

INTERNATIONAL INCE

SPECIAL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE I-INCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON SATURDAY, 1999 MARCH 13, IN BERLIN, GERMANY

Present

Members of the Board

Lang, W. - President
Cops, A. - Secretary-General
Daigle, G. - Vice President
Kihlman, T. - Vice President
Maling, G. - Vice President
Tourret, J. - Vice President
Bruel, P. - Director-at-Large
Illenyi, A. - INTER-NOISE 97
Marsh, A. - INTER-NOISE 95

Guests

Legros, C. - SFA (I-N 2000)
McAdams, S. - SFA (I-N 2000)
Vallet, M. - SFA (I-N 2000)

Members Absent

Berry, B. - INTER-NOISE 96
Embleton, T. - Vice President
Koyasu, M. - INTER-NOISE 94
Lawrence, A. - Honorary Member
Marshall, H. - INTER-NOISE 98
Sone, T. - INTER-NOISE 94

Agenda. (The draft agenda was circulated before the meeting by fax and e-mail.)

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Approval of the Agenda.
3. Approval of the minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Board.
4. Relations with EAA and our I-INCE Member Societies in Europe.
5. Organization of INTER-NOISE 2000 (Nice).
6. Action to clarify SFA/INRETS relationship re I-N 2000.
7. Actions required for future Congresses.

8. Financial considerations.
9. Draft of rules for operation of the CSC.
10. Preliminary discussion of venue for INTER NOISE 2002.
11. Planning for Fort Lauderdale meetings of Board and General Assembly.
12. Other business.
13. Next meeting.
14. Closing of the meeting.

Minutes

(NOTE: The Board met from 13.00 to 17.45 and from 19.00 to 22.00 on Saturday, March 13.)

1. **Opening.** The President opened the meeting at 13.00 hours on Saturday, March 13.
2. **Approval of the Agenda.** The draft Agenda circulated by e-mail was adopted.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** The minutes of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Board in Christchurch on 1998 November 14-18 were approved.

4. European Relations.

Under this item of the Agenda, the Board considered the relations between I-INCE and EAA, and with our I-INCE Member Societies in Europe. The President opened the discussion with a statement summarizing the relations as they have developed over the last 18 months. It was reported that the EAA Chairman had expressed his opinion to the EAA Board at its 1997 August meeting in Budapest that EAA's principal problem in Europe is with I-INCE. The President discussed this opinion with the EAA Chairman in Budapest who replied that the President was misinformed, and that he had not made such a remark to the EAA Board. Nonetheless, relations between EAA and I-INCE have been strained by the situation surrounding the selection of Greece by EAA for the next Euro-Noise conference. This situation was extensively discussed at the last Board meeting in Christchurch and is summarized in the minutes of that meeting.

The President reported that he had had an e-mail failure early last December and that the results of the discussions in Christchurch related to the next Euro-Noise conference and the action taken then by the Board were not relayed to the EAA Chairman until the e-mail problems had been solved at the tail-end of 1998.

The President referred to an e-mail received on 1998.10.13 from the EAA Chairman stating that ICA is the preferred partner of EAA, and EAA is regularly represented on the ICA Board by an Associate Member of that Board. He pointed out in his e-mail of 1998.10.13 that a similar statement could be developed with regard to I-INCE at the next General Assembly in Berlin during 1999 March. (Note: there is no evidence that this was done.) He added that there had been fruitful discussions with Bernard Berry and Jean Turret in Munich. "They will certainly inform your Board in due course so as to enable you to take your decisions on a well-informed basis." As reported in the Christchurch minutes, the discussions were not as fruitful as the EAA Chairman would appear to believe.

Unfortunately, preliminary discussions of a prospective venue for the next Euro-Noise were completely unsatisfactory from the I-INCE point of view. Our Board discussed the NOCOMAT, one of the organizations that has been providing money from the EU to the EAA. A. Cops pointed out that this

work must be completed at the end of 2000 or early in 2001, and the person in Greece who has done much of the work has been identified as the organizer of the next Euro-Noise. It was pointed out that Greece is not a member of EAA, as well as not being a member of I-INCE. (Note: M. Zacharia informed the President subsequently that he had remedied that situation for EAA, and a Greek Member Society has now joined EAA.) J. Tourret pointed out that this may have been forced on EAA by the sponsors within the EU. As discussed in the minutes of the Christchurch meeting, the I-INCE Board has decided not to co-sponsor Euro-Noise in Greece. A. Cops pointed out that A. Houtsma will shortly become the new Chairman of EAA.

The President then described the advice to the I-INCE Board provided by G. Leventhall. His advice is either to give up the struggle to retain part ownership of Euro-Noise, and welcome EAA as a partner, or tell them rather forcefully to get off our backs. If the Board chooses to take the latter alternative, an organization strong enough to stand up to EAA will be needed. A. Marsh asked if Leventhall's views represent those of the UK. The President thought that they represented the international viewpoint. It was pointed out that most EAA members are I-INCE Member Societies. The President pointed out that I-INCE could create a European regional council as well as regional councils in Pan-America and in Asia-Pacific.

J. Tourret wishes to explore the possibility of forming an INCE-like organization, as in the USA and Japan. This might create some unhappiness among the national acoustical societies with respect to the noise issue. A stronger and more forceful type of organization is needed than the national acoustical societies can provide. Because they represent a very broad range of interests, only a fraction of the memberships of the national societies is concerned with noise issues. J. Tourret then asked: is it feasible to establish an INCE/Europe? A. Cops felt that it was dangerous to start an INCE/Europe, as it could present financial problems to both EAA and I-INCE. It was pointed out that INCE/Europe could have individual members, and that it would be more efficient in representing their interests than are the national acoustical societies. There is already a small group in France that has been formed to accomplish the goal of representing the individual French noise control engineer. It was pointed out that it would be necessary to establish headquarters in a European country. This lead to G. Daigle's question: would a bylaw change need to be made so that INCE/Europe could become a Member Society of I-INCE? The President said that it would not. I-INCE is currently limited to Member Societies with individual members. Having individual members would not create a conflict with EAA, as, like I-INCE, EAA is a consortium of member societies.

P. Bruel pointed out that a new organization would appeal to those who are not now members of national acoustical societies, particularly consulting engineers. T. Kihlman asked what the function of INCE/Europe would be? The answer was that it would represent the consolidated interests of noise and vibration control engineers. A. Marsh likes the idea of an INCE/Europe and the idea of an organization for individual professional engineers. He pointed out that it could offer board certification, just as has been done in the USA. In Europe, board certification might be useful in view of the developments within the EU with respect to noise.

An **Action Item** is to have the European members of the Board make an evaluation of the feasibility of establishing an INCE/Europe. This evaluation should be ready for Board discussion in Fort Lauderdale. The European members of the Board are: P. Bruel, A. Illenyi, T. Kihlman, A. Cops, and J. Tourret as the leader.

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B. BERRY

The discussion then returned to the issue discussed at length in Christchurch of the next Euro-Noise being held in Greece. The opinion was expressed that it was not fair for the Euro-Noise label to be taken over by the EAA, that the establishment of the Euro-Noise series was the result of an IoA initiative in the first place supported by I-INCE (before EAA was even founded).

A **motion** was then passed unanimously as follows: the I-INCE Board views with concern that the EAA has usurped the prerogative of assigning the organizer responsible for the next Euro-Noise. At this time, I-INCE will not co-sponsor the Euro-Noise Conference in Greece. Further, in the future, I-INCE will propose the venue and/or organization responsible for Euro-Noise symposia.

5. INTER-NOISE 2000.

The President reviewed the developments between the Christchurch Board meeting and the present date. J. Tourret pointed out that SFA wants to take the money and prestige without doing much. M. Vallet pushed the SFA Board. Afterwards, there were difficulties with the arrangements. The situation was very bad before Christchurch. It has since improved somewhat, but is still difficult. It is imperative that the Board give the power to M. Vallet, and the Board must ensure that he is effective as the Congress President. We must pressure M. Vallet to do a responsible job, and the Board must support him completely. P. Bruel pointed out that we must concentrate on noise, and that M. Vallet is known everywhere in the field. It has been decided that INRETS will keep all the power regarding the technical program, and SFA will do the registrations.

At 15.00, M. Vallet joined the meeting of the Board. The President described the competitive conference that will be run approximately six weeks before INTER-NOISE 2000 in Germany. M. Vallet noted that after Budapest he had obtained funding in the amount of US\$ 5K from the French government, and conveyed it to SFA. In 1998, he obtained more money to support the Congress. He assumed that INRETS could manage everything, but the relation with SFA is complex in that SFA must manage the finances with a special account for M. Vallet for the technical program, plus some administrative costs. It is obvious that a clear separation needs to be established between the administrative work and the technical program work. Now there are two people who will manage the Congress, one responsible for the organization (C. Legros) and the other responsible for the technical program as well as serving as the President of the Congress (M. Vallet).

There was an extended discussion of the confusion created by C. Legros in demanding that the first announcement be reprinted with a different return address. This was done, but mistakes were also made in the use of the logo for the second printing. M. Vallet reported that he has received approximately 140 responses from the first announcement and that approximately 100 papers have been offered for the Congress. He feels that this situation with the reprinting of the first announcement is not totally negative; SFA paid for the reprinting from its own budget, and not from the Congress budget.

M. Vallet then reviewed the membership of the International Advisory Committee and asked for the approval of the Board. Considerable time was spent reviewing the membership of the IAC, and the Board agreed that the list was satisfactory. The make-up of the organizing committee was then reviewed, the secretariat being located at SFA. It was suggested that technical visits be eliminated. There was then a discussion of the technical program. 2000 January 15 is the deadline for the receipt of abstracts. In reviewing the list of subjects in the call for papers, it was suggested that the subject of

infrasound be deleted. A. Cops suggested that LMS could provide someone on the topic of sound quality inside vehicles. M. Vallet then discussed a proposal from Brazil (Slama) which needs to be clarified. In the announcement and call for papers, it was pointed out that the ISVR conference should be deleted.

Action Item. Comments from the members of the Board on the Announcement and Call for Papers should be received by 1999 April 12.

It was suggested that the special sessions be simplified. P. Bruel proposed that there not be poster sessions only, but that aural papers also be permitted to accompany the poster session papers. He felt this would provide more value for the participants, and estimated that perhaps one half of the lecturers would also prepare posters. The Announcement and Call for Papers is scheduled to be printed in 1999 May with a press run of 20,000.

There was then a discussion of what the Managing Editor of NNI would receive and publish. The September issue will only include general aspects of the Congress. A file for the complete text needs to be received in November. The list of papers accepted will be in the March issue. The accompanying persons's program should be received in March/April.

C. Legros and S. McAdams joined the meeting at 15.40 hours. They emphasized that the organizational work will be done by SFA. SFA will take the financial risk on the congress. It was not appropriate for INRETS, a government agency, to undertake this risk, so SFA had to do it. An agreement was signed between INRETS and SFA in 1998 November. This agreement speaks to the division of tasks, and now all is o.k. Both SFA and INRETS are fully involved and the goal is to ensure the complete success of INTER-NOISE 2000. SFA will operate the secretariat, take the registration money, and distribute the literature. There will be a common web site, and there will be one address for the congress secretariat. Hotel reservations will not be made through SFA. They will offer a list of hotels in various price ranges.

The President expressed concern about two matters: the break-even point appears to involve a paid registration of 800; this is a high number. Further, it appears that two of the special events coordinated to INTER-NOISE 2000, namely NOVEM in Lyon, on August 31-September 02, and the 5th French Congress on Acoustics in Lausanne, on September 03-06 are highly competitive to INTER-NOISE 2000. There was an extended discussion of both the break-even point and the competition. The French delegation did not appear to be overly concerned with the potential problems posed by the competition and the high break-even point.

6. SFA/INRETS relationship re I-N 2000.

The SFA/INRETS relationship appears to have been clarified during the Board meeting with the participation of both M. Vallet and C. Legros. A copy of the agreement between the two organizations for arrangements for INTER-NOISE 2000 was received and discussed.

7. Future Congresses.

This action item was briefly discussed during the evening meeting of the Board. It was the consensus that a written agreement or contract between I-INCE and the organizers of future Congresses would be highly desirable. It was further agreed that the future I-INCE Secretariat should have the task of

creating a central database so that each Congress does not have to reinvent the wheel

8. Financial Considerations.

The President raised the question concerning the costs to operate the I-INCE Secretariat in the first decade of the next century, including the cost of establishing and operating the central database as mentioned under item 7 above. We will take steps during the several months available prior to Fort Lauderdale to make a first pass at the projected cost of future operation of the I-INCE Secretariat. As far as improving the circulation of NNI is concerned, there was no time for a detailed discussion. However, the discussion relative to INCE/Europe may indeed have some impact on NNI circulation in that the effort could be made to increase circulation by offering subscriptions at a discount to a new organization.

It was agreed that we will convert the I-INCE accounts to the Euro as soon as possible.

9. CSC Operating Rules.

The evening session of the Board meeting was largely devoted to a drafting of the CSC operating rules which will be sent to the Board for comments about 1999 April 15.

10. Venue for INTER-NOISE 2002.

This agenda item was discussed very briefly. The Board should expect at Fort Lauderdale to receive only one detailed proposal, and that will come from INCE/USA to host INTER-NOISE 2002 in the continental United States.

11. Planning for the Fort Lauderdale meetings of Board and GA.

There was no time remaining for this item to be discussed.

12. Other business.

None.

13. Next meeting.

The annual meeting of the I-INCE Board will be held during the period 1999 December 04-08 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA.

14. The President thanked the Board member for their participation, and adjourned the meeting at 22.00 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Lang, President