronit Bird	Sage Publishing. £29.95.	978-1-41294-765-7
F <i>Victor et les amulettes</i>	Marie-Nuage Giuaicelli & Audrey Jacamin	AUZOU September 2008	13 euros
E <i>Music and Dyslexia: A Positive Approach</i>	Eds: T R Miles J Westcombe D Ditchfield	Routledge Falmer	
F <i>Le Petit guide des dyslexiques</i>	APEDA Belge	<u>CONTACT:</u> Secretariat@apeda.be	

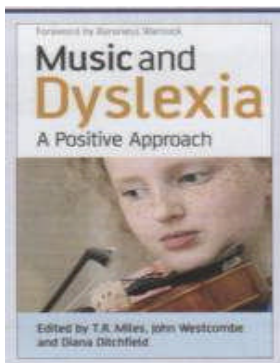
7.80 euros.

BOOK REVIEWS



Le petit guide des dyslexiques

APEDA Belge le plaisir de mettre à votre attention que l'APDA BELGE a publié. Comment les dépister et les aider en classe. Veuillez avoir la gentillesse de transférer l'information aux personnes qui seraient susceptibles d'être intéressées.



Music and Dyslexia: A Positive Approach

Edited by Prof T R Miles, John Westcombe and Diana Ditchfield

*(Reproduced with acknowledgements to the British Dyslexia Association's Journal
Dyslexia Contact September 2008)*

A wonderfully enthusiastic and encouraging collection of diverse and personal essays, full of practical and inspiring strategies for successful musicianship for dyslexic students of all ages.

Many of these approaches would benefit all music students, regardless of learning style or difference. The authors also suggest that musical training can have beneficial effects on dyslexic learning in general.

This book follows on from the authors' highly successful earlier book: *Music and Dyslexia – Opening New Doors*. This new collection would appeal not only to the professional music teacher – from those teaching beginners up to students at music college, but also to the school classroom teacher with no specific musical training.

Literature on dyslexia and related neurodiverse conditions can often be theoretical in approach and fail to capture the nature of the everyday challenges these may present.

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This book is bursting with eclectic, intimate and touching accounts of the ways students and their teachers have learned to understand the nature of their difficulties and the effective, patient strategies which have proved successful.

The perennial problem of symbol recognition, learning musical notation and sight-reading is imaginatively explored, with an abundance of multisensory, colourful and practical suggested approaches.

Younger children, often those with dyslexic difficulties, may have a less developed sense of rhythm. There is excellent advice on early musical training including a wealth of rhythm games.

There are chapters covering personal experiences of piano tuition, woodwind, cello, guitar, singing and a critique (favourable) of the Suzuki method. For the scientific minded, the last two essays explore musical activity and sight-reading from the perspective of brain imaging and neuroscience.

Isobel Mackenzie,

BDA Helpline, and Former Chair Marlow Music Festival



TECHNOLOGY and DYSLEXIA Blog

It is difficult to keep up with all the latest technology related to dyslexia but now there is a new quick way to find out what is new. **Dr Ian Smythe** has created and designed the Blog which is accessible to everyone by visiting the following Website: <http://technodys.blogspot.com>

The Blog is updated daily with a review on the first day of each month (so its saves having to read everything – very welcome for dyslexic people!). The Blog is about how technology can help dyslexic individuals, promoting lots of software (and some hardware) that would be highly beneficial, much of which is FREE!

In the first month you have been able to read about **SCRIBLINK** and **SCANMESSY!** To find out more, look up the above hyperlink address.

Dr Ian Smythe

EUROPEAN DYSLEXIA ASSOCIATION

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

5 – 11 October 2009

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY



Obituary

Prof. Tim Miles
(- 2008)

A personal note

It was with great sadness that we learned of Tim's death on 11th December 2008. We have known Tim since our first days of learning about **dyslexia** in 1973 when we wanted to know what was causing problems for our youngest son.

Tim was always seen as the epitome of the perfect academic and gentleman from 'Bangor University' (now the **University of Wales**) whose untiring work for the **British Dyslexia Association** was unbounded. He was an encouragement to **Marion Welchman MBE** in founding the Bath Association for the Study of Dyslexia in 1966 - the first dyslexia association in Britain - and the fore-runner with others of the British Dyslexia Association in 1972.

His research at the University and study of dyslexia at the School of Psychology led him to creating the **Bangor Dyslexia Test** which became a standard work for the assessment of dyslexic people and which is still basically used today. He wrote and edited a large number of books and journals with some having a special emphasis on music and dyslexia.

We reproduce a book review in this issue of *EDA NEWS*, which he recently co-edited, entitled **Music and Dyslexia: A Practical Approach**. Tim's approach has always been practical as it was when he used to sit on Conference Committees or be an advisor.

Another lasting tribute to his energies and practical intent is the creation as Founding Editor of **Dyslexia – an International Journal of Research and Practice** published by John Wiley and Sons Ltd.

All dyslexic people and those who teach them over the age of 50 owe this great man a huge debt of gratitude.

Our sincerest sympathies go out to **Elaine Miles** who was a wonderful support to Tim at Bangor's School of Psychology whilst being an industrious teacher in her own right. **Elaine** was also the second Editor of **EDA NEWS** for the five years from March 1995 to March 1999.

Jennifer and Robin Salter

December 2008

International Conferences & Symposia

Country	Organisation & subject	Venue & Date
		<u>2009</u>
UNITED KINGDOM	BETT 2009 London Olymia	14 - 17 January LONDON
	British Dyslexia Association <i>Making Links: from Theory to Practice</i> 2 day event (plus optional 2 days SpLD training) <u>See:</u> www.bdadyslexia.org.uk	27 - 28 February The King's Centre OXFORD
	Education Show 2009 National Exhibition Centre (NEC)	26 - 28 March BIRMINGHAM
BELGIUM	Dyslexia International Tools & Technologies World Dyslexia Forum <u>Email Contact:</u> admin@DITT-online.org	BRUSSELS March
AUSTRIA	Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Sprachheil-Pädagogik <u>Contact:</u> oeqs_kongress09@yahoo.de	BAD ISCHL 14 - 17 October
		<u>2010</u>
BELGIUM	European Dyslexia Association 3 rd All European Dyslexia Conference <u>See:</u> www.dyslexia.eu.com	BRUGGES 22 – 24 April

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