

GEECT Meeting of the Executive  
La fémis, Paris  
16 November 2007

Present :            Marc Nicolas  
                  Nik Powell  
                  Marieke Schoenmakers  
                  Zuzana Tatarova  
                  Malte Waldman

In attendance :        Christine Ghazarian

After a brief introduction on the choice of topics in the agenda, the meeting was largely dedicated to the future conferences of the association and the new MEDIA call.

### **1. Results of the best kept secret tech-conference in Amsterdam**

All members attending the conference agreed that it was very well organised and enjoyed this initiative which encouraged heads of technical to get together and visit other schools.

It was agreed that this Amsterdam tech-conference should take place every two years during the IBC, and similar conferences should be organised to improve co-operation between film schools and the members of their staff.

It was agreed that it was a good idea that the NFTA organised this event with the close co-operation of two other schools, the NFTS in Beaconsfield and the Norwegian Film School in Lillehammer. It was agreed that this was the right pattern to follow and that future conferences should involve, if possible, the active participation of one or two other schools.

### **2. Future GEECT conferences**

The Executive agreed to thank all the members for the proposals they came up with and for their enthusiasm in getting involved.

a) on the general organisation of the conferences

It was agreed that there should be three types of conferences :  
- one on teaching subjects, such as animation, documentary, etc  
- one on subjects other than teaching, such as technical, curriculum, etc,  
- one on « political issues » such as Bologna or Media.  
on the basis of two conferences per year.

The « political » conference could double as the main GEECT conference of the year. This means that the next conference at La fémis in April could also serve as the main GEECT conference for 2008 and dedicate half a day to CILECT matters.

b) on the financing of the conferences

The general rule could be that the schools pay for the travel expenses and GEECT pays for hotels and accomodation. Then in order to enlarge the participation of non-European schools to our conferences, GEECT could ask CILECT to support their attendance by covering the major part of their expenses, which could amount up to 80% of their travel and accomodation costs.

c) on the themes of the future conferences

2008 will cover the conference at La fémis and the CILECT « Congress » in Beijing, which makes it unnecessary to envisage an additional one. However it is important to determine as quickly as possible the conferences for 2009 and 2010. Among the proposals which were submitted by the members and the ideas which were discussed during the meeting, the following topics were suggested :

- One conference gathering the heads of the curriculum departments could take place in 2009. Ideally the best would be to tie it to a major local event, similar to the tech-conference with the IBC event.
- One best kept secret conference on editing could be extended to sound editing and combine over a weekend with the School of Sound in April 2009. It could also be related more generally to all post-production aspects of film and be handled either as one conference or two separate ones.
- One animation conference could be organised by Universidade Lusofona Lisbon, in collaboration with VSMU Bratislava. However UL should be contacted by VSMU for more details on their proposal and for a common date and content.
- One documentary conference could be organised by ZeLig and Lodz. Again both schools should confirm their interest and work on their co-operation for a common date and content.
- One political conference could deal with the LMD system involving schools which have already adopted it, such as FAMU, Potsdam, NFTA, VSMU.
- One conference on the teaching of animation
- One conference on Internet and Video Games
- One conference could gather all finance directors on how their schools are financed, how the money is ventilated and spent.
- One conference on Television : how to teach it, how to produce it... Should this be related to the conference on Internet/Video games ? Should they be dealt together or separately ? Should it be more generally a conference on « What is the role of a film school in the digital age ? » which means focus on content and format rather than technical production ?

### **3. Review of the proposals for the MEDIA call for initial training**

Among a total of 10 applications involving GECT films schools, nine have been approved by the new MEDIA call. They are listed in the attached document and are now also on the MEDIA website part of the Initial Training Applications.

One of the above projects, the European Film School Network, proposed by La fémis in collaboration with LFS London and VSMU Bratislava, will set up a two-day conference in April 2008 which

will include half day workshops on the outcome of the new MEDIA call and one half a day on the up-coming CILECT elections.

#### **4. Status of GEECT finances**

Malte Wadman, treasurer of the association, confirmed the following figures currently available :

- 30,000 euros on current account
- 15,000 euros on savings account
- 10,000 euros still to come from CILECT

Under the circumstances, the average expense level for each year could be and should not be over 15,000 euros. Marc points out that with the money currently available, GEECT could afford to invite all CILECT members, including the non-European ones, to a bigger conference.

At this point, the coordination work done by Christine Ghazarian is fully financed by La fémis via the Ministry of Culture in France. It will not always be the case.

#### **5. Up-coming CILECT meeting in Buenos Aires**

A copy of the CILECT Minutes from Belgrade was distributed to the members who briefly commented them as follows :

- the projects in-between congresses do not seem to be of great interest
- the money could probably be used for other types of collaboration on an on-going basis
- three positions are becoming available within the CILECT Executive, for 2 terms of 4 years each : the elections will take place in Beijing in October 2008. How and when will they be prepared and organised ? There should be proposals for candidates from GEECT in the summer, prior to the Congress and all the members should be invited to suggest candidates to replace the 3 positions.
- an open call for the elections should be suggested in Buenos Aires
- the CILECT elections should be discussed during the fémis conference in April and in the meantime a slate should be prepared for a better campaign.

The content of the Beijing Congress should be discussed in Buenos Aires and the members made the following suggestions :

- there should not be one single theme, but several half day workshops
- the Congress should be organised in collaboration with the Beijing Film School in order to maximise its location in China
- the projects proposed by the European association could be introduced at the Beijing Congress as half day workshops and then developed into 2 to 3 day conferences at a later stage
- the congress should also dedicate some time for internal matters and not only external matters such as workshops
- include a plenary session regarding the future of CILECT, including the new positions available
- suggest that the slate is changed while keeping the existing rules
- maximise discussion and reduce reporting

#### **6. Other matters**

A forum was launched right after the tech-conference in Amsterdam. Members should be informed of who to contact in order to obtain the correct passwords for access to it.

Three positions will change in the GECT Executive at Beijing, i.e. Marc Nicolas, Marieke Schoenmakers, and Zuzana Tatarova. This should be discussed at some point prior to the conference in April.