

European Civic Forum Brussels, 2 February 2007

The first meeting of the European Civic Forum's Board of directors took place on 2 February 2007, in Brussels, in the building of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

The following organizations were present : CIDEM (France), ANO pro Evropu (Czech republic), Forum permanent de la société civile (Belgium), CapMagellan (Portugal), JTI (Estonia), Animafac (France), Ligue de l'enseignement (France), European House of Budapest (Hungary), GSI Italia (Italy), Documenta (Spain), Youth Work Ireland (Ireland), AEDH (Belgium), LDH (France), AGE-Europe (Belgium), IRI-Europe (Germany), ARCI (Italy).

Kesalukioseura, Citizens Union Paremvassi, Contact 2103, CSV and Anne Frank House in Amsterdam were excused. Representatives of the ECI initiative were also present.

M Venturini, General Secretary of the EESC, honoured us with his presence and welcomed the members of the European Civic Forum's Board of directors. He presented the role of this institution that is the " house of civil society ". M Fève, in charge of the relations with organizations of the civil society, presented the role of the EESC Group the liaison.

1) Decision on the " European Citizen's Initiative " (ECI)

Following the discussion that had taken place during the meeting of 20-21 December 2006 in Paris, concerning a possible collaboration between the European Civic Forum and this initiative, a work has been done by Jan Robert Suesser (LDH) and some members of ECI to see in which measure this initiative could take into account the modifications asked by the ECF's board of directors.

The following agreement was found : to integrate into the leaflet presenting the ECI the fundamental values of the European Union as described in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These values define the framework in which any citizen's initiative should take place.

The members of the board decide to integrate the ECI campaign in the European Civic Forum's ones.

2) Election of the Steering committee of the European Civic Forum

The following Steering committee has been elected :

President : Nadia Bellaoui, representing La Ligue de l'enseignement

Vice-presidents : Anna Gabriel, representing AEGEE-Europe ; Monika McDonagah-Pajerova, representing ANO pro Evropu ; Pierre Barge, representing AEDH.

Secretary : Anna Bucca, representing ARCI

Treasurer : Jean - Marc Roirant, representing CIDEM

The coordination team, composed of Cédric Bloquet and Macarena Nuño, was confirmed on its functions.

3) Presentation of the " A + " plan

M Van Wassenhove, President of the APEF, was invited to the meeting in order to present, for information, the " A + Plan " of M Onesta, vice-president of the European Parliament. This plan is

a proposition in order to re-launch the constitutional Treaty. For more information:
www.onesta.net

4) Preparation of ECF next meeting in Italy in 2007

Roberto Tavani (ARCI) presented different hypotheses concerning the organization of a meeting of the network in Rome, in 2007. Considering these indications, it is decided to organize a meeting of the board of directors, widened to all member associations but also to other Italian local or regional associations. This meeting will take place on 11 and 12 May 2007, in Rome.

5) Next meeting of the Board of directors

11 May 2007 in Rome.