



LIBRARY AND RESEARCH SERVICES FOR PARLIAMENTS

Standing Committee Meeting I and II

Oslo, Norway
August 2005

MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting.

The meeting was opened by Marialyse Délano, chair, with the assistance of: Gro Sandgrind, Moira Fraser, Janet Seaton, Anita Dudina, Eleni Mitrakou, Sara Parker, Nancy Bolt, Irina Andreeva, Karel Sosna, Iain Watt, Daniel Mulhollan, Show Rone Wang, Chung cheng Chen, Keith Cuninghame, Marit Kleppa, Marga Coing, Soledad Ferreiro, Andrzej Dziubckek, Wojeich Kuslisiewicz, Jan Keukens, Sangduen Pngput, Renu Sadana, Saroj Bala, Sunil Dutt Mautiyal, Ellie Valentine, Sandra Fine, Jean Claude Hayoz, Raissa Teodori, Ali Khakpour, Inger Aure, Johanna Cappolecchia, Jae Ha Jung, Younghee Park, Caryn Carr, Renata Bagliene, Hugh Finsten, Donna Scheeder, M. Délano, Gloria Sarku, Khachatyan Ashot, Wieslaw Stakiewicz, Fumihiko Kamata.

2. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Standing Committee meetings in Buenos Aires

The minutes of the SC meetings in Buenos Aires were approved.

4. Roll call of Standing Committee members.

SC committee members present:

- Ms. Irina Andreeva
- Mrs. Eleni Mitrakou
- Ms. Caryn Carr
- Ms. Anita Dudina
- Mr. Hugh Finsten
- Ms. Moira Fraser
- Mr. Younghee Park
- Mrs. Gro Sandgrind
- Ms. Janet Seaton
- Delano, Marialyse

- Ms. Sara Parker
- Ms. Donna Scheeder

Not present:

- Mr. Segundo Soto Coronel
- Mrs. Margareta Brundin
- Ali-Abdel-Elah, Wafaaa
- Almeida Maia, Cristiane
- Karl Min Ku
- Moesi, Josephine
- Singh, N.K
- Verrier, June

Corresponding member present:

- Fumihiko Kamata

Officers report (membership report, financial report).

- Membership: The Libraries and Research Services for Parliaments has 80 institutional members, 2 international associations, 17 national associations and 11 personal affiliates as registered members.
- Financial report: The financial report was included in the Annual Report and the December News-letter. The next financial report is going to be included in the next Annual report and the Newsletter, for the fiscal year January–December 2005
- Report by the Information Coordinator, Ms. Gro Sandgrind:

Thanks to Pierrette Landry for her assistance with the information to the IFLANET and updating the iflaparl and iflaparl 2 distribution e-mail lists. If you use these distribution lists- do not attach large documents to the e-mail. The lists should be only used for short text messages. If you have attachments, it is better to publish them in the Newsletter or on the website IFLANET. Please contact the Information Coordinator if you have questions about this!

People interested in information from or about the Section are encouraged to use the IFLANET website. <http://www.ifla.org/Vl/s3/content-e.htm> Here you will find the newsletters and information about the preconferences and main conferences. Last year and his years preconferences have websites which include papers and photos from different sessions.

<http://www.stortinget.no/preifla2005/home.html>

Last year the Section nominated Margareta Brundin's paper "Democracy enabling activities in the Swedish Riksdag and the role of the parliamentary library" for inclusion in the IFLA journal. It as chosen and was included in the Spring 2005 volume.

6. Elections for Officers 2005 –2007

6.1 Report on SC elections

The Chair reported on the recent election process, thanked outgoing members and welcomed incoming members. For the election process the Chair sent letters and mails to every registered member of the Section, to the SC members and to a mailing list of participants in the Section activities and programmes. In the letter she informed of the election process, of the nomination procedures and invited members to participate.

The Chair also reported on the unfortunate declination of Ms. June Verrier as SC member and as Secretary of the Section during the year. Ms. Verrier was thanked in absence for her collaboration and the members commented upon missing her timely contributions, collaboration and contributions.

Our newly elected or re-elected members, 2005–2009

- Ms. Irina Andreeva
- Mrs. Eleni Mitrakou
- Mrs. Margareta Brundin
- Ms. Caryn Carr
- Ms. Anita Dudina
- Mr. Hugh Finsten
- Ms. Moira Fraser
- Mr. Younghee Park
- Mrs. Gro Sandgrind
- Ms. Janet Seaton
- Mr. Segundo Soto Coronel

SC members whose term is on going are:

- Ali-Abdel-Elah, Wafaaa: second term 2003–2007
- Almeida Maia, Cristiane: first term 2003–2007
- Delano, Marialyse: second term 2003–2007
- Karl Min Ku: first term 2003–2007
- Moesi, Josephine: first term 2003–2007
- Parker, Sara: second term 2003–2007
- Scheeder, Donna: second term 2003–2007
- Singh, N.K: first term 2003–2007
- Verrier, June: second term 2003–2007 (recently resigned as Secretary of the Section).

Corresponding Members, 2003–2007 are:

- Margarita Angelova
- Tembi Chalabase Mtine
- Bharti Tiwari
- Fumihiko Kamata

Members whose two terms have expired or who not re-nominated.

- Aranda Torres, Patricio
- Cuninghame, Keith
- Kulisiewicz, Wojciech
- Choi Moon Hyu
- Nzo-Nguty, Bernard
- Paré, Richard, who served as Chair and has made great contributions to the Section during his tenure.

6.2 Elections for new officers, 2005 –2007

The new cycle of officers is beginning, and according to procedures, elections were held for the period 2005–2007. As is the course committed by the Section, officers stand for only one period. A nominee for Chair was announced, Ms. Donna Scheeder, and Ms. Margareta Brundin for Secretary. Ms. Gro Sandgrind offered to continue as Information Coordinator. The floor was offered for any other nominees who would like to postulate as officers, but no candidates came

about. The procedures had previously been sent by mail to institutional members, SC members and participants in recent conferences. It is very important to stress that colleagues and members of the Section must know procedures for electing officers because due to the commitment required by new officers, they usually have to coordinate with their organisations to see if they can be candidates.

The SC members voted and unanimously approved:

Ms. Donna Scheeder as Chair of the Section.

Ms. Margareta Brundin, as Secretary of the Section even given an emergency that impeded her from attending. Ms. Gro Sandgrind, as Information Coordinator. Ms. Donna Scheeder was congratulated and took the floor to address the participants. As from this moment the meeting was jointly conducted by the outgoing and the incoming Chair.

News from the Coordinating Board

The news from the coordinating board meeting were informed to the SC meeting, about future conferences, financial difficulties of IFLA, future plans.

8. Strategic plans

The Strategic plans must be informed in the annual report, and it is necessary for the Section to review them and present new or revised strategic plans for 2005–2007.

Mission

- The Library and Research Services for Parliaments Section exists:
- To promote democracies and legislative processes through the provision of information and knowledge to parliaments;
- To promote knowledge on legislation and legislative processes to the citizens, for transparency and strengthening of democratic participation;
- To serve as an instance of exchange of experiences, knowledge, problem solving situations and networking, particularly in serving a political environment;
- To promote best practices in providing information and knowledge to Parliaments
- To provide a forum for anticipation on issues relating to legislative processes.

Goals

1. Provide a forum for trend watching and cooperation between the knowledge services for legislatures, in a globalised information society, in which legislative processes regulate the relations of a society, the citizens and the state powers. (Professional priorities: a. Supporting roles of libraries in society, b. Defending the principle of freedom of information, d. Providing unrestricted access to information)

Actions:

1.1 Presentations in Buenos Aires, IFLA 2004, on trends for Library and Research Services for Parliaments.

1.2 Presentation or round table in Oslo, IFLA 2005, on anticipation, legislative trends and the impact on Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services.

1.3 Establish a trend, exchange and information resources for parliaments web page, as a project developed by the Chilean Library of Congress on behalf of the Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services Section, with ECPRD financment.

2. Promote citizen participation and democratic enabling activities from Parliaments, in the context of the Information Society and Information Literacy initiatives. (Professional priorities: d. Providing unrestricted access to information; b. Defending the principle of freedom of information; f. Promoting resource sharing; a. supporting role of libraries in society)

Actions:

2.1 Presentation, in Buenos Aires, IFLA 2004, on a citizen participation forum experience.

2.2 Opening a work group within the Section, on citizen participation and democracy enabling activities, to begin in Buenos Aires 2004.

3. Promote better laws and better lawmaking processes with the provision of information and knowledge services. (Professional priorities: a. supporting role of libraries in society; i. Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices;)

Actions:

3.1 Share amongst the members indicators of impact of knowledge in better laws and lawmaking.

3.2 Share amongst members the processes and actions involved in providing information and knowledge for better laws and lawmaking.

4. Promote understanding and experience sharing of working in a politically complex environment. (Professional priorities: i. Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices; h. Developing library professionals;)

Actions:

4.1 Continue sharing experiences on the particularities of requests from parliamentarians and the way in which Libraries have solved them.

4.2 Open a FAQ page on an Information Resources for parliaments, and requests and the way in which Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services have solved them, as part of the web pages in development by the Chilean Library of Congress with ECPRD and Chilean financement.

4.3 Explore alternative organizational affiliations to IFLA in order to increase the value of going to section meetings for participants.

5. Encourage programmes to foster the incorporation into the Information Society of Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services in the context of future trends such as direct democracy and e-government. (Professional priorities: a. supporting role of libraries in society;

Actions:

5.1 Share experiences and joint programmes with the IFLA government Section for future conferences.

5.2 Share experiences and joint programmes with the IFLA information Literacy Section for future conferences.

6. Encourage professional competencies required within the Parliamentary Library and Research services environment. (Professional priorities: i. Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices; h. Developing library professionals;)

Actions:

6.1 Share key competencies required in Parliamentary Libraries and Research Services in Preconferences and workshops, in Oslo and Seoul.

6.2 Exchange ideas on new developments and trends in parliamentary information and research provision.

6.3 Support small and newly developing parliamentary libraries and research services with practical strategies for action.

7. Provide and share information about the Section and the Standing Committee.

(Professional priorities: a. Supporting role of libraries in society; d. Providing unrestricted access to information; f. Promoting resource sharing; g. Preserving cultural heritage; h. Developing library professionals; i. Promoting standards, guidelines and best practices.)

Actions:

7.1 Prepare and distribute the Newsletter twice a year.

7.2 Exchange information permanently via Iflaparl

7.3 Keep members and SC permanently informed and consulted on issues relating IFLA and the Section.

7.4 Promote democratic participation on decisions and issues pertaining the Section and the SC:

8. To promote membership of the Section and seek a broader representation of the standing committee. (Professional priorities: a. Supporting role of libraries in society; d. Providing unrestricted access to information; f. Promoting resource sharing; h. Developing library professionals.)

Actions:

8.1 Actively seek and contact colleagues and parliamentary libraries, particularly in Latin America and developing countries to attend and participate in Buenos Aires, IFLA 2004.

8.2 Actively seek and contact colleagues and parliamentary libraries, particularly in Latin America and developing countries to attend and participate in Oslo, IFLA 2005.

9. Reports on regional activities:

European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD), report by Karel Sosna

Regional Report – European Centre for Parliamentary Research and Documentation (ECPRD)
This year has been a year of transition for the ECPRD. Following the 2004 European Election and the enlargement, the European Parliament restructured its administration and created a new Directorate for Relations with national parliaments. This Directorate ensures the coordination of the different participants, not only at the political level, but also at the level of civil servants in the national parliaments.

The most important consequence is that the ECPRD Secretariat has been transferred to the new directorate and its Director Mr. Bo Manderup Jensen became a new Co-Director of the ECPRD instead of Mr. Dick Thornstra.

The directorate has already started new various steps of inter-parliamentary cooperation. For instance, it is organization of inter-parliamentary seminars on different subjects in cooperation with the parliamentary committees in the European Parliament. The participants include members of the European as well as of national parliaments, together with the staff in the related committees. Based in the Directorate, a network of permanent representatives of national parliaments (for the moment most of the 25 EU-countries plus the candidate countries) has been created. It is really something new and represents a new approach in our activities. The Directorate will also continue in coordination of the integration of the database of parliamentary committees in the national and the European parliaments in IPEX (Inter-parliamentary EU Information Exchange) and the ECPRD database (<http://www.ecprd.org>) will be completely reorganized in a more modern and user-friendly way. The intention is to add new features on the web-site, with well functioning search module and to find better solution for the archiving of the continually growing number of comparative requests. According to the statistics, between August 2004 and August 2005 there were 152 requests from almost all fields of parliamentary administration and 2 931 replies from 55 different national chambers. So, we have about 20 replies pro request which seems to be very effective.

Thanks to all of above mentioned changes, the list of conferences, seminars and meetings for the year 2005 is a bit shorter. There were or will be held:

1. Meeting of the Executive Committee, London, 2 March
2. Meeting of the Working Group on the ECPRD Statutes, Rome, 20 May
3. Meeting of the Macroeconomic Research Working Group, Yerevan, 3–4 June
4. Meeting of the Executive Committee, Brussels, 9 September
5. Annual Conference of Correspondents, Bucharest, 13–15 October
6. Meeting of the ICT Working Group (joint meeting with Parliament on the Net), Ljubljana
7. Seminar on Relation between National Parliaments and the European Parliament, Madrid

8. Meeting of the Macroeconomic Research Working Group, Brussels

9. Seminar on Parliamentary Administration, Rome

- Association of Parliamentary Libraries of Australasia: APLA Report, Moira Fraser
- **APLIC / ABPAC Canada. Report by Vicky Whitmell, presented by Hugh Finsten.**

The Association of Parliamentary Libraries in Canada has met twice in the past year. In September 2004 our biannual conference was held in Edmonton, Alberta. The highlight of that meeting was our guest, Moira Fraser from New Zealand. Moira made two presentations to our group that were well received. APLIC held its annual business meeting in Toronto Ontario in June 2005 in conjunction with the Special Libraries Association which held its conference in the city. We had presentations on partnerships and partnering. This meeting gave us a chance to say good-bye to our long time member Richard Pare. He and his wife Renee were honoured with a special gift and dinner.

APLIC continues to focus on its activities on the following: a) Supporting preservation projects such as Canadiana .org and the continued publishing of the Canadian Parliamentary Guide; b) Conducting our annual survey that allows us to compare service, staffing and funding levels, and identify best practices among our members; c) Considering partnerships possibilities such as consortia purchasing; d) Archiving our membership website and developing a public site and profile for the group, e) increasing the professional development opportunities offered by APLIC. The next biannual conference is scheduled for September 2006 and the intention is to hold it in Canada's North: Iqualit, Nunavut.

- APLAP Report. M. Noboko
- APLESA, representative from Uganda
- AAPLD, report
- PARDOC, report M. Francois Milogo
- NCLS, report Ms. Donna Scheeder
- **Nordic Countries, report by Ms. Gro Sandgrind**

Report from the 52nd. Meeting between Nordic Parliamentary Librarians, Reykjavik, 12–13 May, 2005.

Kristin Geirsdottir was the host, in the Althingi. The main issues were:

Consortia: Iceland has a national consortia (the only one we know of), that gives free use for all inhabitants in the country to 8000 fulltext journals, 350000 electronic publications, 3 encyclopedias and 1 dictionary. All libraries share the expenses. Finland has FinElib consortia, Denmark has DEFF and Sweden has Bibsam. Norway has so far, no good solution.

New services: Searching facilities were discussed. Sharing ideas on the use of Metalib and Autonomy. Althinget has started a research service with one new staff member. IFLA

preconference: planning a coordinated presentation. Next meeting in Copenhagen, June 2006.

• **Latin American Parliamentary Library Association, report by M. Délanó**

Ms. Délanó reported on the fledgling Latin American Parliamentary Library Association such as a) establishing the statutes for the Association which are presently in revision; b) requests for information made by the members; c) proposal of a meeting in Brasilia, in April 2006. Peru, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala, Mexico, Argentina and Chile have been actively corresponding for the meeting.

10. Future Conferences

IFLA 2006, Seoul, Korea. Presentation by Korean Representative.

IFLA 2007, Durban, South Africa

11. Subjects of interest for future conferences: information from previous conferences and possible new suggestions.

- Windows of opportunity
- Compared studies on services, technologies, staff, indicators, etc., for benchmarking.
- Getting the request out of the user
- Information literacy
- Globalization
- Organizational structures
- Recruitment
- User education
- Impact of Libraries and Research services on legislative outcome.... better laws, for example
- Parliaments and anticipation: one step before or one step behind societal, cultural and technological changes
- Change management: users, environment and ourselves
- Consortia and cooperative acquisitions
- Training: what makes a good researcher
- Knowledge management in a parliamentary environment
- Collaboration with other parliaments and their services
- The other side: integrating executive and legislative information
- Special collections management, including multimedia
- Electronic / virtual services and products: the electronic or virtual parliamentary library and research service.
- Citizen participation and involvement from the library of parliament.
- Business or IT architecture: technology and content
- Marketing practices – failures and best practice
- Information literacy – for MPs and the public
- Knowledge database
- Copyright
- How do we handle content so that we find the right information?

12. IFLA booth schedule

The IFLA booth schedule was confirmed and Raissa Teodori volunteered to help with the booth.

13. Useful information

Useful information, venues and such was exchanges.

14. Any other business

Parlanet. M. Délano informed that the Chilean Library of Congress has been developing the Parlanet portal for Parliamentary Libraries, with funds provided by the ECPRD. She gave members the presentation and page prints (powerpoints), for the members present to comment and suggest upon during the Conference and agree on the last SC.

15 . Adjournment of the meeting