

AITA/IATA asbl

31st World Congress

Monaco 2013

Volume 1

Contents

Congress Programme		Page 2
Agenda of the General Assembly		Page 2
AITA/IATA asbl Constitution		Page 4
AITA/IATA asbl Bye-laws (2011)		Page 8
Standing Orders of the General Assembly		Page 15
Call for Nominations for Election		Page 17
Renewal of the Executive Board of AITA/IATA asbl		Page 18
Electoral Process and Timetable		Page 19
Statements of intent:		
Candidature for President - Elect	Rob Van Genechten	Page 20
Candidature for Treasurer	Villy Dall	Page 21
French Speaking Secretary	Beatrice Cellario	Page 23
	Philippe Garcia	Page 24
Spanish Speaking Secretary	Jorge Crespi	Page 25
Co-ordinator for Children and Youth	Josef Hollos	Page 27
President's Report to Congress 2011 – 2013 and Action Plan and Strategic Vision 2013 – 2015		Page 28
Delegates' Nomination Form		Page 35
Proxy Form		Page 36

Programme of the 31st AITA/IATA asbl Congress

22 August 2013

09:30 World Congress opens with various meetings of Regional Committees

23 August 2013

09:30 Official welcome to delegates from Monaco

10:30 Official opening of Day 1 of the General Assembly

24 August 2013

09:30 Day 2 of the General Assembly

12:30 Official closing of the General Assembly

14:00 – 15:30 Discussion on the European Theatre Forum – CEC, CIFTA, NEATA

25 August 2013

10:00 – 12:30 and 14:00 – 16:00

Discussion on the structure and future of AITA/IATA asbl – led by Dirk de Corte

16:00 World Congress closes

Agenda of the 31st AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly

1. Official Opening of the 31st General Assembly
2. Introduction and Welcome from the World President of AITA/IATA asbl
3. Election of the Presiding Chair of the 31st General Assembly Vote of G.A.
4. Nomination of Tellers Committee (3 people) Vote of G.A.
5. Standing Orders of the General Assembly
6. Roll Call of Members present and confirmation of voting rights
7. Ratification of New Members 2011 - 2013 Vote of G.A.
8. Call for written questions to Candidates for Election to the Executive Board
9. Nomination of Drafting Committee (3 people) Vote of G.A.
10. Approval of the Minutes of the 30th General Assembly Vote of G.A.
11. Presentation of Representatives of International Theatre: Organisations in a relationship with AITA/IATA asbl
12. Council Activity Report for 2011 – 2013
 - a. Council
 - b. Standing Committee for Children and Youth
13. Approval of the Activity Reports Vote of G.A.
14. Reports of Regional Committees and Service Centres
 - a. General Activity
 - b. Adoption of new constitutions of the Regions Vote of G.A.
 - c. Adoption of changes to the Regional constitutions Vote of G.A.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 15. Treasurer's and Auditor's Report on accounts 2011 – 2012 | Vote of G.A. |
| a. Solidarity Fund | |
| b. Culture and Education Fund | |
| 16. Amendments to the Bye-laws of AITA/IATA asbl | Vote of G.A. |
| 17. Preparation for the Elections | |
| a. Statement of Intent from the Candidate for the Presidency | |
| President-Elect | Rob Van Genechten |
| b. Statements of Intent from Candidates for the Executive Board | |
| Treasurer | Villy Dall |
| French Speaking Secretary | Beatrice Cellario |
| | Philippe Garcia |
| Spanish Speaking Secretary | Jorge Crespi |
| Co-ordinator for Children and Youth | Josef Hollos |
| 18. Elections | Vote of G.A. |
| 19. Regional Representatives elected to Council | Ratification of G.A. |

The General Assembly goes onto recess to allow the retiring Executive Board and Council members to leave the panel and to be replaced by the newly elected members. The General Assembly resumes with the new Executive Board and Council.

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 20. Budget for 2013 - 2014 | Vote of G.A. |
| 21. Membership Fees for 2014 - 20015 | Vote of G.A. |
| 22. Other proposals submitted for consideration by General Assembly | Vote of G.A. |
| 23. Selection of the host venue for the 32 nd World Congress in 2015 | Vote of G.A. |
| 24. Announcement of the 12 th World Festival of Children's Theatre in 2014 in Lingen, Germany | |
| 25. Announcement of the 13 th World Festival of Children's Theatre in 2016 in Stratford Ontario, Canada | |
| 26. Closing of the 31 st General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl | |

The timing of the Agenda is subject to change and is intended as a guide only.

This UK Standard English version of the AITA/IATA asbl Constitution is a translated version for information only. In cases of difficulty of interpretation, the only legally binding Constitution is that in the Standard French language.

AITA/IATA asbl CONSTITUTION

Valid from July 18th 2003

We, the undersigned founding members:

- La FEDERATION NATIONALE DES COMPAGNIES DE THEATRE ET D'ANIMATION (F.N.C.T.A.), an association what has a legal person according to French Law, 12 rue de la chaussée d'Antin, F-75009 Paris, France, represented by Mr. Jacques LEMAIRE, retired, 7 rue Ambroise Paré, F-95520 Osny, France;
- FUNDACION ARUBANO DI ARTE (FUNDARTE), an association what has a legal person according to Arubian Law, Paradera 161, Aruba, represented by Mr. Leo TROMP, consultant, Groen van Prinstererlaan 255, NL-HR2555 Den Haag, Nederland;
- OPENDOEK vzw, Amateurtheater Vlaanderen, an association what has a legal person according to Belgian Law, Arenbergstraat 17, 2000 Antwerpen Belgique, represented by Mr. Robrecht VAN GENECHTEN, administrator, Hallebaan 5B, 2520 Ranst, België ;
- Le STUDIO DE MONACO, an association what has a legal person according to the Monaco Law, 1 Boulevard Albert 1^{er}, MC - 98000, Monaco, represented by Mr. Pierre CELLARIO, teacher, 2 rue des Orangers, Monaco ;

have decided to constitute, under Belgian Law, a non-profit organisation (NPO) and to make up its constitution as follows.

Chapter 1 - Name, Registered office, Objectives, Duration

Article 1

The association is named "AITA/IATA asbl", referred to hereafter as the Association.

Article 2

The registered office of the Association is established at Maison de la Bellone, rue de Flandre, 46 B-1000 Brussels, Belgium.

Article 3

The Association is formed for the purpose of:

- a. Fostering dramatic art by all theatrical groups of the world devoted, without remuneration, to artistic and cultural aims;
- b. Promoting by permanent international contact and relationships those activities common to its members;
- c. Co-ordinating the actions of its members in their purpose of enriching human experience and educating through the medium of theatre;
- d. Facilitating international exchanges between all groups belonging to amateur theatre.

To establish these aims, the Association will employ the following means:

- a. The organisation or participation in the organisation of international congresses, conferences, seminars, festivals, courses, exhibitions and any other activity;
- b. The publication or assistance in the publication and distribution of books, periodicals and stage plays;
- c. The maintenance of one or more information centres or study centres on amateur theatre;
- d. Co-operating with other international organisations having similar aims or devoted to theatre and culture in general.

The Association may undertake or support any initiative and organise any activity that may contribute to establishing its aims or objectives.

Article 4

The Association has been constituted for an unlimited period of time.

Chapter 2 - Members, Appointments, Resignations, Fees

Article 5

The number of Members of the Association is unlimited. Its minimum is fixed to three. The first Members are the undersigned founding Members.

Article 6

The composition of the Association is based on the principle of national representation.

The Association recognises Full Members and Affiliate Members.

A Full Member is an officially appointed national centre representing amateur theatre activity on a national basis. An Affiliate Member is a federation, a committee or a similar body representing a part of the amateur theatre activity in a country, in which no officially appointed national centre has yet been established, but can be considered to be in the process of growth. Each Affiliate Member shall work towards the establishment of such an officially appointed national centre.

Full Members, whose fees are in order, are entitled to six votes. Affiliate Members, whose fees are in order, are entitled to two votes.

Article 7

The admission, the resignation, the suspension and the exclusion of Members are decided by the General Assembly of the Association by a simple majority, following the proposition of the Administrative Council. Every request for admission to or resignation from the Association will be made to the President of the Association and addressed to the Secretariat of the Association.

Article 8

Resigning, suspended or excluded members, as well as their heirs or those having rights over a deceased member, have no rights over the social funds. They cannot claim or request statements, rendering of accounts, nor affix seals and inventories.

Article 9

Each year the members will be required to pay their membership fee, which is to be determined by the General Assembly of the Association. The maximum amount of this membership fee is set at Euro 50.000.

In addition to the payment of their membership fee, all members will, within their capacities, provide the Association with their active assistance and their commitment.

Chapter 3 - Administration, daily operations

Article 10

The Association is administrated by an Administrative Council, referred to hereafter as the Council, elected by the General Assembly of the Association. The Council is composed of two bodies: the Executive Board and the Board of Representatives.

To compose the Executive Board, the General Assembly of the Association must elect at least one President of the Association, one Secretary and one Treasurer.

The Board of Representatives is composed by one representative, proposed by each regional committee of the Association and appointed by the General Assembly of the Association.

Article 11

The President of the Association is elected two years before starting his term of office, which will run for four years. Presidential terms of office cannot run consecutively. In exceptional circumstances, the General Assembly of the Association can extend the President's mandate until the next General Assembly. To take this decision a majority of two thirds of the members present at that General Assembly of the Association is required.

All other members of the Administrative Council, referred to hereafter as the Council Members, are elected for a period of four years. The number of terms that may be served is unlimited but a maximum of two terms may run consecutively.

Article 12

The Council is called together by the President of the Association by the means of normal mail, by electronic mail or by fax addressed to each Council Member and will convene at least twice in each period between meetings of the General Assembly of the Association. The agenda for the meetings of the Council has to be declared in the communication calling the meeting.

Article 13

The Council has unlimited executive powers relating to the administration and the management of the Association.

The Council appoints either itself or by proxy all deputies, all employees and members of staff of the Association and dismisses them; it determines their job description and their salary.

Unless a power is explicitly stated under Belgian Law, under this Constitution or under the Bye-laws of the Association, to belong exclusively to the General Assembly of the Association, all powers are considered to be under the authority of the Council.

Article 14

The Council has the right to delegate the daily management of the Association, including the authority of signature in relation to the daily management, to a Secretary General whose powers, salary and benefits will be determined by the Council.

Article 15

Legal actions, whether as plaintiff or defendant, are instigated or supported by the President or the Secretary General of the Association, in the name of the Council of the Association.

Article 16

The Association is represented in legal agreements, including those where a public officer or a law official intervenes, and in legal actions:

- a. Either by the President of the Association, or in his absence, by the Vice-President of the Association, if one has been elected;
- b. Or by two Council Members;
- c. Or, for all financial operations, solely by the Treasurer of the Association.

Chapter 4 - General Assembly

Article 17

The General Assembly has legislative power within the Association. Powers that are reserved for the General Assembly of the Association are the following:

- a. Alterations to the Constitution and the Bye-laws;
- b. The election and dismissal of Council Members, including the President of the Association;
- c. The approval of the budget and the accounts;
- d. The voluntary dissolution of the Association;
- e. The admission, the resignation, the suspension and the exclusion of members of the Association.

Article 18

The General Assembly of the Association is convened by the Council by the means of normal mail, by electronic mail or by fax addressed to each member, at least two months before the General Assembly and signed by the President, in the name of the Council. The agenda for the General Assembly of the Association has to be declared in the communication convening the Assembly. Each proposition signed by at least one twentieth of the Members of the Association is added to the agenda of the General Assembly of the Association. The General Assembly of the Association cannot vote on any issues that are not included in the agenda.

Article 19

The Council or at least one fifth of the Members of the Association may call for an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Association at any time. Each Extraordinary General Assembly will be held on the day, the hour and the location mentioned in the communication calling the Assembly. All members of the Association need to be invited to an Extraordinary General Assembly.

Article 20

Each member has the right to attend every General Assembly of the Association and may be represented by proxy. All Members, that have paid their membership fee for the corresponding year, have the right to vote, each having the number of votes appropriate to their membership category.

Article 21

The General Assembly is chaired by the President of the Association or by any other chair elected by the General Assembly at the beginning of the Assembly.

Article 22

The General Assembly is validly composed irrespective of the number of members present or represented, unless Belgian Law dictates otherwise. All decisions are taken by a majority of votes unless they relate to the Constitution, the Bye-laws or the dissolution of the Association. All decisions of the General Assembly are recorded in the form of minutes and signed by the President of the Association and a Secretary. The record is kept at the registered office, where all members and third parties may consult it.

Article 23

The decisions taken by the General Assembly of the Association and relating to the Constitution are dictated by Article 8 of the Law of 27th June, 1921 and all later changes made to this law. Therefore they require a majority of two thirds of the members present at that General Assembly of the Association.

The decisions taken by the General Assembly of the Association and relating to the dissolution of the Association require a majority of three quarters of the members present at that General Assembly of the Association.

The decisions taken by the General Assembly of the Association and relating to the Bye-laws require a majority of two thirds of the members present at that General Assembly of the Association.

Chapter 5 - Financial Year, Accounts and Balance

Article 24

The financial year will run from 1st January until 31st December of each year. Every year on 31st December a statement of the accounts of the past year will be produced together with the budget for the next year. Both the statements of the accounts and the budget will be presented for approval to the next General Assembly of the Association.

Chapter 6 - Dissolution, Liquidation

Article 25

In case of voluntary dissolution of the Association, the General Assembly will appoint two liquidators and determine their powers.

Article 26

In any case of voluntary or judicial dissolution of the Association, at any time and for any reason, the net assets of the disbanded Association will be allocated to an association involved in similar works and with similar aims to the disbanded Association, as agreed by the General Assembly of the Association.

Article 27

All that is not explicitly stated in this Constitution or the Bye-laws of the Association, will be determined by Belgian Law, ruling non-profit organisations.

Chapter 7 - Language

Article 28

The languages to be employed in all official business conducted by the Association are French, English and Spanish. In case of difficulties of interpretation, the French language will take precedence.

Made on July 18th 2003, Brussels

Bye-laws of AITA/IATA asbl

International Amateur Theatre Association

I. OBJECTIVES - MEANS

Article 1

AITA/IATA asbl is formed for the purpose of:

- a. - fostering dramatic art by all theatrical groups of the world devoted, without remuneration, to artistic and cultural aims.**
- b. - promoting by permanent international contact and relationships those activities common to its Members.**
- c. - co-ordinating the action of its Members in their purpose of enriching human experience and educating through the medium of the theatre.**
- d. - facilitating international exchanges between all groups belonging to amateur theatre.**

Article 2

In furtherance of these aims, the Association will establish a Council of Administration, designated "The Council", and composed in accordance with Articles 13-21. Its aims will be achieved by:

- a.** - the organisation or participation in the organisation of international congresses, conferences, seminars, festivals, courses, exhibitions and all other activities useful in carrying out the Association's aims;
- b.** the publication or assistance in the publication and distribution of books, periodicals and stage plays;
- c.** the maintenance of one or more centres for documentation and studies of amateur theatre;
- d.** the participation in the work of other international organisations pursuing similar aims or devoted to theatre and culture in general.

Article 3

The Association has been constituted with no political, racial, sexist or religious commitment. It will not interfere in any national activity.

II. COMPOSITION

Article 4

The composition of the Association is based on the principle of national representation.

Article 5

AITA/IATA asbl is composed of National Centres or similar groups devoted to amateur theatre, which have been properly constituted and whose affiliation has been confirmed by the General Assembly. These may be classed as Full Members or Affiliate Members.

a. Full Members / National Centres

- (1) A Full Member is a National Centre, the recognised body representing amateur theatre on a national basis.
- (2) AITA/IATA asbl, without interfering in the internal politics of any country, will endeavour to obtain the Constitutions of National Centres which represent amateur theatre movement in their respective countries. After a period of at least two years as an Affiliate Member and subject to approval by the General Assembly, an Affiliate Member becomes a National Centre and thereby a Full Member of AITA/IATA asbl.

b. Affiliate Members

In the case where a National Centre has not yet been established, the General Assembly can accept as an Affiliate Member any federation, committee or similar body representing the amateur theatre activity of a country which can be considered to be in a process of growth. Such a Member shall work towards the swift establishment of a National Centre.

If an Affiliate Member does not succeed in establishing a fully representative national organisation within the period of 4 years after its admission, its affiliation to AITA/IATA asbl will be automatically cancelled unless the General Assembly decides exceptionally to extend its membership by another 2 consecutive years.

In some specific cases of autonomous territories, the representative organisation of the Territory can be granted the status of Affiliate Member. The Member States of a National Federation or a National Confederation are not considered as autonomous territories for the application of this article. The autonomous territories are not affected by the provision of 4 years as defined above.

III. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Article 6

- a.** The General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl is composed of all Full Members and Affiliate Members - whose Membership Subscriptions are in order - present or represented. It has the power of final decision. It will meet every two years. AITA/IATA asbl Associates may attend.
- b.** The Council of AITA/IATA asbl constitutes the Organising Committee and nominates the Chairman of the General Assembly. This nomination is subject to ratification by the General Assembly at the opening of the session. (See Article - d).

Article 7

An extraordinary General Assembly will be held within three months whenever one-fifth of the Full Members express such a wish in a written application to the President with a copy to the Secretary General (if appointed). Such application must clearly define points on which the General Assembly must decide.

A General Assembly may also take place whenever the Council considers it necessary.

Article 8

Amongst other duties, the General Assembly will be required to:

- a.** elect every four years the President of the Association and every two years half of the members of the Executive Board in compliance with Article 14
- b.** ratify the election of representatives from the Regional Committees in compliance with Article 17;
- c.** receive reports from the Council and, subject to approval, accept them;
- d.** ratify the nomination for Chairman of the Assembly at the opening of the session (See Article 6b);
- e.** ratify decisions taken by the Council concerning the admission of new Members. This act of ratification must feature as a separate item for each candidate on the agenda of the General Assembly;
- f.** decide its two-yearly programme.

Article 9

The languages to be employed in all official business conducted by the Association are French, English, and Spanish. In case of difficulties of interpretation, the French language will take precedence.

Article 10

The Council is responsible for communicating to all Members the agenda of the next General Assembly, at least two months before the date on which it will be held.

Article 11

All decisions of the General Assembly, except in the case of Articles of the Constitution, unless otherwise specified, will be taken by a simple majority. Equal votes, for and against, will be considered as a rejection of the motion.

Full Members, whose Membership Subscriptions are in order, are entitled to 6 votes.

Affiliate Members, whose Membership Subscriptions are in order, are entitled to 2 votes.

Those Members who are prevented from attending a General Assembly may arrange to delegate their voting rights to another Member. This delegation must be signed by the chairman of the body represented. No Member can carry more than one such delegation of authority.

An elected Member of the Executive Board (as defined in Article 14a) may not be a delegate of his/her country at the General Assembly and may not accept any proxy duties from any Member of the Association.

Any person elected to the Board of Representatives (as defined in Article 17) may carry the mandate of his/her Regional Assembly to present the Regional views to the General Assembly on any item of the agenda.

Article 12

The decisions legally taken by the General Assembly are binding for all Members of the Association, including those absent at the time the decisions were taken.

The minutes of the General Assembly will be prepared by the three Secretaries and communicated to each Member within 3 weeks of the first meeting of the Executive Board following the General Assembly. After ratification by the next General Assembly, they will be signed by the President.

IV. COUNCIL AND GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF AITA/IATA asbl

Article 13

The Council of AITA/IATA asbl consists of two chambers: the Executive Board and the Board of Representatives.

Article 14

a. Executive Board - The Executive Board, elected by the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly, is composed of The President and Officers as described below:

i. The President

The President of the Association, elected two years ahead of taking office and who will serve for a single term of four years (See Article 14 c).

Following his/her election as President Elect and before commencing his/her term of office as President, he/she has the right to attend all meetings of the Association.

ii. Officers

Officers specifically elected by the General Assembly for a period of four years for the following functions:

- a Vice-President, who has delegated authority from the President when necessary;
 - a Treasurer;
 - three Secretaries, English-speaking, French-speaking, and Spanish-speaking;
 - a Co-ordinator for the Standing Committee for Children and Youth.
- b.** Candidates for all these functions require authorisation from their own National Centre or an Affiliate Member in their country (see Article 5b), and support from at least two other Members (see Article 5a + 5b). Only individuals involved in the amateur theatre of their own country are eligible.
- c.** The mandate of the President of the Association is not renewable consecutively. In exceptional circumstances, the General Assembly may extend the mandate of the President by a maximum of two years up to the next General Assembly. This decision requires a two-thirds majority of those Members present or represented.
- d.** At every General Assembly half the officers of the Executive Board as specified in Article 14 a ii must stand down. They are available for re-election for one consecutive four year term only. An individual who has served two consecutive terms as an officer of the Executive Board is eligible for election as President.
- e.** An elected individual may only have their mandate removed on grounds of serious misconduct. Any dismissal requires a 2/3 majority of the Members present or represented at the General Assembly. The Council can take preliminary measures by removing the responsibilities of this individual. Any such measures require a 2/3 majority of Council Members, awaiting confirmation by the next General Assembly.
- f.** No nation may have more than one elected individual on the Executive Board.

Article 15

The Executive Board will carry the mandate of the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly and Council to implement all adopted decisions. Further, it will prepare policy and programme proposals for approval by the plenary session of the Council.

It will meet no less than twice a year.

Article 16

If a seat on the Executive Board becomes vacant, the Council may make a temporary replacement - without voting rights, which will be valid until the next General Assembly.

Article 17

The Board of Representatives is composed of: one Representative, democratically elected by each AITA/IATA asbl Region, for a term of four years. Representatives are available for re-election for one consecutive term only. The Representatives of the Regions will take office in Council following ratification of their election by the next AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly.

If a Regional Representative is not present or represented at two consecutive plenary sessions the Regional Committee may be required by Council to elect another Representative to fill the vacancy without voting rights. This Representative will take office in Council subject to ratification by the following AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly.

Article 18

The plenary session of the Executive Board and the Board of Representatives constitutes the Council of the Association.

The Council is convened no less than twice between AITA/IATA asbl General Assemblies, for the purpose of:

- a. approving the report of the Executive Board for the past period;
- b. deciding on proposals coming from the Executive Board;
- c. deciding on proposals coming from the Regions;
- d. discussing questions of general policy concerning the Association as a whole;
- e. deciding on the Standing Orders of the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly;
- f. drafting changes to the Constitution and Bye-laws of AITA/IATA asbl.

For Council recommendations and decisions to be valid they require the voting presence of at least 2/3 of the Regional Representatives, and at least 2/3 of the Executive Board.

In the event of a Regional Representative being unable to attend a Council meeting a proxy may be given to another member of the Council or he/she can ask the Regional President to represent him/her with voting rights at the meeting.

In between two formal meetings, the President may consult the Council Members by electronic mail and/or fax messages in order to pass an urgent decision. In addition, should a minimum of 50% of Council Members require a decision on an urgent matter, to be communicated to the President in writing (E-mail or fax is acceptable), this consultation will take place within 15 days. To be valid the decisions require the same quorum and qualified majority as in formal meetings. Any such decision will be incorporated in the minutes of the following Council meeting.

Article 19

The Council will nominate an independent Auditor, to be confirmed by the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly. The Council can invite the Auditor to attend plenary sessions of the Council without voting rights.

Article 20

If necessary the Council will appoint a Secretary General. He/she will attend meetings of the Executive Board, as well as plenary sessions of the Council, without voting rights.

The Secretary General will be responsible to the Executive Board for the implementation of international policies and decisions as adopted by the General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl.

Article 21

The Council may grant provisional admission to new Members, which must, however, be ratified by the next General Assembly, as provided for in Article 8 e.

The Council can nominate - with a majority of 2/3 of the present or represented Council Members - one or more co-ordinators to carry precise duties. These co-ordinator(s) can be called by the President to

participate in an advisory capacity to Executive Board meetings and/or Council plenary sessions. All nominations can be withdrawn by Council with a majority of 2/3 of the present or represented Council Members or by the dismissal of the person involved.

V. REGIONAL COMMITTEES / CONTINENTAL SERVICE CENTRES

Article 22

Members of AITA/IATA asbl belonging to one particular geographic entity or a common culture will be grouped into Regional Committees. The General Assembly of AITA/IATA asbl must decide upon the necessity for these committees and their composition. Regional Committees shall aim at studying, in accordance with the aims of AITA/IATA asbl, particular problems of their regions and cultures and ensure the realisation of decisions taken by the Association.

Regional Committees will make their own articles to which the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly should give approval. The Council will ensure that none of the activities of Regional Committees can endanger the international unity of the Association.

Article 23

Each of the Regional Committees elects, in accordance with Article 17, a Representative to the Council.

Article 24

AITA/IATA asbl will, wherever possible, establish on each continent, upon the request of the Regional Committees, a Continental Service Centre (CSC), which in no way affects the autonomy or the responsibilities of the existing Regional Committees. Each Centre will be supervised by a Steering Committee composed of the Presidents (or their representatives) of the established Regional Committees within the Continent, the President and/or the Secretary General (if appointed) of AITA/IATA asbl and the Director of the Centre.

The rotating Presidency of the Steering Committee will be renewable every two years and taken up by one of the Regional Presidents (or their representatives).

The Steering Committee of the Centre will meet at least once every year to discuss and approve the work and the programme of the Centre.

VI. ASSOCIATES

Article 25

Any organisation, federation, festival or similar body, or any individual pursuing amateur theatre activity, wanting to establish operational relations with AITA/IATA asbl, can apply to be granted the status of AITA/IATA asbl Associate outside national representation. An AITA/IATA asbl Associate should inform the National Centre of its own country (where a National Centre is in existence), of its involvement in an official event of AITA/IATA asbl. Associates are accepted by the Council of AITA/IATA asbl following the payment of an annual fee and after consultation with the Regional Committee (where in existence).

AITA/IATA asbl Associates do not have voting rights.

VII. COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Article 26

AITA/IATA asbl Council can create, at any time, one or more Standing Committees or Sub-Committees, possibly chaired by a Co-ordinator. Council can terminate the creation of any Standing Committee or Sub-Committee at any time.

If Council decides to create a Standing Committee for Children and Youth, this Committee will be chaired by the Co-ordinator for Children and Youth, elected Officer of the Board (as defined in Article 14a ii and Article 14d of the AITA/IATA asbl Bye-laws).

Article 27

An appointed member of any Standing Committee or Sub-Committee, who is appointed by AITA/IATA asbl Council, stands for a 4-year term. An appointed member of any Standing Committee or Sub-Committee of AITA/IATA asbl may be re-appointed by Council for one further 4-year term. Council can terminate the appointment of any appointed member of any Standing Committee or Sub-Committee at any time.

Any candidate for a Committee or Sub-Committee of AITA/IATA asbl must have the support of their National Centre, if existing, before appointment.

VIII. RESOURCES

Article 28

The funds of the Association may consist of Membership Subscriptions and Associates' Fees, as fixed at the General Assembly and by other sponsorship, contributions, gifts or subsidies.

Article 29

Membership Subscriptions and Associate Fees must be paid before **March 31st** of the relevant year. Non-payment in due time will entail cancellation of the Member's voting rights and access to the activities of AITA/IATA asbl.

In exceptional circumstances, the Council will consider a partial exemption of fees to certain Members.

Article 30

The Council may proceed to the expulsion of Members or Associates for the following reasons:

- a.** failure to pay the subscription or fee, entailing expulsion one full year after the first date on which the said subscription or fee is payable. In such cases, expulsion of Members or Associates does not require ratification by the General Assembly, as it only constitutes an administrative measure;
- b.** in cases of serious offences against the discipline of the Association, or acts liable to be detrimental to its good name, proper functioning or vital interests.

In cases concerning a National Centre, the procedure will be as follows:

- it will be invited by the Council to settle the matter itself
- where there is no conciliation possible, the Council may proceed with the expulsion.

Appeals against expulsion under sub-paragraph b., may be brought to the General Assembly (restricted to Members).

IX. DISSOLUTION

Article 31

Dissolution of the Association can only be declared by an Extraordinary General Assembly, specially convened for the purpose and comprising 2/3 of the Members. This decision may only be taken by a majority representing 3/4 of the votes.

If the number of delegates present is less than the required two-thirds, a new Extraordinary General Assembly must be convened within three months, and the decisions at this Assembly will be taken on the basis of an absolute majority, regardless of the number of delegates present or represented.

Article 32

In the case of dissolution, the General Assembly shall decide upon the disposal of funds of the Association.

X. INTERPRETATION AND MODIFICATIONS OF BYE-LAWS

Article 33

The interpretation of the present Bye-laws of AITA/IATA asbl is the responsibility of the Council. Cases not covered by the Bye-laws will be decided by the Council and submitted for ratification by the next General Assembly.

Article 34

These Bye-laws may be modified only by the General Assembly, by the majority of 2/3 of the voting power present or represented. The text of any proposed modification must be submitted to all Members at least two months in advance of this Assembly.

Article 35

Each time that, in these Bye-laws or in the Constitution, a quorum or a qualified majority is expressed by a fraction (2/3 or 3/4) this has to be understood as a percentage ratio, even if the result is not a whole

number of persons. At least 2/3 is equivalent to greater or equal to 66.66% (66.66%) and At least 3/4 is equivalent to greater or equal to 75% (75%). As example the attendance of at least 2/3 of the 8 regional representatives for a Council to take valid decisions requires the participation of 6 representatives, in person or by proxy (5 representatives being only 62.50% of the Board of Representatives).

Article 36

These Bye-laws will come into force as from July 2011.

This is a comprehensive text based on the original constitution of the "de facto" association "International Amateur Theatre Association AITA/IATA" of 1969 – Monaco, and taking into account the amendments adopted in the following General Assemblies: 1975 (Oklahoma City), 1977 (Monaco), 1979 (Blagoevgrad), 1991 (Halden), 1993 (Monaco), 1995 (Ankara), 2001 (Monaco), 2003 (Halifax), 2005 Monaco, 2007 Masan, 2009 Monaco and 2011 Tromso.

Furthermore, it takes into account decisions of the General Assembly of AITA/IATA in Halifax, July 2003 voting on the foundation of AITA/IATA asbl, legal body, rue de Flandre 46, Brussels, Belgium, and on the adoption of the constitution of the "de facto" association "International Amateur Theatre Association AITA/IATA" as being the Bye-laws of the AITA/IATA asbl.

STANDING ORDERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. NOTIFICATION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 1.1. Preliminary notification should be sent about six (6) months ahead.
- 1.2. Two (2) months ahead is the deadline for the official notification including the agenda. (See Article 10 of the Bye-laws)
- 1.3. The official notification shall include:
 - a Date, place and time of meetings.
 - b Standing Orders
 - c Deadline for proposals to the General Assembly
 - d Names of and statement from the individuals nominated for election to the Executive Board
 - e Working plan for the next period
 - f Registration form for naming official or proxy delegates

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 2.1. The General Assembly is composed of all Full and Affiliate Members present or represented. It has power of final decision. AITA/IATA asbl Associate Members may attend and speak, but have no voting rights. (Art. 6 of the Bye-laws)
- 2.2. **Voting Rights:**
Full Members (6 votes) and Affiliate Members (2 votes) will have full voting rights provided that they have paid their membership fee before the deadline, 31 March. (See Art. 28 of the Bye-laws)
- 2.3. **Voting by Proxy:**
Those members who are prevented from attending a General Assembly may arrange to delegate their voting rights to another member. This delegation must be signed by the Chairman of the body represented. No member can carry more than one such delegation of authority. (Art. 11 of the Bye-laws)
Members of the Executive Board may not accept proxy duties from any member of the Association. (Art. 11 of the Bye-laws. Effective post Congress 1995)¹.
- 2.4. **Voting Procedures:**
All delegates shall register with the Secretariat before the commencement of the business of the General Assembly. On registration, paid-up members shall be issued with voting papers. Members holding proxy votes must also register at this time.

3. CHAIRING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- 3.1. The President opens the General Assembly and proposes, on behalf of the Council, a Chairperson in accordance with Articles 6b+8c of the Bye-laws
- 3.2. Following ratification, the presiding Chairperson takes immediate responsibility for chairing the meeting.
- 3.3. The Chairperson declares the Assembly's legitimacy, thereby allowing decisions and on behalf of Council, proposes a Tellers Committee and eventually other appointments, when necessary. The Tellers Committee gather and count ballots.
- 3.4. Regarding the accuracy of translation, Chairperson must enquire at regular intervals if further clarification is necessary.
- 3.5. The Chairperson shall secure that every member obtains a fair hearing. He/She shall decide questions of order that may arise and the regularity of all proposals or amendments submitted.
- 3.6. The Chairperson must remain neutral in all discussions. Failure to comply with this, means, that he/she must vacate the Chair. In this case the President takes over and asks for a vote to clear the situation, which requires a two-thirds majority of the given votes.

¹ **NOTE: Voting by Proxy:** Present members of the Council may not accept duties from any member of the Association.

If the vote is carried, the President then asks for new candidates for Chairperson. He/She can also take over the Chair, if the Assembly is in agreement (Simple majority).

- 3.7. Following his/her ratification as independent Chairperson the Chair will invite members of the General Assembly to submit questions for electoral candidates. (See Art.4.1. of the Standing Orders of the General Assembly)

4. ELECTIONS

- 4.1. Questions from the General Assembly to electoral candidates must be presented in writing in advance to the independent Chair immediately following his/her election to the Chair. Or questions can be presented directly from the floor to the candidates following his/her spoken statement of intent. Candidates are under no obligation to answer any questions posed. The independent Chair will ensure that each candidate receives an equal allocation of time.
- 4.2. A secret ballot is required at elections of the Executive Board.
- 4.3. The Chairperson will call each national delegation by name to cast their vote in turn into a closed box.
- 4.4. The result is given to the Chairperson, who announces the outcome, including the number of votes given to the candidate/s.
- 4.5. To be a member of the Board of Representatives, each Regional Representative shall be elected by his/her Regional Assembly. The Chairperson must receive an official statement, signed by two members of the Regional Board, to be attached to the Official Minutes of the AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly. (See Art. 17 of the Bye-laws)

5. PROPOSALS/AMENDMENTS

- 5.1. The announced deadline for receipt of proposals to the General Assembly must be adhered to. There will be no voting on proposals not meeting this requirement.
- 5.2. Amendments shall be proposed and cannot be withdrawn without the consent of the Assembly and the proposer.
- 5.3. Whenever an amendment to an original proposal has been proposed, the text of this amendment must be drafted in writing in all three official languages and the Chairperson must ensure that it is understood by every member of the Assembly.
- 5.4. No second or subsequent amendment shall be proposed until the first amendment shall have been disposed of.

6. GENERAL

- 6.1 Members shall stand and identify themselves and their National Centres when speaking and addressing the Chair.
- 6.2 Members elected to the Board of Representatives may carry the mandate of their Regional Assemblies to present their Regional views to the General Assembly on any item of the Agenda. (Art. 11 of the Bye-laws) However, Regions of AITA/IATA asbl are not eligible to vote.
- 6.3 In order to avoid misunderstanding at General Assembly, it is essential that translation is accurate and that translators know the subject, ie drama/theatre.

Call for nominations for election

Elections to take place at the 31st General Assembly in Monaco, 2013

The General Assembly of 2013 in Monaco will proceed to the renewal of the Executive Board.

According to the articles of the Constitution and the Bye-laws of the Association the following posts are submitted for election at the 2013 General Assembly in Monaco:

President Elect

French Speaking Secretary

Spanish Speaking Secretary

Treasurer

Co-ordinator of Standing Committee for Children and Youth

In accordance with the Bye-laws of the Association and after the registration of the resignation of the Treasurer, Tom De Rooij, the only candidate available to renew his mandate is French Speaking Secretary Jacques Lemaire, who has already expressed his wish not to stand for re-election by a letter to the President.

Only those members having voting rights can nominate or support candidates. Members with voting rights are either National Centres or Affiliate Members, who have paid their 2012 membership fees or have solicited a waiver from the Solidarity Fund and acted in accordance with the recommendations of the Solidarity Fund Board.

The 2013 General Assembly will therefore be called upon to elect a President Elect (specific election), French Speaking Secretary, Spanish Speaking Secretary, Treasurer and coordinator of Standing Committee for Children and Youth.

Candidates believing that they can fulfil any of these roles are called upon to announce their intention to stand for election. At this time candidates need only declare their intentions to stand for election. Following approval of candidates by Council at its meeting at the end of October 2012, approved candidates must comply with the precise terms and procedures of the timetable attached to this notification.

Please, send your Letter of Intent to the Secretariat by **27 October 2012**.

In the hope that the 2013 General Assembly will elect individuals to maintain an Executive Board ready to serve the Association and to facilitate its development throughout the five continents.

Yours sincerely,

Merja Laaksovirta - President

Renewal of the Executive Board of AITA/IATA asbl at the 31st General Assembly in Monaco, August 2013

Duration of mandates

According to the articles of the Constitution and the Bye-laws of the Association the following posts are submitted for election at the 2013 General Assembly in Monaco

President Elect
Treasurer
French Speaking Secretary
Spanish Speaking Secretary
Co-ordinator for Children and Youth

The persons elected in Monaco in 2013 will server for four years as specified in the Bye-laws (Article 14b²).

President

The President of AITA/IATA asbl represents the Association officially upon all occasions. The President of AITA/IATA asbl is elected two years ahead of taking office and will serve for a single term of four years as specific in the Bye-laws (Article 14a. i.).

Treasurer

Whose function is to prepare accounts and supervise the execution of annual budgets.

French Speaking Secretary

Responsible for the drawing up of all the official documents of the Association in the French language (for example: working documents, voting and explanations of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Council). The French Speaking Secretary will work in direct collaboration with his/her English speaking colleague and Spanish speaking colleague, with the President and with the Vice-President, and with the Secretariat in an attempt to avoid problems caused by incorrect translations.

Spanish Speaking Secretary

Responsible for the drawing up of all the official documents of the Association in the Spanish language (for example: working documents, voting and explanations of the General Assembly, the Executive Board and the Council). The Spanish Speaking Secretary will work in direct collaboration with his/her English speaking colleague and French speaking colleague, with the President and with the Vice-President, and with the Secretariat in an attempt to avoid problems caused by incorrect translations.

Co-ordinator for Children and Youth

Responsible for chairing the Children and Youth Committee and for conducting projects of AITA/IATA asbl relative to Children, Youth and Education.

² *All of these positions will be held free of charge and not give rise to any allowances. To enable the Executive Board to deliberate, candidates agree to participate in all regular meetings and will have to provide funding for their journeys before they apply. These points should be explicitly clarified in the application letters.*

ELECTORAL PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

In order to prepare the elections with greatest transparency in time for the General Assembly of 2013, the Executive Board will proceed according to the following timetable:

31 August 2012: The candidates for renewal of their respective mandates (French Speaking Secretary, Treasurer) will announce their intentions regarding possible renewal of their mandates.

27 September 2012: The corresponding appeals for candidacy will be sent to all members with voting rights (i.e. National Centres and Affiliate Members). Any person associated with one of these members can announce his/her candidacy. This is an individual decision and obligates only the candidate. One person can only be candidate for a single post and/or Presidency.

In order to be definitely valid as a candidate, there have to be nominations according to Article No. 14 of the Bye-laws (see Call for Candidacy). It is recommended to all candidates to send their applications by fax or email to avoid any postal delays. The President in Helsinki will acknowledge receipt by return message.

27 October 2012: Deadline for the President of AITA/IATA asbl in Helsinki to receive individual applications.

15 December 2012: The complete list of individual candidates is sent to members with voting rights, who are accepted by the Executive Board of AITA/IATA asbl as having membership rights for 2012³, accompanied by the forms which permit them to support the candidates of their choice. In order for a candidacy to be valid a candidate has to be nominated by at least two Members. In addition, the National Centre where a candidate resides will receive a form permitting them to authorise the candidacy of their national candidate (each country can only have one elected member at the Executive Board but can endorse the candidacy of several candidates to the various posts). Candidates who are not authorised by their own National Centre or are nominated by a National Centre whose membership rights for 2012 are not accepted by the Executive Board will be invalidated by the Executive Board.

8 February 2013: Deadline for the President of AITA/IATA asbl in Helsinki to receive authorisation and/or nomination forms.

February / March 2013: During its spring meeting the Executive Board will examine the validity of the candidacies and will establish the list of candidates which will be delivered to all members with the documents of the General Assembly at least two months prior the meeting of the G. A. in Monaco. In the event of any communication problems, the Executive Board will be able to announce a delay for the receipt of the endorsed documents.

23 June 2013: Deadline for sending out the statutory documents (convocation, statutory reports and list of candidates) to the members attending the General Assembly on the 23 and 24 August 2013 in Monaco.

³ *i.e. members whose fees are fully paid up in 2012 or who have been granted a waiver and have acted accordingly. If in doubt about status and eligibility please consult the Secretariat.*

Candidature for President-Elect

Dear theatre friends,

For the second consecutive time, I'm running for the position of President of IATA. I'm still convinced that there is a future for this association, subject to all parties involved being ready to rethink what this association should be and could do in a 21st Century world. Good work has been done in the recent past, initiative has been taken to "re-invent" IATA. Though, it will still need a considerable effort and, more specifically, it will need an open minded approach from the whole IATA family to make the association "the worldwide body" for amateur theatre we all want it to be. As President of IATA, this will be my main objective.

I think it is time to invest time and energy in an open, positive and constructive debate to redefine simple, measurable, acceptable and realistic objectives for the association. What was needed 25 years ago probably isn't the same as what a 21st Century theatre amateur wants us to provide today. Procedures and models that worked 25 years ago don't automatically work today in the same way. And what about tomorrow ?

- **Networking should be our core business**, it is what we are good at, it is what we know best.
- **IATA is to become a facilitating body and to change into an easily accessible platform with open, flexible channels of information.** IATA's website should be the proper tool used by theatre people from all over the globe, to make contact, to exchange ideas and to discuss any theatre topic they want.
- **IATA should further develop and cherish its relation with the main world festivals and events for amateur theatre we know today. The organisation should invest in finding new opportunities to do so.** These festivals and events are the most suitable meeting places for all amateurs, actively involved in the art.
- **IATA should cultivate an open and constructive dialogue** with its members and with the global amateur theatre world, whenever the possibility occurs. Through IATA the theatre amateur should be able to discover the amateur theatre world. This dialogue should be the inspiration and the basis for a constant renewal and update of the association's plans, objectives and activities.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in Monaco at the next IATA General Assembly and Congress and to being at your service during a new mandate on the IATA Board.

Friendly regards,

Rob VAN GENECHTEN
Email: robvg@telenet.be
Mobile: +32 498 562653

Candidature for Treasurer

by Villy Dall, candidate for Treasurer 2013-17

Hurup Thy, Denmark, March 12, 2013

Dear aita/iata friends and colleagues,

Since I first attended a World Festival and General Assembly of aita/iata in Monaco 1993, I have been very enthusiastic about the mission of the world organisation:

"To promote understanding and education through theatre".

Our work within and for aita/iata should have one common goal: To facilitate and create the right atmosphere for **'meeting places'** of all kinds for all people actively involved in the art of theatre in amateur theatre groups throughout the world.

It is from that position that I offer my service to the world association as its Treasurer for 2013-17. If elected, I shall to the best of my abilities fulfil the function 'to prepare accounts and supervise the execution of annual budgets' and I 'agree to participate in all statutory meetings' as required.

As a member of the Executive Board, I shall assist in reaching the required reforms under ever new and demanding challenges and possibilities.

I was born 1955. I was **educated** in shipping accounting during 1972-75 and **studied** for my bachelor degree in journalism 1984-88.

Professionally I have been working with **accounting** as a shipping assistant 1975-77, as the National Secretary General of the Danish Young Conservatives 1977-80, as a banking clerk 1981, as assistant director of a purchase organisation for private plumber businesses 1981-84, as part time clerk 1984-88, assistant director 1988-90, and managing director 1990-92 of a private company dealing in grain, fertilizer, fodder, diesel, heating oil, gasoline, timber, groceries, etc. Since 1992 I have been full time employed as a **journalist** and editor in Northern Jutland, publishing on print as well as radio and television.

1986 I became involved with **amateur theatre** and have been an organiser, director, producer, and actor in different amateur theatre groups and kinds of performances ever since. 1989 I was first elected to a post in the Danish Amateur Theatre Association (**DATS**), i.e. a district board, and later I was member of the DATS Board 1991 and 1993-2003, being Vice-President 1994-95, and President 1995-2003. I was also member of the Board of the Nordic Amateur Theatre Council (**NAR**) 1994-2003, being Vice-President 1998-2001, President of the North European Amateur Theatre Alliance (**NEATA**) 1998-2003 and during the same period member of the Steering Committee of the European Continental Service Centre (**ECE**), being President 2001-03, and member of the Steering Committee of the aita/iata **Solidarity Fund** 1999-2001.

Since I was elected President of DATS, I have also being involved with **cultural political lobbying for amateur culture**, being member of the Board of the Joint Council of Voluntary Arts Associations in Denmark (**AKKS**) since 1995, Vice-President 1998-2003, and President since 2003. During 2005-08 I was a member of the initiative committee for the establishment of **AMATEO** – the European Network for Active Participation in Cultural Activities, and I was its first President during 2008-11.

I have a long-lasting experience with **legal board responsibilities** under national, Nordic, and European accounting regulations and grants obligations since 1993 as a board member of DATS, the publishing company DRAMA, NAR, AKKS, AMATEO, the professional theatre Limfjordsteatret, since 2005 the Danish Union of Journalists and the Unemployment Fund for Journalism, Communication, and Languages and from 2012 the Holiday Fund for Journalists.

I look forward to working with all of you for our common goal.

Sincerely yours,

VILLY DALL

Candidature for French Speaking Secretary

Beatrice Cellario

Dear Members and Friends of the Amateur Theatre,

I first got in touch with the Studio de Monaco in 1983 and took part in the *Festival Mondial du Théâtre Amateur* for the first time in 1985; since then my voluntary involvement and my position within the organization of the *Studio de Monaco* and the *Mondial du Théâtre* have constantly evolved. I have been a member of the Board of the *Mondial du Théâtre* since 2001 and a member of the Board of the Studio de Monaco since 2006.

As coordinator of the Mondial du Théâtre during the 2001 and 2005 editions and General Secretary in 2009 and 2013, I have given my total commitment to these events. I particularly enjoyed the exchanges with people from different worlds and cultures all sharing the same passion as mine. Moreover, my involvement in the Joint Committee of the Mondial du Theatre enabled me to take stock of the magnitude of the work of aita/iata, its organisation and its problems.

I realize that The Amateur Theatre faces problems, which induces me to apply for the position of Secretary for French-Speaking Countries. Amateur Theatre is represented all over the world, it covers all kinds of theatre, all kinds of repertoires and its members come from all social levels. Yet how many companies worldwide know of aita/iata? How many companies are members of their National Centre? How many are considering federating and creating a National Centre? And lastly, how many are estranged from their National Centre?

Therefore I would focus my action mainly on the development of aita/iata, and more specifically along the following lines :

- **Communication:** it is imperative that iata/aita be familiar with state of the art media technologies such as the Internet and social networks. Nowadays they are the only ones able to circulate information worldwide on a real time basis.
- **Development of the network:** AITA needs to gain a broader recognition and create or develop its relationship with national institutions of its member countries as well as international institutions such as the Institut International du Théâtre, the UNESCO and other cultural bodies of each country. This will strengthen its action.
- **Support for the Federations:** the action of small federations must be supported and enhanced by aita/iata in order to avoid them dying out. At the same time encouragement should be given to new federations by putting troupes in touch with their local cultural institutions.
- **Work of Regional Committees:** in compliance with the missions and prerogatives of the Regional Committees, aita/iata must work hand in hand with them to develop and strengthen an active network to the extent of the range of regions represented.
- **Compliance with its rules:** aita/iata has drawn up its own statutes in order to work in a coherent and productive way. Abiding by these statutes and ensuring they are complied with, enables a move forward and enhances credibility with the federations. It goes without saying that an ambition to evolve should not inhibit everyday affairs and necessary administrative matters.

I am well aware that this is a difficult and complex task that very often comes up against a lack of time and know-how of the people involved. But if this work is the result of a real collaboration between members of a motivated and united team, it remains possible.

With this in mind, I present myself as a candidate for your suffrage.

Béatrice CELLARIO

beatrice@cellario.org

Candidature for French Speaking Secretary

Declaration of intents for the election of French-speaking secretary – Philippe Garcia

Even if French is the statutory reference for the AITA/IATA, I am aware that the deliberations of the Executive Council will be held mainly in English. Fortunately, I have a good knowledge of English. Surely because I use it every day for my job (I'm a database administrator for SQL Server) but also because I spent 2 to 3 weeks per year in the USA visiting my family in law.



So let me introduce myself: My name is Philippe Garcia and I am the President of the National Federation of Belgian Companies drama. Our federation is more than 105 years old and was one of the founders of our organization in 1952. I recently found in our archives the official document of the creation of our organization. The FNCD includes the amateur theater in French all over the Belgian territory. We have some affiliated companies who play in French on the territory of Flanders. In spite of what Belgian politicians say, we have excellent relationships with the Flemish federation "Opendoek" whose President is Mr. Rob Van Genechten, candidate for President of AITA/IATA. You will notice that when it comes to artistic practices, linguistic fights disappear and a genuine collaboration is possible between people sharing the same passion. Naturally, the fact that I already know Rob Van Genechten and the geographical proximity with him will facilitate, If I'm elected, my tasks and the collaboration between the President and I.

My candidature is the result of a process within the CIFTA. I have a good working knowledge of national structures of amateur theater in the Latin countries. Surely because since 2003 I have participated in the "Estivades" in Marche-en-Famenne where I lead seminars in French and English. This job allowed me to make contacts with foreign companies.

In my federation, I organized the National Competition ("Trophée Royal") for over 10 years. Over the past three years as a President of the FNCD, I have led a complete reorganization of our federation to adapt to new laws on NPOs.

French-speaking secretary of AITA/IATA has, I think, as the first duty to ensure proper compliance with the statutes, in the case of AITA/IATA they are under Belgian law and I have a good knowledge of the law. French Secretary has to particularly ensure that the texts are accurately translated from English into French, statutory reference our organization, to facilitate mutual understanding between those members who practice mostly English and those who communicate in French. My practice of English language should make this task easier.

For all these things, I think I can contribute to AITA/IATA and that is why I stand before you and I ask for your support in this election as French-speaking Secretary.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at: presidence@fncd-theatre.be

Hope to meet you at the "Mondial" in Monaco

Philippe Garcia

President of FNCD

Candidature for Spanish Speaking Secretary

MOTIVES, AIMS AND ACTIVITIES PROPOSED FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF HISPANIC SPEECH OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THEATRE AMATEUR

If the work of Greek art contains the spirit of a beautiful nation, the work of art of the future has to wrap the spirit of the free humanity, over the national barriers; the national element must be only an ornament, the captivation of an individual diversity, never a limitation.

Richard Wagner "Art and revolution"

PREAMBLE

I. - Thinking that the International Association of Theatre Amateur (AITA/IATA) was founded on Brussels on 1952 has between his aims:

- A).- Coordinate the action of the group's members in his mission of enrichment of the human person in the education of the peoples across the theatre.
- B). - Spreads and defend the dramatic art for all the groups of theatre amateur of the world that there chase without profit, social, artistic or cultural aims.
- C).- To promote across contacts and international experiences, permanent common points of activity of his members, facilitating the international and national exchanges between groups of theatre, music and dance amateurs.

II. - Thinking that the theatre, the music, the dance and his complementary educational arts, promote the work jointly and the personal enrichment in the field of the permanent education along the life of the civil society that as recommends in the board 678 of the European Community (Brussels, 21.11.2001)

III. - Whereas the National Centers develop their bridge figure between AITA/IATA and country groups.

Considering that man wants to be the protagonist of his life and learning acquired by choice, in a social trend individualistic and competitive.

We believe it is time to seek, through discussion and exchange of ideas, a new formula social-cultural-creative through amateur theater and educational aspect. A cultural change that we propose to call "New Walden" that can provide the people of today (and tomorrow's) culture that will become your source of personal satisfaction and their social integration citizen.

It is therefore important that this "New Walden" has as its basis the union's international cultural spirit built on art and social awareness.

Thus, the interrelation of the National Centers, especially those of Spanish-speaking countries, which diversity of cultural formulas under the same language, enriched also social and human relations of amateur theater through the ongoing exchange of experiences, the development of human beings and their freedom of choice. We propose the following

BASIC AIMS

The basic aims for the Spanish-speaking Secretariat, we believe that should revolve around the following points:

- 1. - Translate to the Spanish language** any document generated within the Association to inform its affiliates
- 2. - Promptly disseminate** any information to be communicated to affiliates.

3. - Extend the knowledge and diffusion in all Spanish-speaking countries of the activities promoted from the International Association of Amateur Theatre and his affiliated entities, bringing over to the organizations without profit of all countries and aspiring that the citizens who generate this type of activities, find across AITA/IATA a vehicle of contact, information, diffusion and coordination.

4. - Extend all forms of theater, music, dance and arts educational relatives, making by affiliates in all Spanish-speaking countries that contribute to the formation and development of the human personality, and to improve relations of educational, social and transnational help.

5. - Promote access to AITA/IATA at amateur associations, which, with theater, music, dance and educational arts, contribute with his lost interest work to yours communities to which they belong promoting education and understanding between peoples and cultures and their value, not only cultural, but education and training, especially among children and youth.

6. - Design channels of communication between the National Centers of the diverse countries, especially the Spanish-speaking ones, facilitating tools to get the communication fluid and effective. Specially by means of this secretary, contribute especially to the communication between nonprofit associations of worldwide Spanish language and AITA/IATA, in order to maintain a constant dialogue about actions generated for associations and AITA/IATA, contributing to enrichment of the person through theatrical disciplines, over the social and geographical barriers that separate them.

7. - Educate all associations, of the theater is with your element of sociability, cooperation and learning, not only a fact diffuser of individual performances, and that through AITA/IATA find a way of spreading their activities through the points of contact between the various world cultures, bring them exchange experiences and ideas.

8. - Try information and support in establishing collaboration agreements of creative entities of nonprofit of Spanish speaking, with entities from other countries, for the propagation of theater, music, dance and complementary educative arts amateurs.

9. - Support projects to restore scenic manifestations of traditional, classic, contemporary or performing new trends, and offering support and distribution of the works of artists and writers of Spanish speaking promoting the study and staging of his works.

10. - Defend the cultural and differentiators facts of all Spanish-speaking countries, preserving and disseminating the values of indigenous theater works without distinction of countries beyond social or ideological backgrounds can separate territorial cultures. This hopes to make, with the approval of the members of AITA/IATA this candidate to Spanish speaking Secretary.

Jorge Crespi

Candidature for Co-ordinator for Children and Youth

I have the pleasure to hereby inform you about my candidacy for the post of the Coordinator for the Children and Youth Committee of AITA/IATA asbl.

My name is Josef Hollos, my learnt profession is that of a teacher. I was teaching young people on different levels including that of university of applied sciences, my special work fields have been drama, social work and youth work. I was running drama-courses and seminars in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Romania, former Czechoslovakia and former Yugoslavia.

After several discussions held with the current members of the Committee, with my Board colleagues in CEC and with my National Centre about the best solution at present for safeguarding the continuation of the current work of the Committee I decided to run for the post of Coordinator.

I have been deeply involved in the work of this Committee from its very start-up in 1992 which means I know well the aims, needs, possibilities, but also the difficulties and obstacles of Children and Youth Theatre work.

My involvement with AITA/IATA (extract):

Since the 1970's

- .member of the Austrian team and of the international team for the AITA/IATA World Congress of Drama in Education in Austria till today to its 19th Congress;
- .several positions within the Austrian National Centre (OEBV Theater) including the positions of president and vice-president;
- since 2007 president of CEC (Central European Committee of AITA/IATA);
- since the 90's organizer resp. co-organizer of several Board meetings for CEC and some for AITA/IATA;
- member of the Jury for two World-Children-Theatre Festivals of AITA/IATA;
- member of the Joint Committee for the World-Theatre-Festival in Monaco 2013;
- organizer of the First World-Youth-Theater-Festival of AITA/IATA in Vienna in 2009

My involvement with other organizations:

Since 1974 active role in School-theatre and Youth Theatre (participation with own groups or active in the organization of Festivals)

Since 1983/1984 involvement in EDERED (European Drama Encounters) as workshop-leader, artistic director, organizer, vice-president, president

Since 2009 president of IDEA Austria

My involvement with theatre generally:

Till this day an active role in different amateur-theatre-groups as an actor or as the director.

My aims:

Continuation of the plans and realization of the visions of the Standing Committee as laid down under the current chair Helle Hauger

Closer cooperation with the different representatives of amateur-theatre to achieve a better understanding for the work of the Committee for being a very important bridge between them

To find a continuation for the World-Youth-Theatre-Festival

To confirm the importance of the "Challenging Theatre projects"

To continue the support of international Children and Youth Theatre projects in Africa, Asia and America

To be present in all matters of AITA/IATA in order to represent the needs of Children- and Youth Theatre as the future of the existence of AITA/IATA

To encourage National Centers of AITA/IATA to organize international conferences and congresses using drama and theatre skills for the needs of Children and Youth and to motivate teachers to take part in these events

Josef Hollos

Walfischgasse 14

A-1010 Vienna/Austria

March, 2013

President's Report to Congress 2011 – 2013 and Action Plan and Strategic Vision 2013 - 2015

My dear Friends in Theatre, welcome to the 31st General Assembly in Monaco. At the outset, allow me to thank once again, our most generous hosts, the Government of the Principality of Monaco and our long-time friends in the Studio de Monaco. Your generosity has played a major part in ensuring the continuity of our wonderful world-wide organisation.

It is my pleasure to address our General Assembly at a most important Congress. It is also the time for me to give you an account of the work of Council at this mid-way point of my Presidency.

TROMSØ Dialog 2011

Before I proceed with that task, I must reflect with you on our experience in Tromsø in 2011. As we neared the conclusion of such a positive experience in Tromsø and Norway, we learned of the horrific and senseless act of violence perpetrated by one man on his fellow citizens. One wise young man from our number was heard to say that in a strange way he was so glad to have been able to deal with the shock in the company of so many like minded friends. As I look back to those events two years ago I can say that I agree with the sentiment expressed by that young man. On behalf of all in aita/iata, I articulated the solidarity of our organisation with our dear Norwegian colleagues and to be part of the dignity and courage of the Norwegian people in their time of unbelievable grief and sorrow. From the abyss of this terrible event, I too took courage in renewing my belief in our international peace efforts through commitment and dedication to theatre and to the performing arts.

Executive Board and Council Meetings

I will report on the work of the Council under a number of headings. Firstly, I will outline the date of meetings and their locations. I wish to thank all our hosts for their generosity and kindness shown in the hosting of these meetings. It was my goal that Council meetings should rotate between regions and by and large that was achieved.

Tromsø, Norway: 14 – 15 July 2011

Nancy, France: 2 – 3 March 2012

Midland, Texas, USA: 25 – 26 October 2012

Berlin, Germany: 8 – 9 February 2013

Before outlining the work of Council, I want to express my personal thanks to each member for their enduring and constant support to me over the past two years. I wish colleagues who will withdraw from their respective roles at this Congress good fortune and relaxation for the future and I look forward to the same co-operation and enthusiasm from the new members of the Council.

One of the most enjoyable roles I have as President is the opportunity to visit your festivals and events. This not only enables me to connect with all those who have a love of amateur theatre but to also offer my support and encouragement. I know that formal representation from aita/iata can be of considerable assistance and I wish to thank you all for your courtesy, hospitality and attention.

Action Plan 2013 – 2015

- My objective in my Action Plan for 2013 – 2015 in ensuring the rotation of EB and Council meetings between Regions will continue in the next two years
- Council has agreed that former aita/iata Presidents will be appointed an aita/iata Ambassador for the term of office of the President that recommends their appointment. Since I became President, Thomas Hauger and Paddy O'Dwyer have been appointed. Also Mrs Mary Pears for her outstanding contribution to the work of aita/iata in many different ways and over many decades

- There is a tradition that aita/iata has a system of French and English Speaking honorary Presidents. The English Speaking Honorary President is Piet Cleveringa: the former French Speaking Honorary President Guy Brousse of Monaco sadly died. To fill the now vacant position, the Council proposes to the General Assembly to nominate Jacques Lemaire as the French Speaking aita/iata Honorary President.

Administrative and Financial matters, including the Secretariat

My Friends, times appear to be difficult throughout the world in matters of funding and finance and, of course, aita/iata is no exception. Delegates, you learned during our last Congress of the withdrawal of the Swedish grant. The reason for such actions was understood by us but it was still a serious financial blow. I am happy, however, to inform delegates that we received the Norwegian grant up to the end of 2012 and that support was allocated entirely to the Solidarity Fund.

Due to financial difficulties within the organisation, it was necessary to close our office in Tallinn and to say goodbye to Ene Jurna as administrator of the Secretariat. Happily, I can say that Ene gained employment elsewhere in Estonia and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her help and cooperation in our transition period to other administrative supports. Some volunteers spent days in Tallinn, engaged in the process of closing the office and working on the transfer of files and materials to Oslo where our secretariat temporarily resided. I want to take this opportunity to thank colleagues in the Norwegian Centre, Norsk teateråd – Norwegian Theatre Council, who dealt with administrative matters for a time but were unable to do so beyond a temporary period for varied and complex reasons.

Our friend Norbert Rademacher, BDAT then generously came to the assistance of aita/iata. He enabled Anneliese Hanelt from the Lingen office, the time to work predominantly on the call for fees for 2012. She worked closely and extremely efficiently with Jacques Lemaire to ensure that our Members, Affiliates and Associates received the request for fees. I was extremely grateful for the work that both Anneliese and Jacques carried out and I want also to thank them for their tireless efforts on behalf of aita/iata.

I am pleased to inform delegates, however, that following this Congress, our English Speaking Secretary, Anne Gilmour will take on the formal role of administrator within aita/iata as approved by Council. The contract is made in the name of aita/iata and the other party is contractor, Anne Gilmour. We are lucky to have the good fortune to have Anne in this capacity, and she will administer the Secretariat under the direction of Council. Anne has already taken up this role following our meeting in Berlin. As a consequence, Anne has stepped down as English Speaking Secretary. aita/iata invited members to apply for the vacant seat on the Executive Board in accordance with Article 16 from 2013 to Congress 2015 of English Speaking Secretary. Our Bye-laws, however, are clear that the temporary replacement is without voting rights. The only candidate and with an extremely comprehensive CV was Aled Rhys-Jones. He had the support of Council and was appointed to the position in early April.

Another unexpected blow was thrust upon us when we learned that Tom de Rooij was forced to withdraw as Treasurer due to organisational restructuring in the Netherlands. Again, I wish to thank Tom publically for his sterling work on our behalf and I send him our good wishes to him for the future. In a typical way in aita/iata, Council was able to prevail upon our friends to come to the rescue. This time by the Irish Centre who took over financial matters on an interim basis in the person of Dymrna Murray, a retired banker and by the experienced Treasurer Mary Pears. So our finances have been in good hands and we plan for a smooth hand-over to the newly elected Treasurer who will take over after the Congress.

After eight years without change, Council is seeking a small increase in membership fees and there will be time during the General Assembly for delegates to discuss matters pertaining to finance. Not only the proposal to increase fees, but also the proposal that the index for calculating fees is changed.

The aita/iata budget for 2013 -2015 will be presented by M. Jacques Lemaire.

Jacques, as delegates know, remains the guardian of the Bye-laws of the organisation and his energy, enthusiasm and sound advice has been a great support to me during these last two years.

Action Plan

- Secretariat arrangements have now been formalised and will continue for the foreseeable future
- In the matters of finance, it will be necessary to encourage Members, Affiliates and Associates to pay their fees regularly and to encourage and support new Members and Associates to join aita/iata to help ensure stability in the funding of aita/iata. If appropriate funding is made available, the solidarity fund will function in accordance with the guidelines.

Communication

- Communication is a core element of our work and this was a matter for frequent concern and discussion at EB/Council meetings. You will recall that my Vision Statement laid special emphasis on the improvement and development of Communication during my Presidency. To that end, soon after Tromsø I requested that Vice-President, Roger Ellis address this matter with colleagues. He has prepared a report for me and for this Congress which I have adapted for my report. It is an area where we must continue to make progress.

During this two-year period leading up to Monaco 2013 we have accomplished the following goals in the area of communications:

- The English-language version of our online "Production Course," which was developed and proposed to the General Assembly in Tromsø, and is available in English translation
- Our website was upgraded to a new version of WordPress software that has enabled us to add new features to our Internet services, and to prevent any further "hacking" of our site that had been occurring since 2010.
- As part of this technical upgrade, we have taken out a contract for ongoing technical support in the UK.
- The person providing our Secretariat has received extensive training in web operations from a professional service in the U.K. that has permitted her to correct many problems that had arisen between 2010-2013, as well as to enable her to maintain the site, streamline all the postings, update all information, and add new features to serve our members.
- Our Vice-President has successfully launched two editions of the new "Artistic Newsletter" that showcases the programmes of our national centres and profiles the stimulating and valuable work of our member-practitioners around the globe. Additionally, our French Speaking Secretary has published two editions of "In Brief" that provide everyone with short news items of interest to the general membership.
- Our website now contains a "private area" for EB and Council members, a revised "membership" page, and the preparation of an interactive "discussion forum" that will appear on the site later this year.

As your President I am able to send occasional briefings and information through the website. I look forward to further discussion on the topic of communication in General Assembly, including the role for social media in aita/iata.

Action Plan 2013 – 2015

- Communication will continue to be a central element of my Presidency. We have achieved much in the first two years and I am determined that we will achieve a great deal more in the next two years which will focus on three matters:
- Communication with and between members
- Technical development of the website
- Artistic concerns

We plan to move the server from Argentina to the UK as Guillermo Rodoni comes to the end of his tenure as the Spanish Speaking Secretary.

Regional and National Centres, Affiliates and Associates

I believe that there is room for improvement in communication within Regions and I know that Regional Representatives are working on this and I am sure that we will learn from outcomes at the various Regional meetings. You can also read of important developments for each Region in the Congress Papers. I will refer here to just two aspects of my own involvement in these activities. And, of course, I witnessed the work of some Regions first hand during Council meetings held in our various regions.

1. Asian Region: I was fortunate to be able to participate in the PAT (Performing Arts Toyama) festival in Toyama in Japan in 2012. Given that it was held in the wake of the terrible disaster in Japan, it was remarkable that our colleagues had the strength, courage and foresight to stage this amazing event. Although this is not an official aita/iata festival, the honour and great attention shown to our organisation was greatly appreciated.
2. At the time of writing this report, I have been invited to a meeting in BDAT offices in Berlin towards the end of April to an EFAT meeting. This will be a gathering of representatives from CEC, NEATA and CIFTA, all the European regions to discuss the possibility of a European wide Forum for amateur theatre. During the Congress, representatives from CEC, CIFTA and NEATA will hold a discussion to which you are all invited.

I look forward to reading and hearing the other reports from all the Regions. I have mentioned on many occasions, and it has now become crucial, that we hear from our Regional representatives about amateur theatre events in their Region.

Action Plan 2013 – 2015

- For this Congress, I request that each Region place the matter of communication between National Centres and Regional Committees on the agenda of their Regional meetings and report the output to the next Council meeting.
- At the first meeting following Congress, Council will look to each Region to initiate a plan for communication within their Region.
- The Regional reports to Council should include a report on the success of internal communication plans.

Archives

The question of the archives often received attention during our discussions for a number of years. I must pay homage to Joke Elbers for her earlier work in this domain. However, owing to organisational changes in Kunstfactor in the Netherlands, the Archives needed a new home. Again, our friends came to the rescue!! It is important that we have a clear link to the prestigious past of aita/iata and I am, therefore, delighted to inform delegates that BDAT in Germany, through Norbert Rademacher, has agreed to maintain and develop aspects of the archives. This work will be pending further plans by your incoming Council.

Action Plan 2013 – 2015

- Now that aita/iata has secured a home for its archives, the Council will make recommendations for the consolidation and development of the archives.

Children and Youth

Delegates, you will receive a detailed report from Helle Hauger, the Co-ordinator for Children and Youth (SCCY) during the Congress. There is plenty of good news in her report and I will reveal some good news during my address. Once again the founders of the World Festival of Children's Theatre Lingen, Germany will host the World Festival of Children's Theatre in 2014. Council has approved this generous proposal for the 13th Festival which will be presented to the Congress. Another piece of good news is that Canada has offered to host the World Festival of Children's Theatre in 2016. Council has also approved this generous proposal and information on the 14th World Festival of Children's Theatre in Stratford, Canada will also be presented to Congress. Helle Hauger will inform you of other positive developments, including the African Initiative, which included an event receiving a grant from the Culture and Education Fund.

According to aita/iata Bye-laws Helle Hauger must step down from EB and Council and from her position as Co-ordinator for Children and Youth. She has been most effective in her role as leader of the Committee for Children and Youth and I appreciated greatly her wise counsel as a member of the Executive Board and Council.

I look forward to working with members of the SCCY and especially, with the incoming Co-ordinator for Children and Youth.

Action Plan 2013 - 2015

- I am convinced that the dynamism of this committee will continue and I will ensure that reports from the Children and Youth Committee will be centre stage at Executive Board and Council Meetings.

Revitalising our organisation

Ever since aita/iata was established, its many Councils and members have looked towards the future with confidence but also with the understanding that aita/iata cannot stand still if it is to be of benefit to the world and to its members and supporters. Indeed, I can recall the many fresh initiatives and research undertakings by various Presidents. In my time as President Elect, Council addressed the role and place of aita/iata through what is known as a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats). I am happy to say I was able to build on these outcomes through the formulation of my own Vision Statement. Last year, I was approached by Dirk De Corte (past esteemed) Treasurer and by Aled Rhys-Jones (past esteemed English Speaking Secretary), both of whom were brimming with positive ideas looking towards an optimal future for our wonderful organisation. The subsequent discussions, which they had begun with past President Paddy O'Dwyer, culminated in a presentation to Council by Dirk of possible ways forward. He was then invited by Council to provide a stimulus for the Congress and I know that all of you will participate fully in the planned session on this topic on Sunday 25 August.

Action Plan 2013 - 2015

- I shall listen with great interest to the deliberations and the outcomes of the discussion which will, I am sure, influence the work of the President and Council for the final two years of my Presidency and perhaps beyond.

Congress 2015

Delegates will recall that in Tromsø 2011, our colleagues in Argentina presented a proposal to host the Congress and Festival in 2015. Then, in October 2011, Guillermo Rodoni and his colleagues kindly hosted a representative group from aita/iata on a fact finding visit. By the time of the Congress, the Argentine delegation will have informed us of their progress and plans to host the 2015 Congress and Festival. You will also see from the Congress papers, that a second bid to host the 2015 Congress and Festival has been received from the Flemish Centre in Belgium and you will learn more about this during the Congress. It is the responsibility and right of this General Assembly, however, to determine where Congress is to be held in 2015 and hopefully beyond. It is you delegates who must decide.

Action Plan 2013 - 2015

- It will be the responsibility of the Council to be centrally involved in the realisation of the decision of the General Assembly and to put their energies behind the aita/iata Congress 2015.

Funding committees

There are two grant-making committees under the administration of the Council, the Solidarity Committee and the Culture and Education Committee. Both committees take the form of sub-committees for the purposes of efficiency and the President or Vice-President sits as a member of each committee.

The former has been restored in the light of the continuation of the Norwegian Grant. We do not take this special funding for granted and you will hear more when finance matters are discussed in the General Assembly.

It was my wish as President to ensure that the Culture and Education Fund would be more active during my Presidency. Payments were made by this Fund to:

- a. Stichting Fundacion ARUBA: € 1,250 on 13 December 2011
- b. Estivades Festival, Belgium: € 2,500 on 3 March 2012
- c. Tender Talents Magnet School, Uganda: € 2,500 on 19 March 2013
- d. OBV Theatre, Austria hosting the Drama in Education Congress: € 2,500 on 28 March 2013

A total of € 8,750 has been paid from the Fund since the Tromsø Congress in July 2011. I think you will agree that the nature of grant aid was most impressive.

Action Plan 2013 – 2015

- To continue the momentum set from 2011 through to 2015
- To keep both funds under constant review and, in relation to the Solidarity Fund, liaise closely with Norwegian colleagues.

UNESCO

For years, aita/iata has had consultation relations with UNESCO as a registered NGO. We have participated every two years in the International Conference of the NGOs and in alternate years to the General Conference. Between the large conferences are some half-day to full-day meetings on a given theme between the Comex (Comité Exécutif) and those NGOs which can attend. Jacques Lemaire represents aita/iata on these occasions as it is easier for him to attend as all these meetings are held in the UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The majority of the NGOs which attend the biennale conference deal with education, human rights and religions; cultural NGOs are the exception. The renewal of the liaison committee in December 2012 was an opportunity to raise the profile of our association, when Jacques stood for a position on the Liaison Committee as a representative of aita/iata. A new electoral process made it quite hard for a European organisation to be elected. At the second round of voting, only the first three largest scores were elected, and with 27 votes cast, Jacques just missed the podium. Elected were: 1) the World Association of Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) with 59 votes; 2) Catholic International Education Office (OIEC) with 38 votes; and 3) International Council on Education for Teaching (ICET) with 34 votes. No other organisation obtained more than 15 votes. It was agreed with the President of the new Committee that Jacques would be contacted to be an observer when cultural matters were on a meeting agenda.

Apart of the elections, which were the main item of the conference, there was an instructive debate on "Culture and Cultures: Reconciling universality and diversity". Unfortunately there is no report as the resources of UNESCO are severely cut down. Jacques was pretty active during this debate which explains the votes he obtained - the second round of voting was after the debate.

ITI (International Theatre Institute)

As an important NGO in UNESCO, as reported above, it is important for aita/iata to maintain good relations with ITI, which was originally founded by UNESCO and still maintains its HQ in Paris within the UNESCO building. Following some preliminary meetings, ITI established a group of partner organisations in 2011, which includes international umbrella groups in the area of performing arts. To date, two meetings have been held (2011 and 2012). aita/iata is represented at these meetings by Josef Hollos in his capacity as a member of the Standing Committee for Children and Youth, Council member and organiser of the official aita/iata event-the Drama in Education Congress, most recently held in Austria in March 2013. We are also represented on this group by Paddy O'Dwyer, past President and now Ambassador for aita/iata. At those meetings, aita/iata is given the opportunity to inform others of its activities and events. A proposal was made at the 2012 meeting to develop a World Map of the organisations but this is still at the early stage of development.

We have received a message of warm greetings to our Congress from Tobias Biancone, Secretary General of ITI, which I reproduce below:

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

What brings us to a performance, what brings us to the theatre and what is keeping us as a lover (French "amateur") for the theatre all our life? In my case it is this inspirational moment when I was sitting in the audience, looking at a scene of an actor who was telling me a story. I was watching, listening, attentive and living with him the story he told. This one magic moment filled me with joy, moved me to tears of sadness and finally tears of laughter. And it was not on a screen, it was alive. And it was something that I wanted to experience again.

Such moments create the love for theatre. And in my case it was an amateur theatre that has brought that feeling to me.

I am sure I am not the only one who had a similar experience. I am convinced that IATA is an important player of the world to keep theatre culture alive. Your work is very much needed in a world of conflict, crisis and war. I like to thank you for what you do and what you plan to do for theatre. And I am glad to have the International Amateur Theatre Association aita/iata as a Partner Organization of the International Theatre Institute ITI. All the best for your congress of 2013"

Tobias Biancone, Director General International Theatre Institute ITI

Action Plan 2013 -2015

It is my intention to maintain contact with relevant international organisations and I will ask The Council to nominate our current representative to UNESCO and our two representatives to ITI for the next two years. I plan to:

- build on the aita/iata profile within UNESCO
- build on the good relationship established with ITI
- build on the aita/iata profile with other international arts organisations

Concluding Remarks

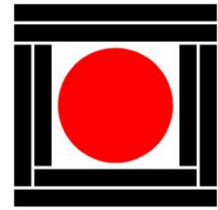
When this Congress ends there will be a new President Elect, a new French Speaking Secretary, a new Spanish Speaking Secretary, a new Treasurer, a new Co-ordinator for Children and Youth an interim English Speaking Secretary and new Regional Representatives. In truth, I will bid a sad farewell to those wonderful colleagues who have been so diligent and such a support to me in the last two years of an eventful term. I am sure that the next two years will continue to be challenging and eventful but I look forward to tackling them with the support and encouragement of my new Council.

[Here](#) is a link to my Vision Statement and Working Plan for 2011 – 2015 which I published as your new President in 2011.

Yours

Merja Laaksovirta
Helsinki, Finland
6 April 2013

**Assemblée Générale AITA/IATA asbl 2013:
 Formulaire de nomination officielle des délégués
 AITA/IATA asbl General Assembly 2013: Delegates
 official nomination form
 Asamblea General de AITA/IATA asbl 2013:
 Formulario oficial para la designación de delegados**



Chaque Centre National ou Membre Affilié peut désigner des délégués à la 31ème Assemblée Générale de l'aita/iata asbl. Quelque soit le nombre de délégués, chaque délégation d'un Centre National, à jour de ses cotisations de membre, recevra 6 votes et chaque délégation de Membre Affilié, à jour des ses cotisations de membre, recevra 2 votes. La liste des délégués officiels habilités à voter figure ci-dessous et est validée par la signature du Président ou du Secrétaire général ou du Trésorier. **Le nom du délégué habilité à recevoir les bulletins de vote est souligné.**

Each National Centre or Affiliate Member can nominate delegates to the 31st General Assembly of aita/iata asbl. Whatever the number of delegates, each delegation of a National Centre that has paid its membership fees, will carry 6 votes and each delegation of an Affiliate Member, in order with its membership fees, will carry 2 votes. Please list the official vote carrying delegates below and validate this by the signature of the President or Secretary General or Treasurer. **The name of the delegate entitled to receive the voting slips is underlined.**

Cada Centro Nacional o Miembro Afiliado puede nombrar delegados a la 31ª Asamblea General de AITA/IATA asbl. Cualquiera sea el número de delegados, cada delegación de un Centro Nacional que se halle al día con los pagos de sus cuotas cuenta con 6 votos, mientras que cada delegación de un Miembro Afiliado que se halle al día con los pagos de sus cuotas posee 2 votos. **A continuación enlistar los delegados oficiales, convalidándolos mediante la firma del Presidente o del Secretario General respectivo.**

Liste des délégués / List of delegates / Listado de delegados

1

.....

2

.....

3

.....

4

.....

5

.....

6

.....

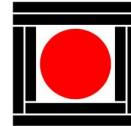
Certifié par / Certified by / Certificado por

Name.....

Signature / Firma / Signature.....

Fonction / Position / Cargo.....

**VOTING BY PROXY, Monaco General Assembly
2013**



To the President of AITA/IATA asbl

I am writing to you on behalf of my National Centre / Affiliate Member [*] of AITA/IATA asbl who is not able to send a representative to attend the 2013 Congress and General Assembly of AITA/IATA.

.....
(name of National Centre / Affiliate Member [*] not able to attend the Congress and General Assembly)

I declare that my National Centre / Affiliate Member [*] has paid the 2013 fee (or a waiver has been granted by the Treasurer).

On behalf of my National Centre / Affiliate Member [*] I would like to delegate our votes by proxy to the following National Centre / Affiliate Member [*] who has agreed that they are willing to carry our votes⁴

.....
(name of National Centre / Affiliate Member [*] who will carry the proxy votes)

Signed:

Position in Organisation:
(President / Secretary General)

Dated:

[*] delete as appropriate

Please email this form to the AITA/IATA asbl Secretariat secretariat@aitaiata.org by **26 July 2013**. Or post it (details below).

Secretariat of AITA/IATA asbl:
secretariat@aitaiata.org

Anne Gilmour
aita/iata Secretariat
19, Dorset Avenue
Southall
Middlesex
UB2 4HF
United Kingdom

⁴ Please note that AITA/IATA asbl Council Members may **not** receive proxy votes. If you need assistance to identify or to contact a representative from a National Centre or Affiliate Member who will attend the World Congress and General Assembly in Monaco, please contact the Secretariat.