

**Report of the  
European Regional Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 29, 2011  
Room ECO, Bologna Book Fair

**Participants:** Representatives from the following countries attended the meeting: Austria, Belgium, UK, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Russia. There were 14 persons present (see list below).

Some IBBY members attending the book fair couldn't come to the meeting because of prior engagements.

**Agenda:**

1. Presentation of the participants
2. The European Newsletter
3. Discussion about creating an IBBY Europe group on Facebook
4. A European Union Prize for Children's Literature?
5. National sections' status in Lisbon and Luxembourg
6. The IBBY Congress in London in 2012
7. Other issues

1. Each participant to the meeting introduced themselves. The attendees were:

<b>Name</b>	<b>NS</b>
Sabine Fuchs	Austria
Eva Devos	Belgium
Wally de Doncker	Belgium
Majo de Saedeleer	Belgium
Pam Dix	UK
Nathalie Beau	France
Hasmig Chahinian	France
Regina Pantos	Germany
Eva Kaliskami	Greece
Valerie Coghlan	Ireland
Grazia Gotti	Italy
Deborah Soria	Italy
Malgorzata Cackowska	Poland
Anastasia Arkhipova	Russia

2. The November 2010 issue of the European Newsletter was shown to the participants. It transpired that some of them had not received the Newsletter, which had been sent to the presidents and the secretaries of the European National Sections. It was decided to include the participants of this meeting in the next mailing campaign in order to widen the recipients' list. The participants would then help to relay the Newsletter to other members of their National Sections.

The participants suggested that a subscription option could be included in the next European Newsletter as well as giving a link on the IBBY website allowing people to subscribe to the Newsletter. A subscription's link (via e.mail) will be included in the next issue, and we shall talk to Liz Page about including this link on the on IBBY's main website.

The participants were satisfied with the Newsletter and did not have any suggestions for adding a new column. The deadline for sending material for the April issue was set for 10 April.

3. The project of creating a Facebook group for IBBY Europe, proposed by Hasmig, was discussed:
  - The national sections of IBBY Europe need a tool to allow interaction between them and act as a network. This tool should be easy to use and open to everyone.
  - The idea is not to post official statements and have people react to them. The aim is to allow everyone to post an item (information, questions, pictures...) without being subjected to any official procedures.
  - There will be administrators for this group (it is impossible to create a group on Facebook without having administrators). The persons in charge of administration will be Wally and Hasmig. They will make sure that no intruders post unwanted comments on the page.
  - The language of the group is English, since it is our common language. Nevertheless, every person has a right to post a comment in his or her own language, but the comment should also be translated directly into English in order to grant everyone the same access to information.
  - To insure everyone's right to privacy, no one is allowed to post a picture on the group's page without prior consent from the persons in the picture.
  - The Facebook group is created to share valuable information; every person is responsible for his/her posts.
  - The life expectancy of this group relies on its members. If the group is not kept alive through posts and comments, it will not last long. All members are asked to keep this in mind and act accordingly.

The participants were very enthusiastic with this project. They said: "It seems fantastic", "It is important that it will be open to everyone", and "it's a way to fight bureaucracy".

An avatar, designed by David Pintor was shown, including the five stages the avatar had gone through before reaching its final version. Everyone was satisfied with the final draft and agreed to have it as the Facebook avatar of the IBBY Europe group.

4. A European Union Prize for Children's Literature?

Working together with the European Booksellers Federation (EBF), the European Writers' Council (EWC) and the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), the European Commission aims at showcasing the diversity of contemporary European fiction by helping new authors to break through national borders by initiating the European Prize for Literature. In this way the involved sectors and the Commission want to develop a smoother path for the translation of new literature.

**Objective:**

The aim of the European Prize for Literature is to put the spotlight on the creativity and diverse wealth of Europe's contemporary literature in the field of fiction, to promote the circulation of literature within Europe and encourage greater interest in non-national literary works.

The works of the selected winners (one per country participating in the prize on a rotation basis) will reach a wider and international audience, and touch readers beyond national and linguistic borders.

The prize is financed by the [Culture Programme of the European Union](#) whose objective is to achieve three main goals: to promote **cross-border mobility** of those working in the cultural sector; to encourage the **transnational circulation** of cultural and artistic output; and to foster **intercultural dialogue**.

More information: [www.euprizeliterature.eu](http://www.euprizeliterature.eu)

**Proposal:**

Wally proposed that he would write a letter on behalf (or with the support) of the European IBBY Sections of the European Union to Mrs Androulla Vassiliou, the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth and ask her to establish a European Union Award for Children's Literature.

Comments: It is a commercial network. It will need some lobby work. IBBY could suggest a European Prize for Children's Literature but the EU Commission would have to be responsible for the setting up of the national juries and the practical organisation of the award ceremony.

**Conclusion:** We will only write a letter to suggest the establishment of an EU Prize for CL.

**5. National sections' status in Lisbon and Luxembourg**

Wally said that a meeting will be held in Lisbon on April 15. Liz, Marilar and Wally will talk about the benefits for the Portuguese section to be a part of the International IBBY Network. There has been a big response from more than forty people from different professional groups: writers, illustrators, researchers, publishers, reading promoters, teachers and journalists. We could already call it a success. A journalist from a Portuguese national newspaper will interview Liz during the book fair.

During the book fair people from Luxembourg contacted Liz Page and are considering creating a National section there.

6. The IBBY Congress in London in 2012 was presented at the IBBY Press conference and the persons in charge of the congress are on the IBBY stand. The members of the European sections expressed their willingness to help IBBY UK in organising the congress by relaying information in their countries or giving contact details when needed. There will be a call for papers in April. The national sections can always suggest names of speakers. The organisers want to find a balance between foreign and British speakers. It is believed that the majority of Congress participants want to meet British authors and illustrators.
7. Regina Pantos presented the publication "African Books for Children" at the request of Grazia Gotti who had to leave the meeting. This publication will also be presented in the next issue of the European Newsletter.

Valerie Coghlan, President of Bookbird Inc., asked for contributions to *Bookbird* from the different National Sections.

*Wally De Doncker and Hasmig Chahinian, Bologna, March 29, 2011.*