

Explanation of the Additional Agenda Item Added at My Request:

- The Reorganization / Restructuring of the Committee

Dear colleagues of the CEC general meeting!

My nomination for the office of CEC president (for which I would like to thank my colleagues for placing their trust in me) has once again led me to engage with the current structure of the CEC, its previous and future mission, the way it cooperates with CIFTA and NEATA, its relationship to EFAT, its significance within the AITA/IATA and its role in the implementation of the planned reorganization of the international association and last, but not least, its status in view of current cultural policy challenges at a European level. I have represented BAG Spiel & Theater, which forms the German national AITA/IATA centre together with BDAT, at the CEC since 2003, which means I have extensive knowledge of the committee's stakeholders and structures as well as the thematic discourses it explores.

Over the last months, I've been able to enter into an exchange with CEC and other theatre colleagues on the questions listed at the start. The following considerations and suggestions are the result of these discussions.

The question of whether or not the EU countries need a common European cultural policy is being addressed at several levels within the member states as well as at the level of the EU itself, with such debate being spurred on in Germany in particular by the discussions surrounding the TTIP/CETA free trade agreement. Yet the question of which form European cultural policy should or must take in a global setting is far more important than the question of whether or not it should exist. What is certain is that culture in Europe doesn't just create local, regional and transnational identification, but also identification at the level of civil society. In the medium and long term and once the logic of the nation state has been overcome, which one may assume is likely, this set of complex, varied identifications will function as a decisive guarantee for social harmony in Europe. With this in mind, I see the fusion of the three European regional organizations of CIFTA, NEATA and CEC with regards to structure and content under the umbrella of AITA/IATA as very much advisable. As far as I see the previous developments, setting up EFAT as a platform for exchange, meeting and cooperation carries the potential of allowing all the countries of Europe organized within the international association to enter into dialogue on an equal footing and for it to become established at a European level as an independent structure, an important voice in artistic/aesthetic debates and a representative for the cultural policy interests of amateur theatre. For this to take place however, it is necessary that all the European countries represented within the AITA/IATA continue to collaborate in specialist terms and

provide support on content matters. The dissolution of the regional structures of CIFTA, NEATA and CECD are also linked to this in the medium term. In addition, given the impression that the reorganization of AITA/IATA carries a Eurocentric signature, I see the amalgamation of the three European regional organisations into one unit as being an important sign for the other regions. A voice and representation for the European area under the umbrella of the AITA/IATA!

The concrete effects of the planned reorganisation of AITA/IATA on its structure are not foreseeable at the moment. There are still too many open questions here, such as the question of membership (key words: dual structures, quality vs. quantity), the future status of the national centres, the thematic focus of the world association (artistic, cultural and education policy positions, the quality of networks with respect to internal and external relations), the development of a culture of participation and so on. Discussing these aspects in Belgium will certainly be exciting. The list of open points mentioned above is not complete and should be supplemented at the CEC meeting.

We are all aware that change needs time.

I would therefore like to suggest to the general meeting that we suspend the upcoming election of the CEC board and instead appoint a committee of 2-3 people (from the CEC ranks) for the coming legislation period who will then facilitate the current developments in close contact with the CEC members (such as via regular short reports to the CEC members etc.). Here is a suggestion as to how the tasks in question could be allocated:

<p><u>Person 1:</u> Spokesperson function Facilitation of EFAT contact, Facilitation of contact with the AITA/IATA board</p>
--

<p><u>Person 2:</u> Coordination of the CEC office, Facilitation of contact with CIFTA</p>
--

<p><u>Person 3:</u> Facilitation of contact with CEC members, coordination of CEC tasks (TIP, AC etc.)</p>
--

These areas of responsibility may have to be supplemented and this suggested division of tasks must of course be discussed. It would be very much desirable if committed colleagues were willing to take on the respective areas of responsibility. Perhaps several colleagues are currently asking themselves why the tasks in question can't be implemented via the "old" board structure. For me, two important things stand in the way of the old model. On the one hand, the altered structure is supposed to convey the idea of a new beginning, which in view of the upcoming reorganisation of the world association is both necessary and logical. On the other, I believe that a CEC structure like the one I

attempted to sketch out above is more suited to bringing about one single European region within both Europe and the AITA/IATA that is appropriate in terms of content and structure. I would like to give my active support for this suggestion and make myself available for the role of the CEC spokesperson. With this in mind, I very much look forward to a stimulating exchange with you all in Belgium.

Hanover, 19.06.2015

Ute Handweg

Secretary General of the BAG and

Representative of the BAG in the CEC-GA