



**Minutes of the  
State of Affairs Meeting, Zürich, 2 July 2004**

**Sections present**

Eindhoven  
Fribourg  
Heidelberg

Helsinki  
Marburg  
Nijmegen

Turku  
Zürich

**Agenda**

- 1. Sections**
- 2. International Board**
- 3. Upcoming events**
- 4. Policy paper**
- 5. Budget**
- 6. Swiss post box**
- 7. Any other business**

**1. Sections**

*Eindhoven*

have lent 50% of the members to some third world country and have 50% working on the IB.

*Fribourg*

have not really taken on the form of a formally constituted section yet, but will begin targeting first year students in autumn to help organise the Summer Seminar 2005. Still part of the Fachverein (organisation of the history students' representatives).

*Heidelberg*

published the so far last issue of Carnival, saw their member Julia Grübel elected as the new chairwoman of the local history students' representatives (with ISHA Heidelberg president Thomas Foerster as vice-chairman, which obviously benefits the section) and is soon to get its own homepage. Then again, only approx. 10 members at the moment.

*Helsinki*

is undergoing a major generation change, but doing well, with 20 active members.

*Nijmegen*

have elected Jeroen Merks as their new chairman and are trying to get more people involved.

*Marburg*

is busy preparing for the New Year Seminar 2004/05, with 15-20 people involved at the moment.

*Turku*

has nothing special to mention.

*Zürich*

is considering becoming part of the Fachverein (see Fribourg) and is otherwise co-operating nicely with ISHA Fribourg in the organisation of next year's Summer Seminar.

## **2. International Board**

The IB thanks Zürich for hosting the meeting and proceeds to present a policy paper for the academic year of 2004-05, which will be attached to the minutes.

## **3. Upcoming events**

*Summer 2004*

Nothing has been heard recently about the seminar ISHA Debrecen is planning to hold together with another organisation. In any case this seminar would not take place as a strictly ISHA event.

*Autumn 2004*

Nijmegen wants to host a small, short seminar (□ basically long weekend). This event will probably be marked by a very low budget, lectures by local university teachers instead of papers from the participants and will be aimed mainly at people from the general region (Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland) but everybody else is also welcome.

*Winter 2004-05*

Marburg is hosting the New Year Seminar from 27-12-2004 to 02-01-2005, aimed at a number of 30-35 participants (or less).

*Conference 2005*

Sadly, still no hosting section has been found or has volunteered to hold ISHA's annual main event. The main hope of the IB is still resting on ISHA Skopje (or Young Historians' Association of Macedonia □ Clio), but as time is running out, if there's no other option left it might be an option to go to some central European city, even without a section, and hold a working meeting there. In this case the IB & Council could draw up a programme, with no participation fee but everybody paying for their own expenses.

*Summer 2005*

There will be a Summer Seminar in Switzerland from 1-7 August 2005, held part in Zürich and part in the Alps. Co-operation between the organising sections of Fribourg and Zürich has so far been fruitful and the prospects for funding are looking good (as the example of this meeting has shown).

**4. Policy paper**

The meeting went through policy paper point by point. Comments were passed on the following subjects:

*a) Website*

A new, improved website will be put on [www.isha-international.org](http://www.isha-international.org) as soon as possible, with an “under construction” wildcard taking its place until it is ready. Concerning this and the following item, a small working group of people with Internet experience was formed, which will present its results at the next State of Affairs Meeting.

*b) ISHA List*

Concerning ISHA's main communication resource, most members have been recently annoyed by the increasing number of spam mails. It was pointed out that Yahoo is not completely safe and that it may be worthwhile to create a new list through the forum on the new website. The idea was brought up of having two distinct forums, a public official one and a restricted members-only one for “gossip” etc. Nonetheless sections are urged to get all their members onto the ISHA List to increase their involvement with the overall organisation.

*c) Finances*

From this day on ISHA has got a new Swiss bank account with the Euro as the currency. The IB will let the members know as soon as possible how to transfer the membership fees (normally 50,- Euro before 1 August, 75,- Euro after that date, but this year sections paying after the usual deadline will not have to pay the full amount because we'll have only figured out how people can pay by bank after the deadline...therefore, it would be a bit unfair to ask people to cough up more money for 'paying late' when we didn't tell them how to pay on time by cash transfer in the first place), although payment in cash would be preferable in order to save transfer costs. On the question how to spend the money, it was suggested that we might financially support sections who are organising ISHA events and really need some extra funding.

*d) Carnival*

It was proposed that the academic level of ISHA's journal be improved in the future, perhaps by trying to get university teachers to also contribute articles. Also the amount of news, information and reflective issues concerning ISHA should be increased, since Carnival is aimed at the members first of all. If a calling-card for potential sponsors is required, this should be in the first place the function of the website.

*e) Promotion & new sections*

There are too many passive and dead sections which ISHA really needs to try and revive, perhaps by sending representatives of active sections in the vicinity there. The bottom line is that it is also up to the individual sections to increase the number of sections in their vicinity. There are certain possibilities of achieving this, such as bringing the website to the attention of history students in cities with no section, sending issues of Carnival to them, turning up at

meetings of one's national students of history organisation or similar. For future ISHA events, downloadable advertising posters could be put online, enabling every section to put these up at their university and also at others in their vicinity.

*f) Co-operation with other organisations*

Next to Clloh-Net and the various national students of history organisations (see policy paper), the possibility of co-operating with other international student organisations from other subjects was mentioned, e.g. ESSA (European Sociology Students Organisation) are interested and have approached us.

*g) Continuity*

The officials and sections representatives present agreed on rephrasing a certain passage of the paragraph on 'continuity' which deals with the composition of the IB as follows:

“Also, there could be advantages if the members of the IB are located in each other’s vicinity. So when looking for suitable candidates for the IB, special attention could be paid on trying to find people located in the same region. We think this would be desirable since it’s hardly possible to run an organisation with all board members hundreds or even thousands kilometres from each other. In that situation you can only have a maximum of a few meetings between the IB each year, which is much too few, as the only other communication possible is through the internet (slow) and telephone (expensive). Further, an IB that is located at one section has that section to back it up with volunteers and facilities. Also people who see each other on a regular basis can motivate each other when motivation of one of the members should flag noticeably. Nevertheless, of course every motivated individual in ISHA is welcome to stand up for election, regardless of location.”

Whenever a GA is scheduled to take place, it should be seen to that all ISHA members and participants know beforehand and also that there are people needed to stand for election as officials. It should also be made clear what the various offices entail.

*h) Advantages of membership*

To alter the ratio of observing sections to full sections at ISHA activities favourably without excluding anybody it is necessary to make membership more attractive. One possibility is making the proposed range of ISHA merchandise cheaper for individuals of member sections. Above all the necessity of membership fees for the continued existence of ISHA needs to be explained before the next GA. In addition to easy-to-follow instructions on how to pay and tips on where to get the money from (e.g. one's local history student representatives' organisation) this should help to increase membership.

- 7 sections had paid the fee before or during the meeting (Heidelberg, Helsinki, Marburg, Nijmegen, Turku, Zagreb, and Zürich)

*i) What the IB expects from Council members & sections*

In addition to the expectations listed in the paper a task list was drawn up:

- Since we're officially a Swiss organisation, the Swiss sections will search for financial resources like foundations, government institutions, etc.
- Marburg will write a draft text for a general information leaflet on ISHA's many blessings and the benefits of membership
- Each section is asked to target its national students of history organisation to spread the gospel
- Each official reads at least once the statutes
- Sophie (ISHA Zürich) will write a letter to the French students of history organisation
- Everybody present will try to spread the ISHA word at universities in their vicinity

## 5. Budget

### *In:*

500 Membershipfee  
275 Merchandise  
100 Sponsorship  
364.70 Money at the moment in ISHA-wallet

Total = 1239.70

### *Out:*

250 Carnival  
150 Carnival reserve  
200 Merchandise  
25 Bank costs  
25 Expenses IB  
50 Reserved for unexpected expenses

Total: 700

Further, the Internet can be very important for ISHA for international transactions. This might be cheaper than normal, Maarten will look at the possibilities.

## 6. Swiss post box

To maintain a Swiss bank account ISHA must also possess a Swiss post box, which will be no problem as long as there is one Swiss yet in ISHA. This year Sophie's the contact person, next year we'll need a new Swiss contact person to take up the task. Apparently, Gabi from Zürich has volunteered, so there's no problem there.

## 7. Any other business

- Heidelberg asked how to dispose of the approx. 100 surplus copies of Carnival
- For the benefit of the organisers the actual key dates of the academic year 2004-05 were pointed out
- Nijmegen asks all interested parties in the weekend seminar this autumn to get in touch as soon as possible
- The statutes and Standing orders need a small revision. The IB will look into it, people willing to help are more than welcome and can contact János