

Report of the ILGA-Europe executive board 1997-1998

(13 October 1997-21 October 1998)

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A. BOARD MEMBERSHIP, MEETINGS AND ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

The Executive Board elected at the 1997 London conference consisted of **Adrian Relu Coman** (ACCEPT, Romania), **Gonçalo Dumas Diniz** (ILGA-Portugal), **Steffen Jensen** (Landsforeningen for bøsse og lesbiske, LBL The Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians), **Milus Kotisová** (Sdružení organizací homosexuálních občanů, SOHO The Czech Association of Organisations of Homosexual Citizens), **Kurt Krickler** (Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien, Austria), **Jackie Lewis** (National Lesbian and Gay Committee of UNISON, the public sector trade union in the United Kingdom), **Eva Ogenborg** (Riksförbundet för sexuellt likaberättigande, RFSL The Swedish Federation for Lesbian and Gay Rights), and **Maren Wuch** (lesbian and gay liberation front Köln, Iglf, Germany).

As reserve members were elected: **Lilian Kotter** (Eesti lesbiliit, ELL Estonian Lesbian Union), **Mark Watson** (Stonewall, United Kingdom) and **Enric Vilà** (Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana, CGL The Network of Catalan Gay and Lesbian Organisations, Spain).

The Board held five meetings during its period of office:

- on 13 October 1997, immediately following the end of the London conference. Board members present: Gonçalo Diniz, Steffen Jensen, Milus Kotisová, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis, Eva Ogenborg, and Maren Wuch. Reserve member Enric Vilà also attended. Adrian Coman was not present at the conference and therefore not yet aware of his election to the Board. It was agreed to postpone the elections to the positions of Co-Chairs and Treasurer to the next Board meeting so that all elected members of the Board could participate. It was then agreed to elect Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler to be acting Co-Chairs, Steffen Jensen to be acting Treasurer until then.
Since none of the elected Board members was of Belgian nationality, the Board appointed, as required by the Constitution, a Belgian national, **Pierre Noël**, as an ex-officio member of the Board;
- on 6 and 7 December 1997 in London. Board members present: Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis and Maren Wuch. Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler were elected Co-Chairs and Steffen Jensen as Treasurer;
- on 14 and 15 February 1998 in Brussels. All eight elected Board members were present. One half day was dedicated to a meeting with (board) members of *Égalité*, the Organisation for Lesbian/Gay Equality in the European Institutions, to discuss joint activities and lobbying efforts;
- on 2 and 3 May 1998 in Brussels. Board members present: Adrian Coman, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis, Pierre Noël and Maren Wuch (on 2 May);
- on 11 and 12 July 1998 in Linz. Board members present: Adrian Coman, Steffen Jensen, Kurt Krickler, Jackie Lewis and Maren Wuch. Gonçalo Diniz had announced his resignation from the Board on 30 June.
- The Board will have another meeting on 21 October 1998 immediately before the start of the 20th ILGA European Conference in Linz.

B. INTERNAL MATTERS

B1. Registration of ILGA-Europe under Belgian law

ILGA-Europe has already applied for recognition as an international non-profit non-governmental organisation in Belgium more than one year ago (see Board Report 96/97, item B), but in spite of some correspondence and reminders from the Board, no final answer has been received from the Belgian Ministry of Justice until September 1998.

B2. Delegates registration form for Annual Conferences

The Board produced a registration form to be used by member organisations for notifying the ILGA-Europe Annual Conference about who will be their delegates and/or proxies exercising the group's voting rights in accordance with the Constitution and the Standing Orders. The form has been sent out to already be used for the Linz conference.

C. RELATIONS WITH ILGA-WORLD

The ILGA-Europe Board has been in regular contact with the ILGA-World Board, the two secretaries-general Jennifer Wilson and Jordi Petit as well as with Tom Hoemig, the administrator in the ILGA office in Brussels. Jordi Petit from the *Coordinadora Gai-Lesbiana* in Barcelona and Bea Sándor from *Háttér Baráti Társaság a Melegekért* in Budapest have been elected to be the representatives of the European Region on the ILGA-World Board.

Steffen Jensen participated in the meeting of the ILGA-World Board in Stockholm on 23 and 24 July 1998. It was agreed that ILGA-Europe should receive 10 to 15% of the membership fees paid to ILGA by European members. For 1998, 1,000 US dollars will be paid to ILGA-Europe (see item H). ILGA-World has got funding to employ a person for administration on a full-time basis; this person will be working for ILGA-Europe on a 20% basis. The problems with the membership database were also discussed (see item I3). It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the two representatives of the European Region on the World Board to inform the ILGA-Europe Board about relevant matters.

ILGA-World and ILGA-Europe also joined forces to ask for and prepare the meeting between ILGA and Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which will take place in Geneva on 8 October 1998. ILGA will be represented by Jennifer Wilson, Jordi Petit, and Kurt Krickler (see item L).

D. LOBBYING THE EUROPEAN UNION

D1. Follow-up to the ILGA-Europe Action Plan towards the EU

In following-up the ILGA-Europe Action Plan *24 ideas for European Commission-led initiatives*, ILGA-Europe continued its meetings with EU officials. After a first series of meetings in May 1997 (see Euro-Letter # 51 and Board Report 96/97, item E1), Kurt Krickler and Alberto Volpato, member of *Égalité*, had another series of meetings with the following officials in Brussels on 2, 3 and 8 December 1997:

- Helena Petiz, member of the cabinet of Commissioner João de Deus Pinheiro, responsible for the relations with the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific) Lomé Convention countries and South Africa;

- Alisdair McIntosh, member of the cabinet of Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan, responsible for the relations with North America, Australia, New Zealand, China, Korea, Hongkong, Macau, and Taiwan;
- Giuseppe Callovi, Head of Unit A3 (Free movement of persons and citizens' rights) in Directorate-General (DG) XV, and his assistant Raquel de Vicente; they received ILGA-Europe on behalf of Commissioner Mario Monti (Internal Market and Financial Services);
- William Aitchison and Georgios Zisimatos from the Craft and Small Enterprises Unit in DG XXIII; responsible Commissioner is Christos Papoutsis (SMEs, Tourism);
- Brian Owen from DG 1A; he received ILGA-Europe on behalf of Daniela Napoli, head of the Human Rights and Democratisation Unit (cabinet of Commissioner Hans van den Broek).

As in the first series of meetings with EU officials, the main purpose of these meetings was to introduce the Action Plan and to explain its "horizontal" approach of mainstreaming gay and lesbian concerns in all activities and programmes of the EU where appropriate. The portfolios of the various cabinets and DGs, however, vary in relevance for gay and lesbian issues. A full report on these five meetings has been published in Euro-Letter # 56.

A third series of meetings was undertaken in Brussels on 3 and 4 March 1998. Due to the very positive reply from Commissioner Marcelino Oreja, the main target this time was DG X. Kurt Krickler met people from five different units in DG X and was again accompanied in two meetings by Alberto Volpato. Their interlocutors were: Philippe Cova, who is in charge of the Raphael programme, Nathalie Labourdette, responsible for among other things the new audiovisual media, Maruja Gutierrez, dealing with the publications of DG X, Santiago Herrero Villa, in charge of various programmes, including Building Europe Together, and Jaime Andreu, responsible for sports.

All DG X officials were quite supportive and encouraged ILGA-Europe and its members to submit project proposals under the various programmes. A full report on this third series of meetings has been published in Euro-Letter # 58.

Additionally, Kurt Krickler met also with Georges Vlandas of DG XVI as proposed by Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies.

On 26 May 1998, Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler had a meeting, in Brussels, with José Zarzoso Farinos of DG VIII, dealing with human rights in the Lomé Convention (APC) countries (see Euro-Letter # 61, pp. 6-7).

RÉSUMÉ

It can be stated that the "first round" of Action Plan activities, e. g., introducing the Action Plan to the European Commission, is now successfully completed. ILGA-Europe has received written replies from all 20 Commissioners with the exception of Yves-Thibault de Silguy (Economy and Finances). ILGA-Europe has had meetings with representatives of all Commissioners relevant for gay and lesbian issues, i. e. Oreja, Marín, Gradin, Santer, Flynn, Cresson, Pinheiro, Sir Leon Brittan, Monti, Papoutsis, van den Broek and Wulf-Mathies.

In these meetings, ILGA-Europe has collected a lot of information about relevant EU programmes and funding possibilities. In the "second round" of Action Plan activities, it will be important to motivate ILGA-Europe members to submit project proposals under the various programmes. The success of the Action Plan will now depend on a large extent upon the commitment and creativity of ILGA-Europe members and their ability to make use of the existing financial possibilities. The Board, therefore, encourages again

all member organisations to consider submitting projects to the Commission. More information about the various programmes and contact persons in the EU Commission has been published in the ILGA-Bulletin # 1/98 (pp. 5-6) and can be found on ILGA-Europe's website. The Board will also assist member groups with all information available.

D2. Equality For Lesbians And Gay Men Project

Very soon after the 1997 London conference, it became clear that DG V would not support ILGA's project proposal *Human rights for lesbians and gay men in the EU* which ILGA (World) had submitted in 1996 and which ILGA-Europe "chased" after the European Region had been established in Madrid (see Board Report 96/97, item F4). Instead, DG V advised the Board to submit a proposal under budgetline B3-4101 ("measures to promote co-operation with charitable associations, non-governmental organisations and associations dealing with the interests of the elderly"). In a rush, a project proposal was put together and submitted to DG V at the end of October 1997. In December, ILGA-Europe was informed by DG V that the proposal was accepted and that DG V would grant 39,600 ECU to the project, thus funding 60% of the overall budget of the project (see Euro-Letter # 56).

This *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men: A relevant issue in the civil and social dialogue* project has been an extremely important development and one of the major areas of the Board's work during the year (see Euro-Letter # 61 and # 62). The main objectives of the project, which is being coordinated by the Board in co-operation with its five project partners (HOSI Wien, LBL, Iglf Köln, ILGA-Portugal and RFSL), are to:

- a) develop and strengthen links and dialogue between ILGA-Europe and other non-governmental organisations working on social and human rights issues at a European level;
- b) produce a report on the legal and social situation of lesbians and gay men in all member states of the European Union, outlining examples of progressive legislation and policies as well as existing discrimination;
- c) promote the exchange of information and experience between lesbian and gay organisations in the member states and the development of good practice.

Although the project itself will not be completed until later in the year, the report has already been published (in English) in June 1998, and copies were circulated to all member groups with the second mailing for the Linz conference in August. The responsible editing and production team was Jackie Lewis, Kurt Krickler, Maren Wuch and Nico Beger.

The report has been designed to provide accessible information on lesbian and gay issues and concerns as a basis for dialogue with other NGOs, and for use as a lobbying tool towards EU institutions and national governments. The report includes a general overview of the situation in the EU, an assessment of recent developments in EU law and policy on sexual orientation discrimination, and reports from contributors on the situation in each member state, together with recommendations for action at EU and national level and by NGOs working in related areas.

The report has been made available on ILGA-Europe's website and will be published in French and German translations later in the year. Additionally and not as official part of the project (budget) César Lestón of *Fundación Triángulo por la Igualdad Social de Gais y Lesbianas* in Madrid has produced a Spanish translation of the report which will be

xeroxed in as many copies as may be required. The Spanish translation is also available on ILGA-Europe's website.

NGO MEETING

As part of the project, ILGA-Europe held a conference in Brussels on 25 May 1998 to which a range of other NGOs working in the social and human rights fields was invited, with the aim of initiating links and discussion on the issues being addressed in the report. The conference programme included contributions from MEP Outi Ojala, the President of the European Parliament Intergroup on Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians (see item D5), and from Kevin Walsh from DG V, together with presentations and discussions on recent developments in the EU and on sections of the draft report. The Board was represented by Jackie Lewis and Kurt Krickler, and was assisted by Nico Beger, Mark Bell and Alex Robertson.

Although the attendance at this conference was not as high as the Board would have liked, it was a very constructive and useful day which provided valuable feedback on the draft report and recommendations. A number of useful contacts with representatives of other European NGOs (such as the European Disability Forum and Eurolink Age) has been made.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL POLICY FORUM

Following the conference with NGOs on 25 May, the report was completed and published in time for presentation at the European Commission's second European Social Policy Forum, held in Brussels from 24 to 26 June. The first Social Policy Forum, held in 1996 shortly before the start of the Intergovernmental Conference, had led to the launch of a new policy objective: the building of a strong civil dialogue with NGOs and other voluntary organisations at European level. The *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men* project received funding under a budgetline created in 1997, in line with that policy objective, to promote co-operation with NGOs and to strengthen their capacity to participate in the civil dialogue. The 1998 Forum, organised by DG V in consultation with the Platform of European Social NGOs and the social partners (the European Trade Union Confederation, ETUC, and the employers' organisations UNICE and CEEP), was attended by around 1,000 representatives of NGOs, the European institutions, the social partners and national and local authorities in the member states.

It was a very busy three days for the ILGA-Europe representatives Jackie Lewis, Kurt Krickler, Nico Beger and Alex Robertson who participated in the main workshop sessions, staffed a stall in the exhibition area, presented the report at a workshop during the "Open Forum" afternoon, made interventions in several "fringe" events, attended Platform meetings, had discussions with other participants (including representatives of NGOs, Emilio Gabaglio, the general secretary of the ETUC, Stephen Hughes, the president of the European Parliament's Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, and Commission officials), and generally did whatever they could to promote the report and the visibility of ILGA-Europe. Several hundred copies of the report were distributed and many useful contacts were made, providing a solid base for the continued development of our lobbying work in different areas.

OTHER PROJECT ACTIVITIES

include the presentation of the report at other events and conferences, such as *Europride* in Stockholm in July, the *Trade Unions, Homosexuality and Work* conference and the *Gay Games* in Amsterdam in July/August and to the European institutions, including the European Parliament intergroup (see item D5). The Board has also requested the assistance of member groups in presenting the report and recommendations to national governments, linked to other lobbying initiatives such as the meeting between the Board and representatives of the Austrian Presidency held in July (see item D4). Finally a follow-up conference with NGOs will be held in November 1998, as part of the project, to

consider how to further develop this area of our work and to look at joint work with other NGOs, including lobbying, in more concrete terms.

ILGA-Europe had also two meetings with Kevin Walsh of DG V to discuss this project: Maren Wuch and Kurt Krickler met him in Brussels on 16 February, Kurt Krickler had another meeting with him in Brussels on 5 May.

D3. Other project applications to the EU

ILGA-Europe also acted as the main applicant in a project proposal submitted under the Phare and Tacis Democracy Programme. It was a re-application of the revised project on establishing a lesbian and gay community centre (*Meleg ház*) in Budapest. The first application had been rejected by the Commission in August 1997 (see Board Report 96/97, item F2). The Hungarian gay and lesbian support society, *Háttér Baráti Társaság a Melegekért*, had elaborated the revised application asking for funding of 187,000 ECU. It was submitted at the end of October 1997. In March 1998, the programme management, on behalf of the Commission, informed the Board that the project again had not been selected.

In January 1998, ILGA-Europe was also informed that another project, *Lesbians on line: Strengthening lesbian organisations in Central and Eastern Europe*, submitted in April 1997 under the Phare and Tacis LIEN Programme (see Board Report 96/97, item F1), had not been selected for co-financing by the European Commission.

At the end of June 1998, ILGA-Europe submitted a project proposal under the Building Europe Together programme. ILGA-Europe is seeking 35,585 ECU in co-funding (50%) a seminar *The Treaty of Amsterdam New Opportunities for Protection from Sexual Orientation Discrimination under Article 13* and the publication of a *Guide to the Amsterdam Treaty with regard to sexual orientation discrimination* in four languages. No decision has yet been conveyed to the Board as to whether the proposal has been selected or not.

D4. Follow-up of Article 13 of the Amsterdam Treaty

ILGA-Europe closely followed the developments in the European Union regarding the implementation of Article 13 of the Treaty establishing the European Communities (TEC) as amended by the Amsterdam Treaty. When the British Presidency organised, together with the European Commission (DG V), an informal meeting of high-level officials to discuss Article 13 in Oxford on 8 and 9 April 1998 (see Euro-Letter # 58), ILGA-Europe sent letters to the foreign ministers of the member states highlighting sexual orientation discrimination and drawing the attention to two aspects of non-discrimination: equal pay, referring also to the decision of the European Court of Justice in the Lisa Grant case (see item D5), and the free movement of persons which is not fully guaranteed in the EU for same-sex partners. ILGA-Europe wrote: *In conclusion, we believe that the two issues we have raised point to the urgent need for the introduction of legislation by the European Union which would make illegal discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, grant to same-sex couples the same rights as are accorded under EU law to unmarried heterosexual couples, and recognise same-sex partnerships.* The full text of this letter has been published in Euro-Letter # 60.

ILGA-Europe received replies from the foreign ministries of Austria, Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The most promising one was the one from the Danish minister of foreign affairs, who was *looking forward to the practical implementation of the article*

and not least to the possibilities given by the article to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation.

When Austria took over the Presidency of the Union, ILGA-Europe asked for a meeting with representatives of the Presidency. The meeting took place in Vienna on 13 July 1998. Jackie Lewis, Steffen Jensen and Kurt Krickler met with high-level officials of the Austrian government in the Federal Chancellery. The talks were very promising. ILGA-Europe issued a press release after the meeting: *For the first time representatives of ILGA-Europe have met with representatives of the Presidency of the European Union. "It was indeed a very fruitful meeting held in a very positive atmosphere," said Jackie Lewis, co-chair of ILGA-Europe, after the meeting. "We got the impression that the Austrian Presidency will try to include a broad anti-discrimination perspective in its general human rights approach." (...) Steffen Jensen, member of the board of ILGA-Europe, explained that it was emphasised during the meeting that the policy of ILGA-Europe is that Article 13 should be implemented in general terms covering all kinds of discrimination, and that ILGA-Europe does not want specific legislation covering sexual orientation alone. (...) Jackie Lewis added: "We had a discussion about the range of meetings on human rights and anti-discrimination that has been planned for the coming six months, and we assured the Presidency that we would be prepared to give our input to these meetings. This was welcomed by the representatives of the Presidency."*

Article 13 has also been an important issue in the meetings of the Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians Intergroup of the European Parliament (see item D5). Already in the January 1998 meeting, Commissioner Pádraig Flynn announced an Article 13 conference to be arranged by DG V. ILGA-Europe will be invited to attend this conference which will be held in Vienna from 3 to 4 December 1998.

In the April 1998 meeting of the Intergroup, a representative of the British Presidency and in the June meeting, one of the Austrian Presidency was invited as guests, and both the Intergroup and ILGA-Europe demanded that sexual orientation discrimination be dealt with on equal footing with all other grounds of non-discrimination listed in Article 13 and expressed their wish to be involved in all further deliberations on the implementation of Article 13.

The July meeting was a joint meeting with the European Parliament intergroups on disability and on ageing in order to coordinate the lobbying efforts regarding the implementation of Article 13.

María-José Cueto Faus from DG V, responsible for preparing the Article 13 conference in December, will be attending the November session of the intergroup, which will be another opportunity to discuss sexual orientation discrimination in the context of Article 13.

The Austrian Presidency declared both in the June intergroup meeting and in the July meeting with ILGA-Europe, that they would arrange a follow-up to the Oxford meeting in the second half of 1998.

D5. Work in the Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians Intergroup of the European Parliament

On 22 October 1997, the Equal Rights for Gays and Lesbians Intergroup of the European Parliament had its founding meeting (see Euro-Letter # 55 and # 56). Four political groups have started this intergroup: GUE/NGL (Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left), V (The Green Group), PSE (Socialist) and PPE (European People's Party/Christian Democratic Group). The ELDR (Group of the

European Liberal, Democrat and Reform Party) joined later. The intergroup has since met once a month during the Strasbourg sessions of the EP. In the November 1997 meeting, MEP Outi Ojala (GUE/NGL, Finland) was elected president, Claudia Roth (V, Germany), Richard Howitt (PSE, UK) and Peter Pex (PPE, Netherlands) were elected vice-presidents. (Later, in the September 1998 meeting, Friedhelm Frischenschlager (ELDR, Austria) was also elected vice-president.) ILGA-Europe and *Égalité* were invited to permanently participate in the intergroup. Kurt Krickler had a meeting with intergroup president Outi Ojala and Paola Giaculli, one of the assistants of the intergroup, in Brussels on 8 December 1997.

ILGA-Europe attended the intergroup for the first time on 16 December 1997. Maren Wuch and Kurt Krickler gave a presentation of ILGA and ILGA-Europe, and introduced its working programme towards the EU as adopted at the London conference. The full text of ILGA-Europe's presentation has been published in the Euro-Letter # 56.

ILGA-Europe has been represented in all subsequent intergroup meetings, e. g., on 13 January, 18 February, 10 March, 1 April, 13 May, 17 June, 15 July and 16 September. Kurt Krickler has attended all but the March meetings, Maren Wuch attended the February and March meetings, Nico Beger represented ILGA-Europe also in the March and September meetings.

ILGA-Europe had also additional meetings with Paola Giaculli and Outi Ojala's assistant, Sanna Kangasharju, and has been helping preparing the agenda of the intergroup, giving input, proposing activities, and writing minutes of the intergroup sessions (the minutes of the sessions, by the way, are available from Sanna Kangasharju at the following email address: <sannak@kaapeli.fi>). ILGA-Europe's representatives also intervened in the debates of the intergroup and used the opportunity to talk and liaise with a number of MEPs. The September meeting was exclusively dedicated to the presentation of the ILGA-Europe report *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men* which was done by Nico Beger and Kurt Krickler.

The intergroup discussed various matters, the implementation of Article 13 was certainly one of the main topics (see item D4). In the February meeting, Lisa Grant and her lover Jill Percey were the special guests. The day before, the European Court of Justice had delivered its negative decision in Lisa Grant's case against South West Trains. After the meeting, Lisa Grant, Jill Percey, Outi Ojala and Kurt Krickler gave a press conference in the press room of the Parliament and heavily criticised the decision.

ILGA-Europe has also promoted ILGA's Manifesto '98 campaign in the intergroup and amongst MEPs.

EP RESOLUTION ON EQUAL RIGHTS FOR GAYS AND LESBIANS

The intergroup was also the hotbed for an urgency resolution on the rights of gays and lesbians. In the June meeting, Kurt Krickler had distributed a draft resolution for the event of a negative vote of the Austrian Parliament on a draft bill to repeal the unequal age of consent law (Section 209) which was scheduled to take place in the beginning of July. The European Parliament had urged Austria in two resolutions (A4-0112/97 and A4-0034/98) to equalise the age of consent provisions for heterosexual and homosexual relations. When, on 30 June, the Romanian Chamber of Deputies refused to vote a reform bill presented by the government (see item E3) to repeal the anti-homosexual penal code provisions, there was an even more urgent reason to have an urgency resolution tabled in the Parliament. Independent from each other, three political groups, ELDR, V, and GUE/NGL, drafted motions for such a resolution. Kurt Krickler was involved in the drafting process of all three resolutions. Unfortunately, on 15 July 1998, a great majority of Socialist and Christian-Democratic MEPs voted against putting the motions on the agenda of the urgency debate on 16 July. ILGA-Europe had sent a fax to

MEP Magdalena Hoff, one of the EP vice-presidents from the Socialist group, asking for the support of the PSE. It is unclear why the PSE voted against. There are rumours, however, that the Austrian MEPs wanted to prevent Austria from being condemned during her Presidency.

One day later, on 17 July, the Austrian Parliament voted against the repeal of Section 209. This made the situation even more serious and urgent. Thus, ILGA-Europe prepared another draft resolution which was sent, at the end of August by email, to all MEPs of the Socialist group demanding that an urgency resolution be adopted in one of the autumn sessions. MEPs from other groups, especially those who have been involved in the intergroup, were also asked for support. ILGA-Europe contacted member groups in all 15 EU countries and asked them to lobby the Socialist MEPs of their country to vote for such a resolution.

The joint lobbying efforts of ILGA-Europe and its member groups finally turned out to be successful: the ELDR group tabled the motion for a resolution which ILGA-Europe had drafted, and the Green group re-tabled its July motion. On 16 September, the Parliament voted to put the two motions on the agenda of the urgency debate of the following day (169 for, 146 against, 8 abstentions). Three other political groups joined the motions: GUE/NGL, PSE and ARE, the Group of the European Radical Alliance. The two motions were then merged into one, whereby the ILGA-Europe draft was only slightly amended. Kurt Krickler had some more personal lobbying contacts with MEPs on the motion during his stay in Strasbourg on 16 and 17 September.

On 17 September 1998, a majority of 110 MEPs voted for the adoption of this Resolution on equal rights for gays and lesbians in the EU, 89 voted against, 6 abstained. In this Resolution, the EP confirms *that it will not give its consent to the accession of any country that, through its legislation or policies, violates the human rights of lesbians and gay men*, and *calls on all applicant countries to repeal all legislation violating the human rights of lesbians and gay men, in particular discriminatory age of consent laws, calls on the European Commission to take into consideration respect and observance of the human rights of gays and lesbians when negotiating the accession of applicant countries* (this concerns Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, and Romania). Additionally, the EP *calls on the Austrian Government and Parliament to immediately repeal Article 209 of the Penal Code and to immediately provide for an amnesty for, and the release from prison of, all persons jailed under this law*. The full text of this Resolution has been published in Euro-Letter # 63 and can also be found on ILGA-Europe's website.

OTHER EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ACTIVITIES

On 1 July, Austria has taken over the Presidency of the EU. On 15 July, Council President, Austrian foreign minister Wolfgang Schüssel, was scheduled to present the programme of the Austrian Presidency to the EP. The week before, on 9 July, ILGA-Europe had informed a number of "friendly" MEPs, in the first place those who have participated in the intergroup, about the human rights violations against gay men in Austria (Section 209) and asked them to consider to address this issue in their questions to the Council President (which did not happen, however).

ILGA-Europe again sent emails to members of the EP Committee on Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs expressing the same concern before the Austrian minister of justice attended the meeting of this Committee on 21 July 1998.

On 17 August 1998, ILGA-Europe wrote a letter to Stephen Hughes, president of the EP Committee on Employment and Social Affairs, asking him to look into funding possibilities for ILGA-Europe's participation in the intergroup.

D6. Other lobbying activities towards the European Union

EU HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA FOR THE YEAR 2000

In May 1998, ILGA-Europe contacted the leader of the EU-funded project *A Human Rights Agenda for the EU for the Next Millennium* at the University of Florence offering the Board's support in matters of human rights for lesbians and gays. This offer was very welcomed, and thus, Mark Bell was asked to draw up, on behalf of ILGA-Europe, a position paper which highlights this matter in the context of EU competences and the Union's legal basis for action. The full text of this presentation has been published in Euro-Letter # 62. Mark Bell's text was completed with a chapter "Proposals for action" consisting of the recommendations section of ILGA-Europe's EU report *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men*. The document was sent to the expert team at the end of June. This team was supposed to submit its draft report to a "Comité des Sages" which was supposed to adopt the "EU Human Rights Agenda" in September 1998. Members of the Comité des Sages include Professor Antonio Cassese, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, and former President of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture; Madame Catherine Lalumière, Member of the European Parliament and President of its ARE Group, and former Secretary-General of the Council of Europe; Lord Roy Jenkins, Chancellor of Oxford University, and former President of the EC Commission; Mr Peter Leuprecht, Visiting Professor at the University of Montréal, and former Deputy Secretary-General and head of the Directorate of Human Rights of the Council of Europe; and Mrs. Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and former President of Ireland.

At the time of writing this report, the Board had no news yet as to whether the Comité des Sages has included the issue of sexual orientation discrimination in the Agenda or not. ILGA-Europe will participate as an NGO in the concluding high-level conference for this European Commission project to be held in Vienna from 9 to 10 October 1998.

E. LOBBYING THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

E1. Consultative Status

ILGA was finally granted consultative status with the Council of Europe as of 15 January 1998. A press release was issued on this occasion (see Euro-Letter # 57).

ILGA's first application dates back to July 1989, and it was rejected in 1990 because ILGA's activities were not *directly related to the present work programme of the Council of Europe*. It was only in March 1995 that ILGA submitted a new application. On 15 October 1997, the Secretary-General of the CoE informed the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of his decision to grant consultative status to ILGA. Since no objection has been raised by these two organs of the CoE within three months, the decision became effective as of 15 January 1998.

In his substantiation, the Secretary-General writes: *The ILGA is an active and representative organisation in its field of competence. It has already established working relations with the Council of Europe. Furthermore, the organisation has a specific contribution to make to any discussion on discrimination generally as well as on more specific issues such as discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS.*

The consultative status of ILGA will mean that the organisation will be heard before the Council takes measures in the field relevant to the organisation. Furthermore the CoE has three bodies for co-operation with NGOs: the Plenary Conference of NGOs, the Liaison Committee of NGOs, and the Parliamentarians/NGOs Joint Committee. ILGA will be invited to participate in the Plenary Conference. It was agreed with ILGA-World that

ILGA-Europe would be in charge of all activities related to the consultative status.

E2. In pursuance of the Consultative Status

From 20 to 24 September 1998, Nico Beger and Nigel Warner went to the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. The main aim at this time was to find out how lobbying can be done successfully at the CoE and how to create a network of Parliamentarians and NGOs who are interested in promoting rights for lesbians and gay men.

An Austrian social-democratic member, Irmtraut Karlsson, had tabled a resolution in 1997 on migration and asylum issues which is now pending in the committee on migration. ILGA-Europe will supply the committee with information on the issue and will become the formal expert. Karlsson is planning to table three more resolutions in the January session (on criminalisation, employment, partnership/family). ILGA-Europe will be involved in the work on all these.

Nico Beger and Nigel Warner also spoke to several staff members in the directorate on human rights about the broadening of Article 14 of the European Human Rights Convention and the possibilities for NGO lobbying. We were advised to make a submission to the Secretary-General arguing for the inclusion of the words "sexual orientation" in the new Article.

There was another meeting with the secretary of the committee on monitoring who explained the procedures on Romania. It is clear from what he said that it is very unlikely that monitoring will be resumed. This means that the only option left within the framework of the Council of Europe to make progress on the Romanian question is for a Romanian national to take a case under the European Convention.

ILGA-Europe will present the situation of lesbians and gay men in the April session of the NGO Human Rights grouping and will try to pass a resolution with other NGOs requesting that the Secretariat of the Council of Europe host a seminar for parliamentarians and NGOs on lesbian and gay rights. It is hoped that this would be one element of a plan leading to the formation of an all-party group of parliamentarians around the issue of lesbian/gay/bisexual/ transgendered rights.

There is a lot of ground work to be done at the CoE, but a lot of headway can be made in the next few years. Our presence at the CoE is also important in terms of public relations for ILGA-Europe, which will in due course become known as a strong and dedicated human rights NGO.

E3. Other Council of Europe issues

ADMISSION OF ARMENIA

One of ILGA-Europe's tasks is to assure that the legislation for gays and lesbians is monitored for candidate countries to the Council of Europe. With regard to the fact that the negotiations on the admission of Armenia to the CoE were in their final stages, and that Armenia, according to the information available, still has a total ban on (male) homosexuality, the Board wrote to the Secretary-General of the CoE, Daniel Tarschys, in April 1998, requesting the CoE to demand from Armenia the repeal of this total ban as a condition for being admitted to CoE (see Euro-Letter # 60). We asked that our letter also be conveyed to the special CoE rapporteurs for Armenia. In his reply, Deputy Secretary-General Hans Christian Krüger informed ILGA-Europe that the letter had been

transmitted to the Parliamentary Assembly which had been preparing an opinion on Armenia's application for membership in the CoE.

AGE OF CONSENT DECISION

In the same letter, ILGA-Europe raised another important issue, e. g., the decision in Application # 25186/94 Euan Sutherland against the United Kingdom. In this decision adopted on 1 July 1997 and published in October 1997, the European Human Rights Commission *finds that no objective and reasonable justification exists for the maintenance of a higher minimum age of consent to male homosexual, than to heterosexual, acts and that the application discloses discriminatory treatment in the exercise of the applicant's right to respect for private life under Article 8 of the Convention* (para. 66 of the decision). ILGA-Europe wrote: *In the past, we have always deplored that the 1981 decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the Dudgeon case (classifying a total ban on homosexuality as a breach of the Convention) could not automatically be applied to other countries with similar or even the same law provisions. Thus, citizens of Ireland (Norris; decision in 1988) and Cyprus (Modinos; 1993) had to go again through the whole legal process up to the European Court in order to get the same decision delivered again. We do not think that such an approach is really reflecting the spirit of human rights in general and the European Convention in particular. We are concerned that this may happen again with discriminatory age of consent provisions violating the Convention in other member states of the Council of Europe. We strongly feel that the Council of Europe should appeal to those member states that still have unequal ages of consent in their criminal law to repeal those laws without delay and without waiting for being taken to the European Court by one of their citizens. We are sure there are appropriate ways and channels within the Council of Europe, such as the Committee of Ministers, to convey this appeal to those countries.*

The member states of the Council of Europe which still have unequal age of consent laws are, besides the UK: Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Moldova, Portugal, Romania, and Ukraine.

Krüger replied he would refrain from making any comments on the decision mentioned but informed us that he had also transmitted our letter to the Human Rights Department of the CoE.

ECRI

On 26 December 1997, ILGA-Europe also wrote to the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, a high-profile body of the CoE set up according to the Plan of Action on Combating Racism, Xenophobia, Anti-Semitism and Intolerance adopted at the First Council of Europe Summit in Vienna in 1993. ILGA-Europe tried to convince ECRI to also include sexual orientation discrimination in its mandate. But ECRI, in its reply dated 12 January 1998, declared sexual orientation discrimination would not fall under its radius of action.

ROMANIA

On 30 June 1998, the Romanian Chamber of Deputies rejected the government's law reform proposal to repeal Article 200. This happened only days after the Parliamentary Assembly of the CoE decided to cease monitoring Romania. Thus, on 28 August, ILGA-Europe wrote to the rapporteur on Romania, Gunnar Jansson from Finland, insisting that these circumstances call for strong action by the Council of Europe. ILGA-Europe proposed that the Romanian parliamentarians be excluded from the next session of the Assembly. ILGA-Europe wrote: *We are aware that under Order No. 508 (1995), the Assembly "may sanction persistent failure to honour commitments, and lack of co-operation in its monitoring process, by the non-ratification of the credentials of a national parliamentary delegation at the beginning of its next ordinary part session, in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure."* *We believe that Romania's persistent failure over five years to honour its commitments, and the way in which this is weakening the whole*

human rights process of the Council of Europe, are such as to call for serious consideration of this measure.

F. LOBBYING THE OSCE

ILGA-Europe continued its lobbying towards the organs of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). ILGA-Europe was represented at the OSCE Implementation Meeting on Human Dimension Issues which took place in Warsaw, 12 to 28 November 1997. ILGA-Europe submitted a written presentation (*Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation is a Human Rights Violation*) in advance of the meeting, which is a pre-condition for being allowed to give an oral statement at the meeting itself. Kurt Krickler attended the meeting from 17 to 19 November and gave an oral statement under agenda item "Tolerance and Non-discrimination" in Subsidiary Working Body 1. Additionally, a written statement (*Violations of the Freedoms of Expression, Association and Peaceful Assembly of Lesbians and Gay Men in the OSCE Region*) referring to agenda item "Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms" was distributed. The full text of all three statements and a more detailed report about the meeting have been published in Euro-Letter # 55.

In advance of the Implementation Meeting (October 1997), ILGA-Europe had written to both the Luxembourg EU Presidency (Jean-Claude Juncker), the Dutch Foreign Minister van Mierlo (because the Netherlands were in charge of formulating, on behalf of the EU, the position and paper on agenda item "Tolerance and Non-discrimination") and to EU Commissioner Hans van den Broek demanding that the aspect of sexual orientation discrimination be addressed by the EU in Warsaw. The Dutch delegation, however, mentioned "homosexuals" only in an enumeration of vulnerable groups in its statement on behalf of the EU. ILGA-Europe complained in response to van den Broek's reply about the poor and disappointing input of the EU in this field and requested from the EU to increase its efforts in further meetings. The final report of the implementation meeting only contains a simple mention of violence and discrimination against homosexuals in a list of concerns.

During the meeting, Kurt Krickler had also the opportunity to talk with representatives of the delegations of Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

On the occasion of the 7th Annual Session of the Parliamentary Assembly, held in Copenhagen from 7 to 10 July 1998, Steffen Jensen met with Svend Robinson, Canadian member of this Assembly, to discuss an input to next year's session regarding those participating States that still have discriminatory legislation against gay men and lesbians on the books.

Due to the deadline of 1 October 1998, ILGA-Europe has already registered for this year's implementation meeting to be held in Warsaw from 26 October to 6 November 1998 and submitted again a written presentation. The Board has also written to Commissioner van den Broek as well as to the Austrian EU Presidency requesting that the EU highlight sexual orientation discrimination more prominently in the discussions and more firmly insist on the honouring of OSCE commitments in this field by non-complying countries. In the letter to van den Broek, ILGA-Europe expressed its concerns that Austria may not be appropriate to address this issue in Warsaw on behalf of the EU since Austria herself is one of these countries that do not honour their human rights commitments. ILGA-Europe proposed that another EU member state be entrusted with the task of preparing and presenting the position paper and statement of the EU for agenda item "Tolerance and Non-discrimination".

G. OUTREACH TO EASTERN EUROPE

ILGA-Europe has been in written contact with individuals and groups in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE), including gay men in Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Tashkent, Uzbekistan. ILGA-Europe members in this region also contributed information to all issues of the Euro-Letter that have been published since the London conference (# 55-62) except from # 61.

Official letters were also sent: On 10 March, ILGA-Europe faxed a letter to the then Romanian minister of justice, Valeriu Stoica, in support of the draft bill, presented by the Romanian human rights organisation *ACCEPT*, to repeal Article 200 of the Romanian penal code and to eliminate all discriminatory provisions with regard to homosexual orientation. The text of this draft bill has been published in Euro-Letter # 59. On 26 July 1998, ILGA-Europe sent a letter to Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski drawing his attention to the social situation of lesbians and gays in Poland and supporting the request of the Polish lesbian and gay movement that a permanent committee be established to elaborate and implement a programme to build tolerant and open social attitudes towards minorities.

Drawing up a report on the legal and social situation in the CCEE, similar to the country reports in ILGA-Europe's EU report (see item D2), has been proposed, discussed and initiated within the Board.

Eastern Europe was also high up on ILGA-Europe's agenda concerning lobbying activities towards the European Union and the Council of Europe (see items D3, D5, E2 and E3).

HOSI Linz did an excellent effort to increase the participation of delegates from Eastern European countries in the 20th ILGA European Conference by providing scholarships.

H. FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

ILGA-Europe has got its own bank account in Denmark: # 1199-1-671-0571 with BG Bank A/S, Girostrøget, DK-0800 Høje Tåstrup.

ILGA-Europe can now accept VISA, MASTERCARD, EUROCARD and JCB cards. Details are given on the website and in Euro-Letter # 61.

ILGA-Europe received some donations, mainly for the EU project and for travel expenses of board members. Donations were received from Pink Cross, HOSI Wien, LBL, RFSL, Iglf Köln, UNISON, and several individuals; contributions for the EU project were also received from the Austrian Ministry for Labour, Health and Social Affairs and the Austrian Minister for Women's Affairs and Consumer Protection.

Due to problems with ILGA-World's membership database, it is difficult for ILGA-Europe to contact its members, but the board has decided to propose the introduction of a voluntary membership fee for ILGA-Europe.

Furthermore it has been agreed with the ILGA-World Board that ILGA-Europe will get 10 to 15% of the normal ILGA fees paid by European ILGA members (see item C).

I. DIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

I1. Development

The Board's aim during the year has been to continue a strategic approach to the development of the organisation which fully recognises that the issues of diversity must be addressed as an integral part of the overall work of the Board and of the implementation of specific aspects of the working programme. The Board's work has been guided by the principles agreed in Madrid relating to:

- the participation and representation of the diversity of ILGA-Europe member groups;
- the visibility and participation of the diversity of lesbians and gay men within member groups and within ILGA-Europe.

It was recognised by both the Madrid and London conferences that the development of a strong and representative regional structure requires the development of ways of:

- improving the provision of information and communications to and between member groups;
- improving the visibility of ILGA-Europe and recruiting additional member organisations;
- increasing the support provided to member groups in such areas as training and the sharing of expertise.

There are obviously limits as to what can be achieved in these areas until ILGA-Europe can obtain some "core" funding and establish an office (with some staffing resources), but some progress has been made during the year. The work on the *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men* project (see item D2) has led to the beginning of links and dialogue with other non-governmental organisations (such as the European Disability Forum, Eurolink Age, the European Migrants Forum and the European Women's Lobby), through which it is hoped to promote the development of best practice by both ILGA-Europe and other NGOs. The project report specifically addresses issues of diversity, and the need for NGOs, including ILGA-Europe, to ensure that issues relevant to the diversity of lesbians and gay men are included in all relevant agendas as part of an overall commitment to human rights and equality.

The distribution of the report to all member groups in the region is intended to provide a focus for discussion within member groups about the issues of diversity and discrimination and provides some guidance on best practice, as well as a tool for lobbying and for initiating discussion with NGOs at national or local level.

The Board has also submitted a further project application to the European Commission seeking funding for the production of an information handbook and the holding of a discussion and training seminar on the implications of the Amsterdam Treaty (see item D3). The outcome of this application is not yet known.

I2. Information and communication

The London conference decided that the Board should aim to develop an ILGA-Europe bulletin/newsletter, to provide information about the work and activities of ILGA-Europe and the Board, and a means of networking and sharing information with and between member groups. It has not been feasible for the Board to do this in the current year, due to the lack of resources and to the absence of a reliable database of members.

In the interim, the Board has continued to develop the ILGA-Europe website, which now includes a wide range of information, and to publicise its existence as widely as possible.

It has also circulated some information through the Euro-Letter, published on behalf of ILGA-Europe by the Gay and Lesbian International Lobby (Denmark) in co-operation with the Danish National Association for Gays and Lesbians (LBL). Unfortunately, the Eastern Europe bulletin has ceased.

We have also started to compile an email mailing list for member groups, and this will be continued as part of the work on establishing a member database outlined below.

Communication with the Board was impaired for around two months when the SETA surfer and thus the joint email address of all Board members broke down in summer. Meanwhile, a new collective email address of the Board has been established: <ieboard@makelist.com>.

I3. Member group database

Due to the continuing difficulties in obtaining accurate information on members in a suitable format from ILGA-World, the Board has now started work on developing its own database on members in the region including associate and individual members with the assistance of HOSI Linz. The initial target is to establish a database with an up to date address for all members, with named contacts and email addresses wherever possible.

When this has been completed, work can begin to supplement this with information on particular areas of work and expertise, and information to assist with for example asking member groups to take initiatives or contribute to particular work, or putting groups in touch with others who may be able to assist them. Such information will then provide the Board with a means of looking at such issues as considering specific targets for increasing member recruitment and representation.

I4. Publicity and visibility initiatives

The Board has continued to seek ways of promoting the visibility of ILGA-Europe, both in general and to potential member organisations. The *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men* report, and the work to promote and distribute it in various forums, has enhanced ILGA-Europe's visibility as an organisation. The Board has established an email contact list of lesbian and gay media and issued various press releases on key events during the year. It has also started work on production of a publicity and recruitment leaflet.

J. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS

J1. Platform of European Social NGOs

In order to pursue one of the main aims of ILGA-Europe's EU project (see item D2), e. g., developing and strengthening links and dialogue between ILGA-Europe and other NGOs working on social and human rights issues at a European level, ILGA-Europe applied for membership in the Platform of European Social NGOs. ILGA-Europe was accepted as the 24th member of this Platform in March 1998. The Platform is promoting and implementing a long-term process of on-going co-operation between social NGOs and the European Union as part of the civil dialogue that the European Commission and Parliament have undertaken to develop. The other members of the Platform are European federations of NGOs working in a variety of areas, such as disability, migration,

women, children, youth, age, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, etc. A full report on ILGA-Europe joining the Platform has been published in the ILGA-Bulletin # 2/98, p. 20.

ILGA-Europe has started to get pro-actively involved in the work and activities of the Platform. Maren Wuch and Kurt Krickler met with a representative of the Platform in Brussels on 16 February 1998 in order to introduce ILGA-Europe and discuss its membership in the Platform. After being admitted to the Platform, Kurt Krickler participated in the Platform's steering group meeting in Brussels on 4 May and in the joint meeting between the Platform and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) in Brussels on 7 October, and Jackie Lewis in the Platform's mini-conference, held in London on 5 June 1998, to prepare for the European Social Policy Forum, and in a college meeting in Brussels on 24 June. The Social Policy Forum in Brussels offered an excellent opportunity for networking with other NGOs (see item D2).

J2. Pink Triangle Coalition

At a two-day meeting held in Berlin from 21 to 22 February 1998, the *Pink Triangle Coalition An International Coalition for Coordinating Affairs Related to the Nazi Persecution of Gay Men and Lesbians* was established by representatives of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC), the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organisations (WCGLJO), ILGA-Europe (Kurt Krickler was attending), Pink Cross (Switzerland), and *Homosexuelle Initiative (HOSI) Wien* (Austria). Later *Schwulenverband in Deutschland*, the national German gay organisation, and the International Association of Lesbian and Gay Children of Holocaust Survivors joined the Coalition. There are no plans for the time being to make the Coalition into a formal organisation.

The main purpose of the Coalition is to represent the gay and lesbian interests and concerns vis-à-vis the two recently established funds, e. g., the Swiss Fund for Needy Victims of the Holocaust/Shoah and the International Fund for Needy Victims of Nazi Persecution set up in the context of the London Conference on Nazi Gold in December 1997 by the British Government and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. While the Swiss Fund is fed by monies (275 million CHF) provided by the Swiss Government and Swiss banks (not to confuse with the funds in "ownerless accounts" in Swiss banks), the International Fund will be fed by money given by donor countries which can also have a say how to use their donations.

ILGA-Europe member Pink Cross is represented in the respective body of the Swiss Fund, established in February 1997. Pink Cross is also dealing with applications from gay men (and lesbians) because individual claims cannot be made directly to the Fund but only through one of the organisations representing victim groups. Until today, half a dozen gay men persecuted by the Nazis have filed applications to the Swiss Fund via Pink Cross, and all have been granted financial assistance.

It was, however, not so easy to establish a gay/lesbian representation at the International Fund. Therefore, there have already been contacts between WCGLJO, IGLHRC, ILGA-Europe and Pink Cross in late summer 1997, and a telephone conference between these organisations was held on 17 October (in which Kurt Krickler participated on behalf of ILGA-Europe) in order to establish an international coalition. This "Coalition", which had no name yet at that time, approached the London Conference on Nazi Gold in the beginning of December 1997. WCGLJO and "Coalition" representative Jack Gilbert, however, was refused to attend. As a result, the persecution of gays and lesbians in the Nazi era was completely ignored by the conference. That's why the Coalition has prepared a paper titled *Nazi Persecution of Gay Men and Lesbians* to be included in the Final Report of the London Conference on Nazi Gold. In order to have it included, this

paper had to be submitted by another NGO that attended the meeting. This was done by the European Jewish Congress.

Another issue with the International Fund is to get the Pink Triangle Coalition on the Annex B List of Recognised NGOs for the purposes of the fund as established in London. The purpose is twofold: 1. to support "needy" victims individually, and 2. to support education about the Holocaust/Shoah. Each donor country will designate how it wishes its contribution to be distributed, but only to NGOs on this list. The Coalition will now have to convince at least one donor country to request the Coalition to be added to this Annex B List. And for that, the Coalition must convince this country that it is in a position to distribute monies under those two criteria. To complicate things, Pink Cross is already on this list but, of course, the Coalition is striving to get on the list as such. Since the Coalition did not succeed in getting on the Annex B List yet, Pink Cross will submit, on behalf of the Coalition, a prospectus with selected projects (discussed and chosen at the Berlin meeting) to be submitted for funding to the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports which had invited Pink Cross to come forward with such a prospectus.

In this context, ILGA-Europe is looking for needy victims of the Nazi regime, "needy" meaning that they live below or just at poverty line in their country. There are great chances that their applications will be accepted by both Funds. Additionally, ILGA members are invited to come forward with proposals for educational projects on the Holocaust/Shoah (exhibitions, seminars, lectures, commemorative sites, etc.) which could be submitted in particular to the International Fund. A full report on the establishment of the Coalition has been published in the Euro-Letter # 59 and the ILGA-Bulletin # 2/98, pp. 20-21.

K. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Board has handled again a large amount of correspondence including replying to inquiries and requests from individuals and groups. For internal communication and decision-making within the Board, hundreds of emails have been sent and received between Board members.

Media work included a BBC radio discussion on law reform in Cyprus between a member of the Cypriote Parliament (opposed to repealing the total ban on homosexuality) and Kurt Krickler (done on 14 January via direct telephone lines in studios in Nicosia, Vienna, and London), a telephone interview with Kurt Krickler by a Reuters journalist about the European Court of Justice decision in the Grant case on 16 February, and an interview with Kurt Krickler for the Dublin Gay and Lesbian Radio on gaining CoE consultative status, on 3 March 1998.

Board members and Board representatives also participated in the following meetings not yet mentioned above:

- the first of four preliminary seminars to prepare for the *Cities for Human Rights* conference to be held in Barcelona from 14 to 17 October 1998; the seminar was held in Strasbourg on 14 and 15 May; Kurt Krickler attended on 14 May, distributed a written presentation on ILGA-Europe and delivered an oral presentation entitled *The status of non-discrimination and recognition of homosexuals' civil rights, and policies at local level*. Jordi Petit will represent ILGA at the Barcelona conference;
- Alberto Volpato participated in a panel discussion on the human rights of lesbians and gays, arranged in conjunction with the Gay Pride celebrations in Paris on 19 June 1998;

- Steffen Jensen participated in the *Europride* Festival in Stockholm: on 23 July, he gave a presentation on ILGA-Europe in general and the EU report in particular in the 1st International Gay/Lesbian Cultural Festival; on 24 July, he chaired the seminar *Reform or Revolution?* about political approaches in the lesbian and gay movement in Europe, arranged by RFSL;
- Steffen Jensen participated in the *Trade Unions, Homosexuality and Work* conference in Amsterdam from 29 to 31 July and presented the EU report in several workshops;
- Alberto Volpato and Tom Hoemig met with representatives of the Berlin-based Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung in Brussels on 9 September on the occasion of the inauguration of the Foundation's Brussels office;
- Kurt Krickler attended the seminar *Sexual orientation and gender identity, work, trade union: homosexual and transsexual workers and their way to a complete achievement of rights in Europe*, organised by the Turin City Council and the gay and lesbian department of the Italian trade union CGIL, in Turin on 18 September. Both he and Jordi Petit were panelists in the afternoon debate.

L. SUMMARY

The past twelve months have been very successful ones for ILGA-Europe. The Board could establish the organisation as a serious player and partner in the European context, both at the institutional level (EU Commission, European Parliament intergroup) and at NGO level (Platform of European Social NGOs). The granting of consultative status to ILGA by the Council of Europe, the co-funding of a project by the EU Commission including the publication of ILGA-Europe's report *Equality for Lesbians and Gay Men*, the adoption of the Resolution on equal rights for gays and lesbians by the European Parliament, and the meeting with Mary Robinson, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, have certainly been the highlights of the past twelve months.

There are certainly areas which have suffered from the fact that the Board had to prioritise the limited time and financial resources at its disposal. Such areas which will need increasing efforts in the future are marketing strategies in order to also "sell" the good work, results and achievements and to transform them into improved support, also financially, for the organisation. Basic means for such marketing and visibility of ILGA-Europe must be produced and provided, such as leaflets introducing the organisation.

Unfortunately, it was not possible either in this past year to secure core funding for renting a central office and hiring people to work there. Also this must be followed-up in the future.

The extensive activities which involved a lot of travelling (see also Appendix 1) would not have been possible without the financial support provided to Board members by UNISON, LBL and HOSI Wien.

M. THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The extensive work of the past year would neither have been possible without the work and commitment of the many people who have supported the various activities of the Board. We cannot mention them all here but special thanks have to go to Nico Beger, Alberto Volpato, Nigel Warner, Tom Hoemig, Mark Bell, Alex Robertson, César Lestón, to all the people who were involved in the production of the EU report, especially to all authors of the country reports and the members of *Égalité* who helped translating and editing the texts, and the activists of HOSI Linz who hosted a Board meeting and assisted with the conference mailings and with updating the membership database.

APPENDIX

BOARD CALENDAR 97/98 MEETINGS AND TRAVELS (An overview)

October 1997:

13: Board meeting, London

November:

17-19: OSCE Implementation Meeting, Warsaw

December:

2-3: Meetings with EU Commission Officials, Brussels

6-7: Board Meeting, London

8: Meetings with EU Commission Officials, Brussels

Meeting with Intergroup president, Brussels

16: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg

January 1998:

13: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg

February:

14: Meeting of the Board with *Égalité*, Brussels

14-15: Board meeting, Brussels

16: Meeting with the Platform of European Social NGOs;

Meeting with Kevin Walsh (DG V), Brussels

18: Intergroup meeting, press conference, Strasbourg

21-22: Pink Triangle Coalition meeting, Berlin

March:

3-4: Meetings with EU Commission officials, Brussels

10: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg

April:

1: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg

May:

2-3: Board meeting, Brussels

4: Steering group meeting of the Platform, Brussels

5: Meeting with Kevin Walsh (DG V), Brussels

13: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg

14: *Cities for Human Rights* seminar, Strasbourg

25: NGO meeting organised by ILGA-Europe, Brussels

26: Meeting with DG VIII, Brussels

June:

5: Platform mini-conference, London

17: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg

19: Panel discussion on lesbian and gay human rights, Paris

24: Platform college meeting, Brussels

24-26: European Social Policy Forum, Brussels

July:

9: Meeting with Canadian MP Svend Robinson, Copenhagen

11-12: Board meeting, Linz

13: Meeting with the Austrian EU Presidency, Vienna

15: Intergroup Meeting, Strasbourg

23: 1st Gay/Lesbian Cultural Conference, Stockholm
23-24: Meeting with ILGA-World Board, Stockholm
24: *Reform or Revolution?* seminar (EuroPride), Stockholm
29-31: *Trade Unions, Homosexuality and Work conference*, Amsterdam

September:

9: Meeting with Heinrich Böll Foundation, Brussels
16: Intergroup meeting, Strasbourg
17: Lobbying the EP Resolution, Strasbourg
18: *Sexual orientation and work* seminar, Turin
21-24: Council of Europe meetings, Strasbourg

October:

7 Joint Meeting Platform/ETUC, Brussels
8: Meeting with Mary Robinson, Geneva
9-10: *A Human Rights Agenda for the EU for the Next Millennium* conference, Vienna
21: Board Meeting, Linz