

BRITISH EUROPEAN Bulletin

Campaigning for the Rights of Britons in Europe

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“BE together” – Forthcoming events

Our annual summer picnic will take place on Sunday, July 24.

Some of us will meet at Skodsborg Station (Kystbanen) on the land side at 11 a.m. If you come by Kystbanen be sure to take the Nivå train as the Helsingør train does not stop at Skodsborg. We will walk through the woods to Rådvad. It will take about 45 minutes. Those preferring not to walk and coming by car or bicycle will meet us in Rådvad at 12 noon. We take our own picnic lunches and drinks with us. We meet at the red gates near Rådvad Kro. The picnic tables are behind the buildings on the 'main' street.

If the weather is terrible you are welcome at Rundforbivej 48 A with your sandwiches and drinks at 12 noon.

Summer Fair at St. Alban's Church

The summer fair at St. Alban's Church takes place on Saturday 20. August from 10:00 to 17:00. The fair is in Churchill Parken in front of the church.

KUKS' International Gala Festival of National Fare on 21. October

The festival takes place at the City Hall of Copenhagen at 7.30 p.m. **Tickets necessary.** Members have been informed by e-mail.

Annual dinner 11. February.

Annual dinner.

On Friday February 11. we held our annual dinner in the Chinese restaurant Hong Fu on Østerbrogade. It was well attended and we enjoyed interesting food and a good chat. Again we were fortunate in that we had a room to ourselves. It was the third time we had our annual dinner at Hong Fu.

Bent

Meeting with the general secretary of Danes World Wide, Anne Marie Dalgaard on Monday 21st February.

Val and Bent met with Anne Marie Dalgaard to discuss issues of mutual interest. Our common ground was the interest of both DWW and BEA in dual nationality, DWW's interest for Danes living abroad and BEA's for foreigners, Brits, living in Denmark.

We agreed to forward information of mutual interest to each other in the future.

Val and Bent

Letter e-mailed to debat@pol.dk and published on April 10th:

Kære Søren Nielsen

Hermed et indlæg om udlændinge og statsborgerskab:

'I forbindelse med Christopher Bo Bramsens debatindlæg d. 30. marts om udlandsdanskere, der mister deres danske statsborgerskab, når de opnår et andet, vil jeg gerne pege på, at britiske statsborgere i Danmark mister deres statsborgerskab, hvis de opnår dansk statsborgerskab.

I EU tillader størstedelen af de 27 EU lande dobbelt statsborgerskab, men ikke Danmark. En stor del af de britiske statsborgere har boet i Danmark i mange år og har bidraget til det danske samfund, men de kan kun opnå dansk statsborgerskab, hvis de opgiver deres britiske. Dette ønsker mange ikke.

Hvis Danmark tillader dobbelt statsborgerskab ville det løse problemet både for udlandsdanskere og udlændinge bosat i Danmark'.

Med venlig hilsen

Bent B. Kristiansen

[Kære Bent B. Kristiansen,](#)

[Jeg så med glæde læserbrevet i Politiken i morges. Den slags kunne vi godt bruge flere af. Såfremt der bliver en efterfølger vil jeg være glad for, at få det på mail. Det skyldes at jeg rejser til Sydamerika og ikke ser danske aviser før efter påske. Tak for indsatsen.](#)

Med venlig hilsen

Jørgen Poulsen,

MF, **Medlem af**

Folketinget (RV)

Our member Elizabethann Burke Madsen had read about Harry Shindler and drew our attention to his case.

Harry Shindler, a British WWII veteran and ex-pat in Italy, has lost his right to vote in British general elections because he has been out of Britain for more than 15 years.

He is a courageous elderly gentleman, 89 years of age, and he has taken his case to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Harry Shindler wants a change enabling him to vote in British general elections.

In a recent interview he told the BBC: "We are talking about the principle of a man's right to vote. It's got nothing to do with time limits; it's to do with principle. You can't lay down conditions. Universal suffrage is set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Universal to my mind, and in every dictionary I've seen, means 'everybody'. We have family and friends in the UK. You can't set a time limit on that. All we want is the right to vote in elections."

The European court has accepted his case and has asked the British government to explain their actions. The government answered the court in the middle of May; we do not know their answer as yet. Harry Shindler believes he has a very strong case.

The Council of Europe, which implements rulings made by the European Court of Human Rights, has called for an "unrestricted right to vote" suggesting expats could cast their ballots at embassies and consulates, if necessary.

Currently, most of the ex-pats taking part in UK elections do so via postal votes or nominating proxies, but lose this right after 15 years.

The Council of Europe, though, cannot force member nations to act. Ultimately it is at Westminster, not Strasbourg, where the law is decided.

It is estimated that 5.5 million UK citizens live abroad, but fewer than 13,000 had registered on UK electoral rolls by 2008.

Val and Bent

From Clare MacCarthy, Nordic Correspondent, the Economist

Dear Valerie,

Many thanks for your e-mail. I had heard of the British European Association in the past - and I think that I subscribed to your newsletter at one point.

I'm very pleased indeed to hear that you're still so active - this issue is seriously important as without proper reciprocal voting arrangements the freedom of movement enshrined in EU legislation is nonsense.

Like yourself, I'm also wired up on the dual nationality issue. Given the sad fact that Marianne Vestager's gang are the only supporters, I don't see Danish change happening any time soon.

Unless, of course, Harry Shindler wins his case. That could start the avalanche rolling.

What action to take in the meantime? My suggestion is to try to get as much Danish press coverage as possible. Start by offering the Copenhagen Post interviews with disgruntled British residents (preferably of the well-educated and well-integrated variety). Then the local press might pick it up. If not, prod them.

I would love to do a piece on this for the Economist but don't have the time at the moment as I'm tied up with a whole lot of other stuff. But I will get back to you.

Have you any idea of the timetable for the Shindler case. How far has it progressed through the system and when is a ruling likely?

All the best,
Clare

Clare MacCarthy
Nordic Correspondent
The Economist

Dear Clare,

Thanks for your e-mail. According to the Daily Telegraph's website of yesterday <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/expat/8291266/Expats-could-win-back-general-election-voting-rights.html> in Harry Shindler's case 'The request from Strasbourg on overseas voting rules must be returned by April 7th' to the court. The website has 30 comments included.

Best wishes,

Valerie

Kaleidoscop, Sam Lomberg's radio programme on Helsingør Kanalen.

On Saturday afternoons Sam Lomberg has a radio programme on Helsingør Kanalen

called Kaleidoscop. In his programme he interviews people in English and in Danish and plays music. Recently, amongst others, he has interviewed the British Ambassador Mr. Nick Archer and the General Secretary of Danes World Wide Ms. Anne Marie Dalgaard. For further information on Helsingør Kanalen visit their website www.klsradio.mono.net .

On Saturday May 21st Sam interviewed Valerie and Bent Kristiansen of BEA. In the discussion dual nationality, the recent AV referendum in Britain and the difficulties British ex-pats in Denmark have when they wish to renew their passports were brought up and discussed. Valerie and Bent expressed their preference for dual nationality, their total lack of understanding why the British people rejected the AV voting system and their aversion to the renewal system of passports which means that British ex-pats in Denmark have to renew their passports in Düsseldorf in Germany at great expense. It is claimed to be an improvement!! However, if you are over 80 it is free and renewal is through the Embassy.

On Tuesday May 24th a meeting with our members took place where a CD recording was listened to and discussed. The general consensus of the group was in favour of dual nationality, disbelief of the result of the AV referendum and lack of understanding of the passport renewal ‘improvement’ – it is more like ‘passing the buck’ to the individual, a money saving exercise for the British government.

If you have anything you feel could be of interest to Sam’s listeners please send an e-mail to klsradio@gmail.com and if you wish to know more about Helsingør Kanalen you can visit their website on www.klsradio.mono.net

Val, Bent and Bill



- **THE EUROPEANS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD**
 - **LES EUROPEENS DANS LE MONDE**
 - **DE EUROPEANEN IN DE WERELD**
- aisbl

The President
The Secretary General

Brussels, 31 January 2011

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2010**

Draft **MINUTES**

Those present:

President a.i.: Mr Simon-Pierre Nothomb, *Union Francophone des Belges à l'Etranger*
Secretary General: Mr Nicholas Newman, *Association for the Rights of Britons Abroad*

Vice Presidents:

Ms Noreen Bowden, *GlobalIrish – Ireland*
Mr Paschalis Papachristopoulos, *World Council of Hellenes Abroad*
Mr Jean-Claude Séché, *Français du Monde – adfe*

Treasurer: Mr Koen van der Schaeghe, *Vlamingen in de Wereld*

Special Delegates:

Mr Mario Greco, *CIM-Belgio*
Mrs Karine Henrotte Forsberg, *Swedes Abroad - SVIV*
Assistant Secretary General: Mrs Marie-Claude Hayoit de Termicourt

Other Members:

Mrs Francine Bougeon-Maassen, *Français du Monde - adfe*

Mr Ivo Dubois (NL)
Mrs Paula Selenius, *Finland Society Suomi-Seura R.V.*

Invited:
Mr Aldis Austers, *European Latvian Association*

➤ **INTRODUCTION**

The President opened the meeting with a special welcome for Mr Aldis Austers, Vice-Chairman of the European Latvian Association, which had decided to seek membership of the ETTW.

The statutory quorum of at least half the members was present.

➤ **PRESIDENCY ARRANGEMENTS**

Mr Nothomb confirmed that following the death of our past President Mr Hans Jrøgen Helms, he had agreed to act as President a.i. in the interim period pending the election of a new President.

An election would be arranged at the next meeting and candidatures were requested.

➤ **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24 SEPTEMBER 2010**

These had not been distributed as their drafting had proved to be rather delicate - they would be distributed in view of approval at the next meeting.

➤ **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BY THE EUROPEAN LATVIAN ASSOCIATION**

Following the recommendation of the Board, the European Latvian Association was welcomed unanimously as a new member with immediate effect.

Further, the French Union des Français de l'Étranger (UFE) would be invited to join the ETTW.

◦ **Proposal for a revision of membership subscriptions**

Mr Newman proposed a minimum of 30% increase in subscriptions, which combined with stringent economies should enable the repayment of most of their loans to Bureau members. Several members felt that even 20% would be difficult for them and asked for an updated assessment of the consequences of increasing by both 10% and 20% before deciding.

Bruxelles, 27 janvier 2011

**CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION
VENDREDI 11 FEVRIER 2011 à 11:00
FONDATION UNIVERSITAIRE, 11 RUE D'EGMONT, 1000 BRUXELLES
PROJET D'ORDRE DU JOUR**

- **INTRODUCTION ET APPROBATION DE L'ORDRE DU JOUR**
- **APPROBATION DU COMPTE-RENDU DE LA REUNION DU 10 DECEMBRE 2010**
- **ELECTION D'UN NOUVEAU MEMBRE DU BUREAU**
- **ELECTION D'UN NOUVEAU PRESIDENT**
- **ACTIVITES - actuelles et futures**
- **EVENEMENT(S) EDLM PENDANT LA PRESIDENCE DANOISE DE L'UE, Janvier - Juin 2012**
- **POINTS ADMINISTRATIFS**
 - **Situation financière, entrée des cotisations 2010 et 2011, budget 2011**
 - **Bureau à la Fondation Universitaire**
- **SITE WEB - PRESENTATION D'OPTIONS (avec projection)**
- **CALENDRIER DES REUNIONS 2011 - suggestions**

11 février	CA & Assemblée générale	Brussels
8 ou 15 avril	Bureau	Brussels
27 mai ou 3 juin	CA & Assemblée générale	Brussels
16 ou 23 septembre	Bureau	Brussels
7 ou 14 octobre	Conseil d'Administration	Brussels
2 ou 9 décembre	Bureau	Brussels
- **DIVERS**

New President of ETTW.

At the General Meeting on February 11th Mr. Cristopher Bo Bramsen, Chairman of Danes World Wide, was elected President of ETTW. He succeeds the late Hans Jørgen Helms who was an excellent President of ETTW for a number of years and will be missed by all who have met him or worked with him over the years.

Cristopher Bo Bramsen is a former ambassador for Denmark in many countries. His last posting was in the Far East. It is a tremendous task he has taken upon him not only following Hans Jørgen Helms but also in connection the ETTW activities during the Danish EU Presidency in the first half of 2012. As the new president he will preside over ETTW and take part in all other future activities of ETTW. Please see below.

Bent

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2011**

Draft **MINUTES**

24. May 2011

Those present:

President a.i.: Mr. Simon-Pierre Nothomb, *Union Francophone des Belges à l'Etranger*

Secretary General: Mr. Nicholas Newman, *Association for the Rights of Britons Abroad*

Vice Presidents:

Ms. Noreen Bowden, *GlobalIrish – Ireland*

Mr. Paschalis Papachristopoulos, *World Council of Hellenes Abroad*

Mr. Jean-Claude Séché, *Français du Monde – adfe*

Treasurer: Mr. Koen van der Schaeeghe, *Vlamingen in de Wereld*

Special Delegates:

Mr. Mario Greco, *CIM-Belgio*

Mrs. Karine Henrotte Forsberg, *Swedes Abroad - SVIV*

Assistant Secretary General: Mrs. Marie-Claude Hayoit de Termicourt

Other Members:

Mr. Aldis Austers, *European Latvian Association*

Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen, *Danes Worldwide*

Mr. Ivo Dubois (NL)

Mrs. Anne Marie Dalgaard, *Danes Worldwide*

Mr. Harry Gouvelis, *World Council of Hellenes Abroad*, representing Mr Stefanos Tamvakis

Mrs. Dace Lutere-Thümmel, *European Latvian Association*

Mr. Bernard Mis, *Mission Laïque Française*

Mrs. Tina Nordqvist, *Finland Society Suomi-Seura R.V.*

Invited:

Mr Franklin Mamo, *Maltin fil-Belgju*

1. INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The President opened the meeting with a special welcome for Mrs. Dace Lutere-Thümmel, Chairwoman and Mr. Aldis Austers, Vice-Chairman of the *European Latvian Association*, for whom this was their first meeting as members of the ETTW; for the two candidates for the Presidency, Ambassador Christopher Bo Bramsen and Mr. Paschalis Papachristopoulos; for Mr. Franklin Mamo, Secretary General of the Maltese association in Belgium, *Maltin fil-Belgju*; and for Mr. Harry Gouvelis, who had traveled from South Africa, representing Mr. Stefanos Tamvakis, Chairman of the *World Council of Hellenes Abroad*.

The statutory quorum of at least one third of the members was present or represented.

The agenda was approved with the addition of the budget for the web site to point 7 (administrative matters) and a brief discussion on the direction of the ETTW at the beginning of point 4 (election of a new President).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 DECEMBER 2010

The minutes were approved, as were those of the Board meeting of 24 September 2010 which had been postponed.

3. ELECTION OF A NEW BUREAU MEMBER

Following the death of Mr. Hans Jørgen Helms there was a vacant place on the Board for *Danes Worldwide*, filled by its President, Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen, and there was also a vacant place in the Bureau, whatever the outcome of the election under point 4. It was

decided to propose to the General Assembly that this also be filled by Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen.

The Board meeting was interrupted for the General Assembly to meet and decide upon the Board and Bureau membership of Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen, which it approved.

4. ELECTION OF A NEW PRESIDENT

Following the approval of the Board and Bureau membership of Mr Christopher Bo Bramsen, the Board elected the new President. The two candidates were Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen and Mr. Paschalis Papachristopoulos.

4.1. The Direction of the ETTW

The election itself was preceded by a short discussion of the direction the ETTW should take.

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Mr. Mario Greco noted the following essential points:

- Visibility;
- What we have done so far, e.g. in Casablanca, Stockholm and Bratislava;
- Coordination with all local-level organizations - we need people to be able to talk about the ETTW at for example major anniversary celebrations, such as that of the 150 years of the Italian Republic on 17 March - a member could go to the Italian Embassy to talk;
- The President should be supported not only in Brussels but in all the countries where we have members.

Mrs Karine Henrotte-Forsberg mentioned the following points:

- Finances;
- The European Parliament;
- The European Commission - we needed to press further for proper representation, also with a Commissioner responsible for expatriate European citizens, not only within the EU but also outside it, where the majority resides;
- The next President needs to have knowledge of the situation of expatriates outside the EU;
- Action on the Stockholm Recommendations.

Mr. Harry Gouvelis emphasised the importance of local actions, for example to celebrate Europe Day on the 9th May. He also suggested a “European Diaspora Day”, joint projects on European identity and the creation of a “European Diaspora Forum”.

4.2. The Preparation for the Election

Mr. Paschalis Papachristopoulos presented himself and his experience, expanding on his c.v., as well as his vision for the ETTW.

Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen then presented himself and his experience, expanding on his c.v., as well as how he saw the organisation of the ETTW.

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Two persons, Mme Marie-Claude Hayoit de Termicourt and Mr. Franklin Mamo, who were not eligible to vote, were asked to collect and count the votes, cast by secret ballot.

Proxies had been received from *Nordmanns-Forbundet (NO)* and *the World Association of Slovaks living Abroad*. Fifteen valid votes were cast, ten in favour of Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen and five in favour of Mr. Paschalis Papachristopoulos, who with Mr. Simon-Pierre Nothomb and all the other members present congratulated Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen on his election.

The composition of the Bureau is thus as follows:

President: Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen

Vice-Presidents: Ms Noreen Bowden

Mr. Simon-Pierre Nothomb

Mr. Paschalis Papachristopoulos

Mr. Jean-Claude Séché

Mr. Vladimír Skalský

Secretary General: Mr. Nicholas Newman

Treasurer: Mr. Koen Van der Schaege

Assistant Secretary General: Mrs. Marie-Claude Hayoit

Special Delegates: Mr. Mario Greco

Mrs. Karine Henrotte Forsberg

5. ACTIVITIES - existing and future plans

The Activities Plan of 31 May 2010, amended on 11 June 2010, was reviewed briefly. There had been slow progress on several actions, due largely to lack of time and resources. It was noted that apart from on-going contacts with other organisations and the European institutions, we needed to give more attention to contacts with national governments, especially those holding the EU Presidency. It is against this background and following the proposals of Mrs. Anne-Marie Dalgaard that point 6 below should be seen.

We had responded to several Commission consultations, and the importance of continuing action on citizenship policy was emphasised. Because of the lack of our own funds, it was almost impossible to participate in Commission projects, and we had requested an opening for organisations with no funds of their own. Also, we had emphasised the importance of EU expatriates, who were barely considered. Meetings would be sought with relevant MEPs, notably Messrs Duff and Lamassoure, and with the Commission services concerned.

6. ETTW EVENT(S) DURING DANISH EU PRESIDENCY, January - June 2012

Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen informed the meeting that preliminary planning for a meeting and conference in Copenhagen during the forthcoming Danish EU Presidency was progressing well.

The date suggested was 20 April 2011, the morning being devoted to a meeting of the Board and a General Assembly, the afternoon to a conference centered on a single subject, for example multiple nationality issues or voting rights.

Mr. Hans Jørgen Helms' study on citizenship issues of five years ago would need to be updated.

Mrs. Anne-Marie Dalgaard suggested we should try to use the Danish Presidency to advance these issues, especially bearing in mind that it will be after the upcoming Danish parliamentary election later this year.

Mrs. Tina Nordqvist made a strong plea for an extension of the conference to other citizenship matters, particularly voting rights.

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7. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

7.1. Financial situation, entry of membership subscriptions for 2010 and 2011, budget 2011

Messrs Nicholas Newman and Koen Van der Schaege reminded the meeting of the financial situation namely that for 2010 ETTW had a deficit of Euro 3179.

- Thanks to personal loans from members of the Bureau and others amounting to 1 950 € and to the early payment of 2011 subscriptions by several members, to whom heartfelt thanks were expressed, the bank balance was 1 779 € at the end of 2010 (these figures

may differ slightly from the 2010 accounts, yet to be produced). This at least allowed ETTW to pay for its office space.

Because of this situation and the necessity to repay the personal loans of members in 2011, it would in any case be necessary to increase membership subscriptions to at least partly cover the loss of budgeted income from the defaulting members. As the economies which could be obtained by rescinding the office would only amount to an estimated 1 468 €, in view of extra storage and communications costs, including a post-box, as well as the need to hire meeting rooms more frequently, **it was decided to keep the office and to recommend to the General Assembly to increase membership subscriptions by 25 %**. Members were reminded that despite continuing inflation subscriptions had not been increased for the last five years.

(As this increase had been proposed at the meetings of the 10th December 2010 and the principle accepted, although the decision had not been taken formally through lack of time, it is proposed that this increase be effective for the year 2011).

Mr Jean-Claude Séché had specifically asked for the budgetary aspects of the web site to be discussed. The hosting costs 250 € per year, and it does not seem necessary to pay a specialist for technical aspects or a re-design, even though a complete re-design could cost between say 500 € and 20 000 €. Nonetheless occasional technical interventions by the host organisation may be necessary as in the past, notably for security aspects, but such interventions are not generally onerous.

7.2. Office at the Fondation Universitaire

In view of the relatively meagre economies which would be made possible by rescinding the office, the considerable inconvenience this would cause and Mr Simon-Pierre's offer to try to find a further sharing arrangement that would cover half the expenditure rather than a third as at present, it was decided to keep the office.

8. WEB SITE - PRESENTATION OF OPTIONS (with projection)

Mr. Koen Van der Schaegehe demonstrated a possible re-designed interface to the web site, although with the same contents as at present. He proposed to shift the technical platform from Mambo to Joomla - Joomla being based on Mambo with the same basic characteristics but now a more dynamic development and user community. An advantage of both systems is that several authors can collaborate, with special access rights, not needing the intervention of the webmaster for updates.

The demonstration site is at http://www.viw.be/europeans_world.htm

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A working group would be set up with Messrs Nothomb, Papachristopoulos and Van der Schaegehe (in practice Mr. Newman and Mrs. Hayoit de Termicourt also joined it).

9. MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011 - suggestions

15 April Bureau meeting Brussels

27 May Board and General Assembly Brussels

16 or 23 September Bureau meeting Brussels

7 or 14 October Board meeting Brussels

(NB the 7th having become impossible for the Secretary General he proposes the 14th)

2 or 9 December Bureau meeting Brussels

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, Mr. Simon-Pierre Nothomb congratulated Mr. Christopher Bo Bramsen on his election and closed the meeting.

Brussels, 19 May 2011

**BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY 27 MAY 2011 AT 11:00
FONDATION UNIVERSITAIRE, 11 RUE D'EGMONT, 1000 BRUXELLES**

DRAFT AGENDA

- **INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11 FEBRUARY 2011**
- **ADHESION OF MALTA - Recommendation to the General Assembly**
- **ACTIVITIES - existing and future plans**
- **CONTACTS WITH EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND PARLIAMENT**
- **ETTW EVENT(S) DURING DANISH EU PRESIDENCY, January - June 2012**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
 - **Financial situation, entry of membership subscriptions for 2010 and 2011, budget 2011**
 - **Accounts and Balance Sheet for 2010 - Recommendation to the General Assembly**
- **WEB SITE - OPTIONS AND CURRENT STATE**
- **MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2011 - suggestions**

16 or 23 September	Bureau meeting
Brussels	
7 or 14 October	Board meeting
Brussels	
2 or 9 December	Bureau meeting
Brussels	
- **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

We shall receive the minutes from the board meeting later.

From Paschalis Papachristopoulos, vicepresident of ETTW:

Dear friends

I had the opportunity to participate yesterday 17/3/2010 in the one day conference organised by ECAS in Brussels on the new "**European Citizens Initiative**" (ECI). As you probably know, with the new Lisbon Treaty it has introduced the possibility that when over one million EU citizens present the European Commission with a

proposal for a legal action in a specific policy area, then the European Commission should examine this initiative and if acceptable set out the action/s it intends to do in respond to it.

Following discussions and negotiations between the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament, the legal basis for this "citizens Initiative" was established (regulation EU No 211/2011 at 16-2-2011. The conference examined the practical implementation of this regulation.

Participants:

More than 140 persons from NGO, Citizens movements, academics, research institutions, and from other EU bodies participate in this conference. The morning conference was followed by 4 different workshops in the afternoon with the following themes:

- European Citizens Initiatives and EU Competence
- European Campaigns for launching a successful Citizens Initiatives
- European and National rules to meet the conditions for a successful initiative
- Long term impact of ECI

Main issues – points on the new legislation

- Organising structure a committee consisted at least natural persons coming from at least 7 different member states
- Initiatives should be in line with the Treaties and within the scope of authorise of the European Commission
- Full transparency required in the whole process
- Initiatives should be registered in advance with the European Commission and receive a registration number
- In order to be valid an initiative should collect at least 1 million signatures from at least 7 countries (there is a minimum number of signatures required per each country)
- Signatures can be collected electronically via properly registered and approved ICT systems.
- Certain Member States require proper identification (i.e. Passport No, Registration card, identity card etc.), where other are more relaxed or restrictive.
- National authorities must within 3 months of the end of the petition verify and certify the validity of the collected signatures
- Personal Data protection should be assured by the organisers

This regulation will be applicable on **1st April 2012 !!!!**

However, the conclusions of this conference are that:

- This is a first step towards real direct participatory democracy by the EU citizens.
- There are still a lot to be done before the full implementation:
 - Completion of the open source software to be used for the electronic collection of signatures(to be provided by the Commission for free
 - Clarification of certain implementing rules
 - Nomination of the national authorities which will certify the IT customs and verify the collected signatures of their citizens
- Whilst this could be a very good practice and "tool" for the citizens it would be difficult to implement (at least on the beginning)

I should point out that the regulation could be revised after 3 years (i.e. 2015) and improved where needed. For our association could be an interesting instrument in the long run.

Dear friends

In relation to the message above I would like to inform you that ECAS published on their web site the conclusions of the conference as well as some follow up actions together with the results of their survey.

You can find all these info at the link below:

Paschalis

<http://www.ecas-citizens.eu/content/view/372/360/>

Paschalis Papachristopoulos

From Paschalis Papachristopoulos, vicepresident of ETTW:

Dear friends

The recent tragic events in Japan proved once more the need for consular protection and assistance of EU citizens around the world during emergencies (and not only...).

I believe, that this is a unique opportunity for our organisation to remind the Commission and the European Parliament of our positions and proposals, on this very important issue. More specifically, we should request that the Commission will undertake a number of specific actions as:

- Start and maintain **an information campaign** towards the EU citizens, informing them on their rights once they are abroad. This could be done by; posters in all EU airports (similarly to the posters published on the information campaign for the travellers' rights), pass a regulation that all new passport from 1/1/2012 contain the specific clause
- Create a specific **monitor, complaining mechanism or service at European Level**, so that it would assure that the Member states respect their obligations and moreover EU citizens can place their complaint if they are not serviced properly by the consular authorities abroad.

It is very important to act, and ACT FAST. We must not forget that our Association is mainly a lobby group promoting the interests of EU expatriated citizens (and not a Lions Club). Therefore I would suggest that our secretariat prepare a relevant text and after signed by our president would be send to the president of the Commission, the responsible Commissioner (Ms Reding) and to all EP members.

We need visibility and action and we should not miss this opportunity.

Sincerely

Papachristopoulos Paschalis <<Commission_en_direct.pdf>>

From Members:

Bog Bodies (part two).

The earth goddess Nerthus was possibly to whom some victims were sacrificed, and her ceremonial cart like that found at Dejbjerg, Jutland in 1881-82 (dated to 200 – 100 BC) used in religious processions every spring to ensure a good harvest is a notable example. Her function was overtaken later by the Viking fertility goddess Freyja. She had many names, one of which in Sweden was "horn" or "horr" (flax), and if indeed some of the sacrificial bog bodies were dedicated to her, a noose made of this material would be apposite.

A more recent theory held by certain scholars is that some of these victims were sacrificed to Odin, often represented as wearing a woven or knotted intertwined ring, called the "valknut", which is thought to symbolize the god's power to bind and unbind. The rings can be seen on some of the Gotland Viking Age stones. The naked wooden image of a man and woman, both of more than human height, were found in a peat bog at Braak, Schlesvig and may represent the twin gods Freyr and Freyja, devoted to fertility during the first millennium after Christ.

Irrespective of which god was the one sacrificed to, the reasons must have varied from region to region, and depending on the situation at the time, for example, in years of crisis, whether war or crop/cattle failure. That this was thought necessary is mentioned in several sagas, and the fact that the best preserved bodies such as Grauballe and Lindow Man indicates that persons of high status, perhaps chiefs, were often those sacrificed, seems to bear out these stories.

Recent finds in Ireland has given the basis for at least one scholar - Eamoun Kelly, Keeper of Irish Antiquities at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin, to postulate that Old-Croghan Man, found in 2003 (one of about 80 bodies found on the island) was of high status and possibly a king. At about this period there were said to be 150 kings in Ireland. Old-Croghan Man had an amulet of bronze with Celtic markings on one arm and after stabbing to death his body was mutilated, after which small wreaths (withies) of twisted hazel placed on the body. An ancient Irish marsh victim found in 1821 at Carragh had a band of hazel wands around his throat, signifying actual or symbolic garroting. Other victims with sticks or wands of hazel have been found at Undelev (Denmark), Wendebjerg Man (Schleswig - Holstein), and Lindow 3 had eaten some crushed hazel nuts just before he died.

In 1948 two bog bodies were found near Stenløse on Zealand, one of which was a young woman with a cord of plant fibre wound around her neck, and other cases are known from Stenstrup bog, Zealand and Bolkilde bog, Als in southern Jutland, all of the latter being from the Neolithic Age. One of three Borremose bodies found in 1946 at Aars, northern Jutland, was of a man strangled with a plant fibre rope, which has been dated to 650 BC.

Another recently discovered Irish bog body at Clonycavan, showed signs of violence before being cast into the waters - a broken nose, a shattered skull and his abdomen had been cut open. It is impossible to say if he was killed because he was perhaps a coward or a homosexual, for example, offences mentioned by Tacitus, or to appease the gods.

That sacrifices in times of war, famine or other natural catastrophies occurred is testified, for example in Erik the Red's Saga from about the middle of the 13th century, and the three Formaldarsögur mythical/heroic sagas from a similar period, in which in certain instances it is related that kings of the Swedish Ynglingar dynasty were put to death. One in particular was sacrificed to Ceres (Freyja) at a time of crop failure, after which a good harvest was produced.

The curious story of Queen Gunhild is worth telling. She was buried in a bog south of Jelling (Jutland) and found in 1835. Because of the bog's name : Gunnelmoose, it was thought that she was Erik Bloodaxe's consort, particularly since there is a myth that Queen Gunhild was drowned and staked down in a bog by Harald Bluetooth. However, radiocarbon dating has shown that the corpse to be from about 490 BC, over a

thousand years earlier. She now lies in a wooden casket in Sct. Nicholas's Church in Vejle. Erik Bloodaxe was Viking king of York for two periods before being killed in 954.

One bog body which has not been found is that of King Abel of Denmark (1250 - 52) who died fighting in northern Germany and was originally buried in Schleswig Cathedral. However, apparitions were later reported in the cathedral and it was decided to remove the body and sink it in a marshy area of Pöl Skov outside of the city!

It will never be known what the attitude and thoughts of the people involved in these sacrifices were, that meant the victim undergoing in many cases gruesome, cruel deaths, but some parallels can be drawn with which we know of sacrifices in Central and South America. Here it was often considered a privilege, for example, to be the parents of a young girl selected to appease the gods for the sake of society, and they went willingly to their deaths. It seems that a similar attitude was shown by many of the victims from the Old World that have been found, who appear to have been elevated members of the clan or tribe, even kings.

For those who may be interested in this fascinating subject, here is a list of publications from which these notes have been compiled.

1. The Land of the Tollund Man (Palle Larring) London, 1957
2. The Bog people : Iron Age Man Preserved (P.V.Glob) London, 1969
3. People of the Wetlands : Bogs, Bodies and Lake Dwellers (Byrony & Joan Coles) London, 1989
4. Grauballe Man (ed. Pauline Asingh & Niels Lynnerup) Aarhus, 2008
5. Bog Bodies (ed. R.C.Turner & R.G. Scaife) London, 1995
6. Udødeliggjorte I Mosen (Wijmand van der Sanden) Amsterdam, 1996
7. Dying for the Gods (Miranda Aldhouse Green) Stroud, Gloucs., 2002
8. National Geographic : March, 1987
9. National Geographic : September, 2007
10. Grauballemanden (Pauline Asingh) Copenhagen, 2009

Ernest Jackson

From Joe McKernan:

On ageing - (from "The over-60s joke book")

"When I was young the Dead Sea was still alive"

The best part of being an oldie is that you get to be eccentric and young people have to be polite and patronise your idiosyncracies"

"From the earliest times the old have rubbed it into the young that they are wiser than they, and before the young had discovered what nonsense this was they were old too, and it profited them to carry on the imposture."

Everything that goes up must come down. But there comes a time when not everything that's down can come up.

A young mind in a healthy body is a wonderful thing. Especially for an old man with an open night

Happiness is: A good martini, a good meal, a good cigar and a good woman... or a bad woman, depending on how much happiness you can stand.

I was brought up to respect my elders and now I don't have to respect anybody.

At my age, the only thing hot waiting for me in my dressing room is a bowl of soup.

If you live to be one hundred you've got it made. Very few people die past that age.

When I was young I was called a rugged individualist. When I was in my fifties I was considered eccentric. Here I am doing and saying the same things I did then and I'm labeled senile.

You know you're getting old when you stoop to tie your shoelaces and wonder what else you could do while you're down there."

From "Barney Miller -

Rhonda Haleck: My old man took me to ball game once when I was a kid. I think we saw the Mets and the Cubs.

Wojo: Oh yeah, that's always a good game.

Rhonda Haleck: He got me a little pennant, a hot dog and a beer. We had really great seats.

Wojo: Sounds like your dad was a nice guy.

Rhonda Haleck: He was a mugger. Some guy he rolled had season tickets. Halfway through the game, a cop showed up. Dragged us both out of there.

Wojo: Oh.

Rhonda Haleck: Wanna hear about the puppy I got for Christmas?

Inspector Kelly: [comes into the Squad Room dressed in a patrolman's uniform] Patrolman Kelly reporting for duty.

Det. Sgt. Chano Amenguale: For an undercover cop, that's a pretty dumb disguise.

From "The Laughtermakers" by David Nathan, published by Peter Owen Limited in 1971. An outline of post-war comedy in Britain.

(Silas the puritan) Thou art spending all the Royal Coffers on this female person Nell Gwynne. But yesterday you sold the Crown Jewels to buy her a sedan chair with a sunshine roof.

King Charles: So I blued a couple of baubles - 'tis of no account.

[Silas] (reproachfully) But you're forever blueing baubles.

Roman soldiers have been told not to fraternise with the ancient Britons - "You know Cæsar" said Cato Lascivious (Dick Bentley) to his woad-covered girlfriend Ethlfreda (June Whitfield), You can argue with him till you're blue in the face".

"But I am blue in the face" answered Ethelfreda.

A couple were on a caravan holiday in France, where You can actually travel inside a caravan. The husband was very keen to get an early start heading South, and his wife wanted a lie-in, so he got up early without waking her, hitched up the caravan and got going. A couple of hours later while he was stopped at traffic lights in a small town, his wife

woke up, put on her dressing gown, and stumbled out of the caravan to go to the loo. As she got out, the lights changed and she was left, semi-clad, in the middle of a French shopping-centre. The husband drove along merrily until suddenly a Vespa scooter shot in front of him with a woman in her night-clothes on the pillion.

"Funny Lot, these French" he thought to himself.....

Spike Milligan, 1948 -

"I didn't work at all, just wandered around. I'd meet Harry (Secombe) then I'd meet Peter Sellers who was at the Windmill Theatre. They were successful. Somehow or other I ended up at Jimmy Grafton's pub in Westminster and I used to tell jokes. Harry Secombe was there and I'd play the piano a bit and Harry would sing and Peter would come in and do a few impressions of Kenneth Horne and others. Michael Bentine was there. We all used to laugh a lot. We had a strange sense of humour." (The germ of the Goon show! How I wish I could have been a customer then!)

He got into joke writing.

"They were mad jokes.

"Dear Sir, my wife has just made a pancake ten feet in circumference. Is this a record?" "I don't know, try playing it on the gramophone"."

Prisoners of war called their German guards goons, but I got it from Popeye. When the show was well-established there was a prisoner-of-war play on and the chaps were digging a tunnel and one of them had to say "Quick, the goons". The first night the place exploded and they had to cut it from the play".

Some samples of Goon humour -

The emergency service had a call from a circus to say the india-rubber man had his head caught in the bars of a cage.

"Have you tried to get him out?"

"Yerse, the strong mann's been pulling on 'is feet for the last half-hour."

"OK. We'll send an ambulance with a stretcher"

"Stretcher? Blimey, he's eighteen feet long already."

Harry Secombe reminiscences about the war (He showed early talent as an

impressionist!) -

"The CO was very Sandhurst. He had a batman called Probert who was servile, cringy and smarmy when the CO was there and called him horrible names when he wasn't. One day they all went off on an exercise leaving me to watch the office, and the batman who was supposed to make the fires and help sort things out. By 8.30 they had all gone so I called up the stairs to Probert, who was in the CO's room. "F***" off he said, so I thought I'd put on Carstairs' voice and said "Probert"

"Coming sir" he shouted and dashed down the stairs and saw me. "You F B" he said and went back upstairs thinking he was set for the day. It started to rain and about 10 minutes later Carstairs came back for his mac. He stood at the foot of the stairs and shouted "Probert!"

"Bollocks" said Probert.

Carstairs couldn't believe his ears. He looked at me and shouted again "Probert!"

"I'll beat your bleeding ears in" shouted Probert.

Carstairs rushed upstairs and found Probert lying on his bed smoking his fags. He couldn't understand why Probert tried to put the blame on me.

THE MINER

PETER COOK SOLO

Yes, I could have been a judge but I never had the Latin, never had the Latin for the judging. I just never had sufficient to get through the rigorous judging exams. They're very rigorous, the judging exams. They're noted for their rigor. People come staggering out saying, "My God, what a rigorous exam!" And so I became a miner instead. A coal miner. I managed to get through the mining exams – they're not very rigorous. They only ask you one question. They say, "Who are you?" And I got 75% on that.

Of course, it's quite interesting work, getting hold of lumps of coal all day, it's quite interesting.

Because the coal is a quite interesting substance created in a most unusual way, because God didn't just say, "Let's have some coal," like he did with some of the other amenities. He went about it in a more roundabout and interesting way – to make the world a bit more

interesting for us all. He blew all the trees down. He did – he got a good wind going and blew them all down and then very gradually over a period of three million years, he changed them into coal so it wasn't noticeable to the average passer-by. It was all part of his wonderful over-all scheme – his wonderful long-term plan for the universe. People at the time didn't quite see it that way – people who were standing under the trees. They rather missed the point. And instead of shouting out, "Hurrah, coal in three million years," they tended to exclaim more along the lines of, "oh dear, trees falling on us. That's the last thing we want." And of course their wish was granted - for most of them it was the last thing they got. So they had no cause to grumble against the deity, God bless him.

The trouble with it is the people. I'm not saying you get a load of riff-raff down the mine, I'm not saying that, I'm just saying we had a load of riff-raff down my mine. Very boring conversationalists, extremely boring. All they talk about is what goes on in the mine. Extremely boring. If you were searching for a word to describe the conversations that go on down the mine, boring would spring to your lips. Oh God! They're very boring. If ever you want to hear things like "Hullo, I've found a bit of coal." "Have you really?" Yes, no doubt about it, this black substance is coal all right." "Jolly good, the very thing we're looking for." It's not enough to keep the mind alive, is it? WHOOPS!

Did you notice for no apparent reason I went WHOOPS? It's an impediment I picked up from being down in the mine – WHOOPS! Cause one day I was walking along in the dark, WHOOPS! I saw the body of a dead pit pony, - WHOOPS! Unexpectedly. And that's the reason why I couldn't have been a judge. It destroys the dignity of the court, because one day I might have been up there sentencing the criminal away and saying, "I sentence you to WHOOPS!" And you see, under English law, that would have to stand. So all in all I would rather have been a judge than a coal miner, because being a miner, as soon as you get too old and tired and sick and stupid to do the job properly, you have to go. Well, the very opposite applies with the judges. So all in all I would rather have been a judge than a miner, because I've always been after the trappings of great luxury. I really have – and yet all I've got hold of are the trappings of great poverty. I've got hold of the wrong load of trappings – and a rotten load of trappings they are too. Ones I could very well do without.

Joe McKernan

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