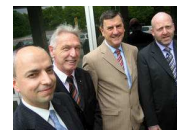




**UNIEP General Assembly 2009 in Luxembourg
8 May 2009**

minutes

participants: José Angel Brey, Manuel Candela Martinez, Ole Draborg, Jos Ebbing, Giuseppe Fatone, Ludger Fischer, Norbert Geisen, Tina Juuhl, Roland Kuhn, Erik Kruidrink, Allain Kutten, Glen Larsen, Werner Loch, Michel Mannes, Paul Marsden, Geir Atle Mjeldheim, Jos Mousel, Michael O'Regan, Adam Pade, Paul Raasveld, Stuart Seddon, Helmut Schulz, Audun Støa, Markus Straube, Virgino Trivella, Rob Veraart



Welcome

Michel Mannes, President of LU painters federation,
Giuseppe Fatone, Secretary of the LU painters federation



Address of UNIEP's President, **Erik Kruidrink**
incl. VAT, paint directive, working time directive, co-operation with CEPE, economy, recession, ...
The speech will be sent to press agencies
[Complete speech attached and published in UNIEP's newsflash June 2009 EN/DE]



Report on the activities in 2008-2009, UNIEP Secretary General **Ludger Fischer**
[see attached presentation]



Alain Kutten: Report on the Leonardo da Vinci PaintingSkills project
[see attached presentation]



Markus Straube: Presentation of the UNIEP workshop "Europe's best"
[see attached presentation]
application needed before 15 May 2009 !

Review of the minutes of the GA 2008
no remarks



Financial report of 2008 (**Geir Atle Mjeldheim**, UNIEP treasurer)

The treasurer reported about a positive result of 27770 €uro in 2008, caused mainly by a reduction of travelling expenses. Reason: Member associations are paying for their board members.

The balance sheet, a profit and loss account and an explanation was tabled and already sent to the members of the GA 1 week in advance.

Candela: the good result should be invested in new projects, e.g. in a tour through member associations which are not able to finance travelling themselves.

Straube: efficient and cost saving daily work gives the possibility to support travelling costs of young painters if the board decides so.

Kruiderink: In 2008 an increased membership fee of 8% + in addition 2000 Euro from NL and DE each was adopted. This was necessary under the conditions in 2008. One could think at more working time which can be hired from UEAPME.

Mjeldheim: Other associations are spending much more money in political activities than UNIEP. More activities are possible now. UNIEP has no means to force members who are not willing to pay. Expenses for the Leonardo project will be paid back from the European Commission.



Report of the auditor (**Gerard van der Weide**, excused)

Letter from Gerard van der Weide (financial auditor): For 30 March 2009 the financial administration is in order. Invoices for all expenses are available. The auditor asks to discharge the board.

Report adopted by the GA.



Budget 2009 (**Geir Atle Mjeldheim**)

60000 Euro subscriptions. Additional money from DE and NL (2000 each) is no more needed.

Biggest expenditure = subscription to UEAPME 32.000 Euro, total expected expenses 10540 Euro.

Budget adopted by the GA.



Election of the auditor: **Werner Loch**, elected unanimously

Election of the board: **Erik Kruiderink, Geir Atle Mjeldheim, Ole Draborg, Stuart Seddon, Markus Straube, José Angel Brey**, elected unanimously by the GA.

Contributions from UNIEP's member associations. Round table reports (5 minutes each)

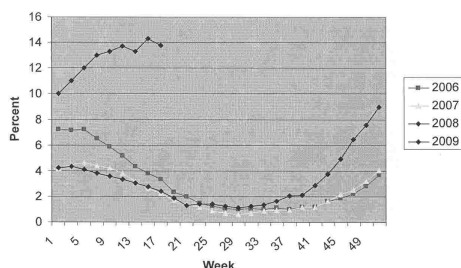
Report on the national - economical situation of the branch - employment situation of the branch - tax situation of the branch - activities of the association - visions of the branch in the specific country:



Denmark, Ole Draborg

Danish economy is strongly affected by the economic crises, but the starting point is good. The national unemployment rate remains below 2%, 3% are expected for 2009. A negative growth is expected. Unemployment in painting trade has changed dramatically since autumn 2008. Traditional unemployment in winter time was 4% in the last four years now it is 13,8 % (!). The Danish government introduced a scheme that subsidises private repair. Problem: the application procedure takes 2-3 months.

Unemployment



Austria, Helmut Schulz

3860 enterprises, 15.000 employees + 3500 apprentices. Subsidies for thermal improvement work very well. Private households are doing painting work mostly by do it yourself work. Employment rate = OK but in 2009 it wend worth because of bad climate.

New collective agreement +2,65 % for 2009, +2,25 % for 2010 agreed.

From January 2009 on a general reduction of taxes in Austria for lower incomes was introduced.

Vocational training: 2 years general training + 1 year specialised training.

A fusion of painters and decorators will take place in 2009.



Germany, Markus Straube

financial crisis not yet reached the business completely. The turnover was reduced by 4%, employment reduced by 12%. Possible reason: new rules adopted by the government related to public procurement. Money is pretty cheap now. Some of this money goes into the building sector. An image campaign was launched by Hauptverband Farbe together with the Swiss association.



Ireland, Michael O'Regan Unemployment in Ireland and in the sector is the highest since 1989 (15%). The situation is depressing, expectations pessimistic.



Italy, Jos Ebbing The economic situation not good in Italy. Late payments are a big problem. The government's activities don't yet show consequences. Thanks to UNIEP's Leonardo project the awareness of professional qualification in the painting branch is increasing. A first vocational training school starts its work this year. The government allowed a reduction from 20% to 10% VAT regarding the maintenance of buildings.



Luxembourg, Jos Mousel 181 companies (187 in 2000), 1108 workers 231 of them have Luxembourgian nationality, the rest are foreigners. Negative collective agreement expected for 2009. Tendering systems will be simplified.



Norway, Geir Atle Mjeldheim There is still a good economic situation in Norway (privileged situation). Drop in GNP expected -1,7. Positive figures are expected for 2010 +1,2. An unemployment rate of 3,7 % was expected (actually around 4%). Painting business: There are no specific figures, but in the construction sector the overall picture is not too bad. Reason: State investment to counter the drop in demand. There are historically low interest rates. No lowering of taxes is intended. Price level is dropping.



Spain, José Angel Brey Difficult economic situation: Huge crisis. 22% (5 Mio workers) unemployment expected. VAT rate of 16% for painting work. ANSPI speaks for the Spanish painting business. No vocational training is necessary to open a painter's shop in Spain. Solvent issue: painting contractors are NOT sensitive on this topic.



UK, Paul Marsden 2350 companies, 4000 employees. 2 Mio unemployed in UK actually. 300.000 appeared in this year. Various initiatives of the government. Only few results are expected.



The Netherlands, Paul Raasveld 16 Mio inhabitants, 13.000 painters. Maintenance work not affected by the crisis. Initiative: 50.000 brochures to private households.



Unemployment in winter time was reduced within 4 years. FOSAG develops a package of measures which may help companies in the present economic crisis. A package with the unions on education to avoid or postpone dismissal. A "maintenance test of private homes" which can be ordered at FOSAG with the company's name printed on it. This "test form" can be used in talks with possible clients. 50.000 forms have been ordered already.

The GA agreed that Munich will be the location of the GA 2010 (connected to FARBE 2010). Date: 25 March 2010.



Stuart Seddon, member of UNIEP's board:
The European labour market and labour conditions in UK
[Complete speech attached and published in UNIEP's newflash June 2009 EN/DE]





