

25 JUIN 2012

MINUTES

from the session of the General Assembly of° 0651 UN

**the REGIONAL CENTRE FOR THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTANGIBLE
CULTURAL HERITAGE IN SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF UNESCO Association
1 Gourko Str., Sofia 1000
20 February 2012**

The following General Assembly members attended the session:

The Ministry of Culture, represented by *Mrs* Deyana Petrova Danailova-Stanilova;

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented by Lyudmila Yankova Dimitrova;

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, represented by Nikola Vasilev Sabotinov.

The following persons also attended the session:

Mr Frank Proschan – a representative of UNESCO;

Mrs Roumiana Mitreva – a representative of the UNESCO National Commission – Bulgaria;

Mr Gligore Gercanu – a representative of the Republic of Romania;

Mrs Mirela Hrovatin – a representative of the Republic of Croatia;

Mrs Miroslava Lukic-Krstanovic – a representative of the Republic of Serbia;

Prof. Ocal Oguz – a representative of the Republic of Turkey;

Mrs Eranda Bedali – a representative of Albania;

Prof. Stoyan Denchev – an authorised representative of the International Association of National Folklore Federations;

Prof. Mila Santova – representative of the BAS;

Assoc. Prof. Simeon Angelov – a representative of the BAS.

Upon verifying the rules to convene the General Assembly and the quorum required by the Statute to take decisions, the session was opened with the following agenda, adopted by the participants:

1. Decision to accept new members of the Centre;
2. Adopting the agenda;
3. Election of Chairperson of the General Assembly;
4. Report by the Executive Board on the Centre's activities in 2011;
5. Decision on amending and supplementing the Centre's Statute and discussion and adoption of the Centre's general documents:
 - General Assembly's rules of procedure;
 - Centre's long-term programme;
 - Centre's working plan for 2012;
 - Centre's budget for 2012;
 - adoption of Centre's financial, administrative, and staff-management-related procedures;
 - Centre's staff list.
6. Changes in the composition of the Centre's Executive Board;
7. Proposals for participation of regional inter-governmental organisations and international organisations in the Centre's operations;
8. Adoption of Centre's logo;
9. Setting a date for the next regular session of the General Assembly;
10. Miscellaneous.

Regarding Item 1 on the Agenda

The Chairperson of the Executive Board of the Centre presented to the attendees' attention the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the UN Education,

Science, and Culture Organisation (UNESCO) regarding the establishment in Sofia of a Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO (category 2), signed on 25 October 2010 by the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs Irina Bokova, and the Minister of Culture Vezhdi Rashidov – representative of the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria. It was clarified that, in July 2011, the Centre's Statute has been amended and supplemented to make it compliant with the requirements of the Agreement. Under the amended Statute, the Centre's General Assembly shall include:

- 1) two representatives of the government of the Republic of Bulgaria (the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) or authorised representatives thereof;
- 2) one representative of each member state, which has sent a membership notice to the Centre, under the provisions of Article 12, Paragraph 2 of the Agreement between the government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the United Nation's Education, Science, and Culture Organisation (UNESCO), and which has expressed an interest to be represented in the Board;
- 3) one representative of UNESCO's Director-General;
- 4) one representative of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences;
- 5) one representative of the Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO;
- 6) up to two representatives of other inter-governmental organisations or international non-governmental organisations, to which a seat may be granted by the General Assembly's decision.

The General Assembly shall also elect its chairperson, who shall direct the General Assembly's sessions.

With this regard, presented was a list of persons, for whom, prior to this session, notices of interest on membership in the Centre, and, respectively, in its General Assembly, have been received. It was proposed for the following persons, in their capacities as persons, representing the states and organisations sending them, to be accepted as members of the Centre and its General Assembly:

Mr Frank Proschan – a representative of UNESCO;

Mrs Roumiana Mitreva – a representative of the UNESCO National Commission – Bulgaria;

Mr Gligore Gercanu – a representative of the Republic of Romania;

Mrs Mirela Hrovatin – a representative of the Republic of Croatia;

Mrs Miroslava Lukic-Krstanovic – a representative of the Republic of Serbia;

Prof. Ocal Oguz – a representative of the Republic of Turkey;

Mrs Eranda Bedali – a representative of Albania.

Upon conducting a discussion, the members of the General Assembly moved to vote.

Of the 3 members of the General Assembly voting, 3 members voted FOR, no members voted AGAINST, and no members ABSTAINED, therefore, the General Assembly

DECIDED:

Accepts all persons proposed as regular members of the Centre and its General Assembly, therewith, the total membership General Assembly shall include a total of 7 persons.

Regarding Item 2 on the Agenda

The chairperson of the Centre's Executive Board proposed to the attention of the members of the General Assembly the agenda, as set by the Executive Board upon convening the session, for discussion and adoption.

After the discussion, the members of the General Assembly unanimously voted to adopt the agenda of today's session, as set by the Executive Board upon convening the session.

Regarding Item 3 on the Agenda

The chairperson of the Executive Board allowed the members of the General Assembly to propose a person to be elected as a Chairperson of the General Assembly to direct today's session.

After the discussion, the General Assembly unanimously decided to elect Mrs Deyana Petrova Danailova-Stanilova as Chairperson of today's session of the General Assembly.

Mrs Violeta Tsankova was chosen as minutes keeper for the session.

Regarding Item 4 on the Agenda

The chairperson of the session briefly presented the report for the Centre's activities in 2011, which was distributed previously to all session participants and which, after the discussion, was put to vote.

Of the 10 members of the General Assembly voting, 10 members voted FOR, no members voted AGAINST, and no members ABSTAINED, therefore, the General Assembly

DECIDED:

Unanimously accepts the report on the activities of the Executive Board of the Centre in 2011.

Regarding Item 5 on the Agenda

1. The chairperson of the session explained that, in order to bring the Centre's structure and decision-making process in full compliance with the Agreement between the government of the Republic of Bulgaria and UNESCO for its establishment of 25 October 2010, the Statute should be amended and supplemented in terms of the rules of membership, the composition of the Executive Board, the Executive Director, the Secretariat, et al. A full text of a new Statute, proposing clarification of the Centre's Executive Board's function and authority, expansion of its membership, clarification of the rules to elect a Chairperson of the Executive Board, et al., was presented to the attention of the members of the General Assembly. It was further clarified that the new Statute also reflects the new registered address of the **Association, which is 7 Latchezar Stantchev Str., Izgrev Area, Sofia 1113.**

After a long discussion, the proposals to amend and supplement the Statute, were put to vote by the General Assembly.

Of the 10 General Assembly members voting, 10 members voted FOR, no members voted AGAINST, and no members ABSTAINED, therefore, the General Assembly

DECIDED:

Accepts the proposed amendments and supplements to the Statute of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO Association in their entirety.

2. The other internal organisational documents of the Centre were also presented to the attention of the members of the General Assembly:

- General Assembly's rules of procedure;
- Centre's long-term programme;
- Centre's working plan for 2012;
- Centre's budget for 2012;
- adoption of the Centre's financial, administrative, and staff-management-related procedures;
- the Centre's list of positions.

Upon conducting discussions on the contents of each document, the members of the General Assembly moved to vote.

Of the 10 General Assembly members voting, 10 members voted FOR, no members voted AGAINST, and no members ABSTAINED, therefore, the General Assembly

DECIDED:

Accepts the proposed internal organisational documents of the Regional Centre for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in South-Eastern Europe under the Auspices of UNESCO Association in their entirety, as proposed, including the corrections made thereto over the course of the discussion.

Regarding Item 6 on the Agenda

The chairperson allowed the members of the General Assembly to give their opinion on whether a change of the current composition of the Centre's Executive Board is necessary in view of the new composition of the General Assembly. After the discussions, the General Assembly became united around the position that, at this point, there is no need to change the number and the composition of the Centre's Executive Board. This common position was put to vote by the session participants.

Of the 10 General Assembly members voting, 10 members voted FOR, no members voted AGAINST, and no members ABSTAINED, therefore, the General Assembly

DECIDED:

Keeps the existing composition of the Centre's Executive Board intact.

Regarding Item 7 on the Agenda

The chairperson of the session presented the application, submitted by the People's Chitalishta Union, a member of the International Association of National Folklore Federations, with its authorised representative in Bulgaria, Prof. Stoyan Denchev, in its capacity as an international non-governmental organisation to be accepted as a regular member of the Centre's General Assembly.

After a brief discussion, the matter was put to vote.

Of the 10 General Assembly members voting, 10 members voted FOR, no members voted AGAINST, and no members ABSTAINED, therefore, the General Assembly

DECIDED:

Accepts as a regular member of the Centre's General Assembly the People's Chitalishta Union, a member of the International Association of National Folklore Federations, with its authorised representative in Bulgaria, Prof. Stoyan Denchev.

Regarding Item 8 on the Agenda

A several different versions for the Centre's logo were presented to the attention of the members of the General Assembly.

After the discussion, the matter was put to vote, and the members of the General Assembly unanimously decided to adopt the version of the Centre's logo, which, over the course of the discussion, has received the support of the largest number of members of the General Assembly.

Regarding Item 9 on the Agenda

The chairperson of the session proposed several possible dates to hold the next General Assembly of the Centre.

After a brief discussion, the matter was put to vote, where the members of the General Assembly unanimously decided the next session of the Centre's General Assembly to be held in the days between 15 and 22 February 2013.

Regarding Item 10 on the Agenda

1. The General Assembly moved to elect the next Chairperson of the General Assembly. It was proposed for the next chairperson of the Centre's General Assembly to elect the representative of UNESCO's Director-General in the General Assembly, Mr Frank Proschan. After a brief discussion, the matter was put to vote, and the members of the General Assembly unanimously decided to elect the representative of UNESCO's Director-General in the General Assembly, Mr Frank Proschan, as Chairperson of the Centre's General Assembly.

2. Upon conclusion of all discussions, before closing the session, the General Assembly unanimously decided to assign to the Chairperson of the Centre's Executive Board all actual and legal actions necessary to enter all changes in circumstances adopted thereby in the registry of the Sofia City Court, as well as to apply any respective clarifications and amendments to the documents upon any requests by the court.

After all the items on the agenda were dealt with, the session was closed.