3. Meetings of the Board of Governors of the Anna Lindh Foundation
1. Report by the Executive Director of the Foundation

The Executive Director, under contract with the European Commission since November 15, 2004, delivered his first statutory report on preparatory steps taken for establishing the Headquarters of the Foundation at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in tandem with the Swedish Institute in Alexandria. He reported on progress concerning the establishment of the Foundation as a legal personality, visibility, external relations, staff recruitment, the issue of languages, preparations of the launching event, national networks, the advisory committee and working methods (Annex 1, 2 and 3).

The Board of Governors acknowledged, on the basis of information provided by the Executive Director, receipt of the pledged contributions of the first eight members of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Ireland, Jordan, Lithuania, Portugal and United Kingdom). Finland, Spain and Slovakia announced imminent transfer of their pledged contributions. Algeria pledged a 100,000 EUR contribution, Sweden informed the Board of the fact that its contribution would be transferred as soon as the Foundation would have completed its steps to be registered as a legal personality. France requested clarification on the financial needs of the Foundation at this early stage. The Executive Director informed the Board that, given the status of the Foundation as “network of networks” as decided by the EuroMed Committee in adopting the Statutes of the Foundation at the Hague on 29 and 30 November 2004, operations with several already established networks could start immediately upon approval of the Draft Programme and Budget for 2005.

Upon proposal of the United Kingdom, the Board decided to include a special debate on education in its agenda of one of its forthcoming sessions. Jordan invited the Executive Director to the G8-Arab States Education Ministers Conference it will host in Amman in May 2005.

Several members requested the circular letters by the Executive Director to the Heads of the 35 national networks and to the advisory committee also being brought to their attention. The Presidency announced that it will dispatch such information to all members wishing to have this information.

2. Designation of the President and of the Vice-President

In their capacity as EuroMed Committee deciding on the implementation of the Statutes of the Foundation approved in November 2004, the members of the Board adopted a moratorium of six months for the statutory decision on electing a President and a Vice-President. For the time being, and in line with the statutory provision of the EuroMed Committee acting also as Board of Governors of the Foundation during an initial period of three years, the EuroMed Presidency will continue to act also as Chair of the Board of Governors of the Foundation.

3. Three Years Programme and Strategy; Programme 2005

Upon proposal of the Presidency, the Board approved the Three Years Programme and Strategy as well as the Programme 2005 proposed by the Executive Director in English and French (doc. de Séance no. 137/04 en date du 29.11.2004).
4. Rules of Procedure
The Executive Director presented to the Board its Draft Rules of Procedure (doc. de séance no. 08/05 en date du 27.01.2005). Upon proposal by the Presidency, the Board decided to consider these rules at a later stage, possibly in connection with its decision on electing a President and a Vice-President.

5. Budget 2005
In the light of information provided by the Executive Director on the budgetary provisions for the first three years of the Foundation being within the frame of pledged contributions of members of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the Commission, the Board approved the Draft Budget for 2005 proposed by the Executive Director (annexed to doc. de séance no. 137/04 en date du 29.11.2004).

6. Launching event for the Foundation
The Presidency informed the Board of the result of consultations on organising the launching event for the Foundation, the most suitable date of which would be 18 to 20 April 2005 in Alexandria.

Upon request by the Chair, the Executive Director presented the following draft calendar of events to the Board:
18 and 19 April: meetings of national networks and of the advisory committee.
19 April: meeting of the Board of Governors.
20 April: official ceremony (launching event), followed by an open air youth music festival.

The Board invited the Presidency and the Executive Director to include in the programme an intellectual forum on “Unity in Diversity. The implications of the international debate on cultural diversity for the Foundation”.

In accepting this proposal, the Executive Director announced that the Foundation, with financial support from the Luxemburg Presidency and from its own budget, would cover the participation of two representatives of each of the 35 national networks, the intellectual forum and the musical event, hoping that the latter would also be supported by extrabudgetary funds. He invited the members to submit proposals for participants in the intellectual forum as well as for the musical event which should reflect Euro-Mediterranean encounters in popular music.

He also invited the Board members to include their delegations to the launching event three to eight members of their national networks, thus bringing together five to ten representatives of civil societies of each of the 35 members of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership (including the two invited by the Foundation) on the occasion of launching the first common and jointly financed institution within the Barcelona process in the Year of the Mediterranean 2005.
Anna Lindh Euromediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures
Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Board of Governors, Brussels 1 March 2005

Session document; Origin: Executive Director, en date du 20 March 2005

Agenda
1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 1st meeting (27 January)
2. Report by the Presidency
3. Report by the Executive Director
4. Draft Rules of Procedure
5. Any other matter

Documents:
16/05 Minutes of the Meeting 27 January 2005 (date:24.02.05)
16/05 Annex 1: Results Call for Candidates (table)
16/05 Annex 2: Recommendations for the establishment of national networks
20/05 Confirmed Contributions (as of 01.03.2005) (table) (date: 01.03.05)
21/05 Updated List of National Networks (date: 01.03.05)
24/05 Draft administrative and financial procedures, Part 1 (date: 01.03.05)

1. Adoption of the Minutes of the 1st meeting (27 January) and Comments on related Session Documents

The Board of Governors adopted the Minutes of its 1st meeting on 27 January without amendment. Upon a proposal of the Presidency, it was agreed to introduce, for the approval of the minutes of forthcoming meetings, a ten days silence procedure.

The Executive Director informed the Board that, as soon as a sufficient number of international staff would be available to the Foundation, all session documents would be circulated well in advance of the meetings and in English and French in line with the Draft Rules of Procedure for the Board (doc.no 08/05). He referred to the “Recommendations for the establishment of national networks” (doc.no. 16/05, Annex 2) which were sent out in January in English and French versions to the networks and the Advisory Committee and made available to the Board through the Council Secretariat.

Several Members commented on the updated list of confirmed contributions (doc.no 20/05). Morocco raised its pledged contribution from 30,000 to 50,000 EUR. The Palestinian Authority pledged a contribution the amount of which would be notified soon. Italy requested removal of the text in brackets under footnote 2 since it had always clearly stated that 40 per cent of its contribution would be made available in cash, and the remainder of 60 per cent would be reserved for proposals of the Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo in Naples in conjunction with the Foundation.

Concerning the updated list of national networks (doc.no 21/05), the Commission informed the Board that, as of today, the task of further updating this list has been handed over to the Foundation. Lebanon announced that, until further notice, the Ministry of Culture will be performing the task of Head of its national network.
2. Report by the Presidency

The Presidency informed the Board of progress made in the preparation for the launching event of the Foundation in Alexandria, with an official inaugural ceremony on 20 April, followed by an open-air musical event and preceded by meetings of the bodies of the Foundation (Board of Governors, Advisory Committee and the National Networks) as well as of an intellectual forum (18 and 19 April).

In the light of consultations for the organisation of the launching event and information provided by Members, the Presidency announced that it will be represented at the inaugural ceremony by the Minister of Culture, Higher Education and Research (or his Deputy), the Commission possibly by the Commissioner of external relations, Egypt by the First Lady and Sweden by the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The Presidency proposed that the first meeting of the Board of Governors in Alexandria have, at least in part, a solemn character, possibly with focus on education or on the theme of the intellectual forum.

Concerning the intellectual forum on “Unity in diversity. The implications of the international debate on cultural diversity for the Foundation”, the number of participants should ideally be restricted to four, two from EU and two from Mediterranean partners, with at least one woman on the podium.

Upon request from the Presidency, the Executive Director informed the Board of the large number of proposals received from Members for the composition of the intellectual forum and the groups performing at the Euro-Mediterranean open-air concert. He thanked Members who had submitted such proposals and who responded to his invitation to consider sharing the costs for inviting performing artists to the concert, thus enabling him to start the preparation of the events.

The Presidency invited the Executive Director to provide, through the General Secretariat of the Council, all necessary technical information.

3. Report by the Executive Director

The Board of Governors acknowledged, on the basis of information provided by the Executive Director, receipt of the pledged contributions of Estonia, Malta, Slovakia and Spain, thus bringing the total number of contributions received to twelve.

The Executive Director drew the attention of the Board to a number of conclusions and recommendations in the recent EuroMeSco Report “Barcelona Plus”, which are of direct relevance to the Foundation. The recommendations directly addressed to the Foundation concern religious and cultural diversity, the need to combat racism and xenophobia, prioritising education and putting cultural pluralism at the centre of co-operation. The Executive Director qualified the Report as giving additional support to the priorities outlined in the Three Years Programme and Strategy of the Foundation for 2005-2007.

He reported on progress concerning staff recruitment. Whereas two thirds of the 668 candidatures received are from EU Member States, the shortlist of 28 candidates established by the selection panel is balanced. The fact that two thirds of all applicants are women, however, is also reflected in the shortlist. All shortlisted candidates have been interviewed by the panel since the last meeting. The Executive Director has offered eight candidates a renewable three years contract. Taking into account double nationalities, these candidates are coming from twelve different Member States of the...
Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, thus reflecting the diversity of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in line with the terms of reference of his contract with the Commission. The Executive Director informed the Board that the selection panel has also recommended to him a reserve list of candidates for recruitment in case of withdrawal of applications. Such withdrawals, however, could result in a less balanced composition of international staff.

Staff contracts will enter into force upon publication of the – soon to be signed - Presidential Decree giving the Foundation legal personality in the host country.

4. **Draft Rules of Procedure**

The Presidency introduced the Draft administrative and financial procedures, Part 1, prepared by the Executive Director (doc.no. 24/05) in line with the requirements of the Foundation’s Statutes concerning the label of the Foundation, its accounts and conditions for accepting private donations.

As required by the statutes, the Presidency furthermore invited the Executive Director to prepare in the coming 2 weeks draft financial rules and procedures, which, while taking into account various constraints should be as short and concise as possible and reflect the specificity of the Foundation.

Upon proposal by the Presidency, the Board decided to consider the whole set of Draft administrative and financial procedures of the Foundation together at its forthcoming meeting on 12 April.

*The Presidency invited the Executive Director to work, the approval of regulations pending, in their spirit and to include relevant information into his statutory report.*

5. **Any other matter:** No further issue was raised.
Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures
Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of the Board of Governors, Brussels 12 April 2005

Session document; origin: Executive Director, 3 May 2005.

Agenda

6. Report by the Presidency on the preparation of the inauguration events
   (Alexandria, 18 – 20 April 2005)
7. Report by the Executive Director
8. Draft administrative and financial procedures, Parts 1 and 2 (doc. 24/05 and
   30/05)
9. Agenda for the 4th Meeting of the Board of Governors (Alexandria, 19 April 2005)
10. Any other matter

Documents:
27/05 Minutes of the 2nd Meeting 1 March 2005 (date:24.03.05)
24/05 Draft administrative and financial procedures, Part 1 (date:01.03.05)
30/05 Draft administrative and financial procedures, Part 2 (date: 31.03.05)
35/05 Provisional schedule for the celebration of the official launching event (date:
   07.04.05)
Annex (distributed during the meeting): Intellectual Forum: Unity in Diversity,
Alexandria 19 April 2005

1. Report by the Presidency

The President informed the Board of the latest preparatory steps for the launching
event of the Foundation in Alexandria. With reference to doc.35/05, he announced
that the Senior Officials meeting envisaged for the morning of 19 April would not
take place; he would be available for informal consultations with delegations wishing
to meet with the Presidency.
Upon request from the Presidency, the representative of Egypt informed the Board of
the actual situation concerning the steps for giving the Foundation legal personality in
the host country. In light of the legal advice, the originally (before the adoption of the
Foundation’s Statutes) planned comprehensive Presidential Decree had to be replaced
by two separate steps: a Presidential Decree concerning the hosting of the Foundation
in Egypt by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in tandem with the Swedish Institute, and a
Host Country Agreement on privileges and immunities between the Ministry of
Foreign Affairs and the Foundation. The Presidential Decree was signed on 10 April,
thus enabling the Ministry and the Director of the Foundation to sign the Host
Country Agreement in the following days, before the inauguration events.
Upon request from the Presidency, the Executive Director updated the Board of the
composition of the intellectual forum planned for 19 April.
Despite the short notice, two of the members of the High Level Group of experts on Euro-Mediterranean Dialogue (“Prodi Groupe des Sages”) had been able to accept the invitation (Mme Assia Bensalah Alaoui, Co-President, Morocco, and Mr Malek Chebel, Algeria). In line with the Board’s request for a forum representing the whole region and after consultation with the Presidency, the Executive Director had invited the members of the Foundation’s Advisory Committee to join the Forum which would be open to the public. The theme of the Forum reflects also the recommendation by the EuroMeSco Report “Barcelona Plus 10” to the Foundation to address the need to guarantee cultural and religious diversity.

2. Report by the Executive Director

The Board of Governors acknowledged, on the basis of information provided by the Executive Director, receipt of the pledged contributions of Slovenia and of two thirds of the contribution of Luxembourg. Part of the contribution in kind from Egypt is being received according to schedule, thus bringing the total number of contributions received to fifteen (out of which thirteen with the total of pledged amounts). The Board also acknowledged an additional contribution of 50,000 EUR from Luxembourg, earmarked for the participation of two representatives of national networks and the reception in the framework of the inauguration ceremony.

Several members raised the issue of financial operations of the Foundation, including the possibility of earning interest or dividends on the contributions received. The Executive Director, while referring to the draft administrative and financial procedures to be considered under item 3 of the agenda, informed the Board that the contributions received would be equivalent to two thirds of the approved budget for 2005, thus leaving little space for accumulation of interests. Moreover, the Commission being the largest single contributor, had announced that it would stretch payment over several instalments. All preparations, including a call for tenders of financial services restricted to major banks in Alexandria, had been made for taking over the trust bank account, established by the Swedish Institute at the request of the Board of Governors, by the Foundation immediately after its formal registration in the host country. The Director reassured the Board of his conservative attitude concerning financial operations, acquired under German public administration. In view of the unpredictability of financial markets, he would not take any risks such as converting the Foundation’s assets into other currencies or into risk-prone financial products.

The Executive Director further reported on progress concerning staff recruitment. Draft three years contracts (to be replaced by regular renewable three years staff contracts upon registration of the Foundation) had been signed with eight international experts, the first having taken his functions a few days before the Board meeting, the last being expected end of September. Since five of the eight originally selected candidates had declined the contract offered to them, he had to draw on the reserve list of candidates recommended to him by the selection panel. As compared to the original list, reported on at the last meeting, and without compromising on qualification requirements, this resulted in a less balanced composition of international staff, coming from eight different countries: Italy (2), France/Algeria, United Kingdom, Denmark, Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon. Six staff members are women, two men. As indicated earlier, each international staff member will be supported by a local junior professional, who is receiving training on the job. An international intern programme is under preparation. Upon request of several
members, the Director specified the following reasons which had motivated some candidates to decline the contracts offered to them: present employers not willing to grant leave without pay, job offers from other institutions, lack of employment guarantees beyond three years, hesitation to accept draft contracts (with a Foundation not yet registered), and personal impediments.

The first meeting of the eight Arab national networks was held on 22 and 23 March in Alexandria. There was general agreement on the need to follow the Egyptian example in establishing a non-governmental structure of all networks. The participants stressed the need for securing financing of national networks as a prerequisite of replacing the governmental entities originally nominated as heads of networks by civil society institutions. They further invited the Director to organise, together with the Commission, regular training seminars for the development and financial/administrative management of projects. Experts in these fields would enable all national networks to participate in calls for proposals by the Foundation, by the Commission and other funding sources.

Several members commented on the need to ensure appropriate financial resources for the national networks as pillars of the Foundation which is conceived as a network of networks. Spain expressed the view that it was not possible to use the Foundation’s budget for this purpose, thus leaving it to each Member State to look for solutions concerning the financing of its national network. The question was raised whether existing mechanisms of the Commission such as NGO co-financing could provide assistance.

On external relations, the Executive Director reported of his participation as invited speaker to the first Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly held in Cairo 12 to 15 March 2005. The Assembly adopted resolutions which, among other things, welcome the Foundation’s three years programme, stress the need for constant and concerted efforts of the national networks and express the hope for full synergy being established between the Foundation and the Parliamentary Assembly. The Bureau was invited to consider involving a representation of the Assembly in the work of the Foundation’s steering bodies.

Concerning the latter, the Director has received a written request of Parliamentarians to take part in the meetings of the Advisory Committee as observers to this Committee. In light of discussions with Parliamentarians present in Cairo, he invited the Board to examine the possibility of participation of a representative of the Assembly as observer in its meetings. Additional possibilities of cooperation with the Assembly could be identified at the level of national networks. While supporting the view of the Executive Director that the Advisory Committee might not be the most appropriate body for liaison with Parliamentarians, members who took the floor on this issue expressed caution mixing up Parliamentarians with executive functions as well as against a possible political instrumentalization of national networks. The Presidency, while informing the Board that no formal request has been received neither from the Assembly nor from the European Parliament, recommended that the Executive Director present the activities of the Foundation to the Cultural Committee of the EMPA on a regular basis and concluded that this matter needed more attention.

The Director further informed the Board of an invitation received from the Council of Europe concerning the implementation of a decision taken on 18 March by its
Ministers Committee on Education, Culture, Sport, Youth and Environment. The Council wishes to extend, through a specific bilateral agreement with the Foundation, the EUROMED partnership programme beyond existing cooperation in youth and education sectors to all relevant areas of cultural cooperation. The Director-General of the Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation of the Islamic Conference (ISESCO) announced his visit to the Foundation. The Foundation is invited to co-organise an inter-institutional meeting on concrete and sustainable steps towards a dialogue between cultures and civilisations (Rabat, 14 to 16 June), initiated by UNESCO, ALECSO, the Arab League, ISESCO and the Council of Europe.

3. Draft Administrative and Financial Procedures

Upon proposal by the Presidency, the Board adopted the administrative and financial procedures, Parts 1 and 2 (doc. 24/05 and 30/05), with the understanding that these rules and procedures, being essential for the Foundation’s operations, can be revised by the Board in the light of experience with their application.

4. Agenda for the 4th Meeting of the Board of Governors (Alexandria, 19 April 2005)

Upon proposal by the Presidency, the Board decided to hold its 4th meeting on 19 April 2005, 15 to 18 hrs, in Alexandria in the context of the events for the launching of the Foundation which will give to the meeting a mostly protocol character, not requiring a formal agenda. It will be possible to exchange views on the results of the intellectual forum as well as of the meetings of the networks and of the advisory committee preceding it.

5. Any other matter: No further issue was raised.
The Presidency welcomed the Board members to the first meeting at the Foundation’s Headquarters in Alexandria. Since the meeting was part of the Foundation’s inauguration events and had therefore mostly protocol character, it did not require a formal agenda. Upon proposal of the Presidency, the Board approved the following informal

Agenda

11. Information on the legal status of the Foundation
12. Report by the Executive Director on the meetings of the networks and of the advisory committee
13. Tour de Table
14. Date, venue and agenda for the 5th Meeting of the Board of Governors
15. Any other matter

Documents:
The list of participants was distributed at the end of the meeting (see attachment)

1. Information on the legal status of the Foundation

The Executive Director informed the Board of having signed on 14 April, together with the Head of the Legal Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Host Country Agreement. The representative of Egypt explained that the signed Agreement was passed on to the Council of Ministers, before going to the Parliament, with a view to have it ratified as soon as possible.

2. Report by the Executive Director on the meetings of the networks and of the advisory committee

The Executive Director highlighted the following three issues raised in both the meetings of the advisory committee and of the national networks on 18 and 19 April:

(i) The concept of civil society
There seems to be consensus on the need to involve civil society at large in the activities of the Foundation. A broad-based definition would involve more and other partners than those participating in the EuroMed Civil Forum and related NGO platform. It would systematically include professional organisations, educational, cultural and scientific institutions, municipalities, Parliaments and, in particular, all national partners of the various programmes and networks active in the various
activities of the Commission with Mediterranean partners. The Advisory Committee and the representatives of the networks took note, with appreciation, of the interest expressed by the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA), as elected representatives of the citizens of Euro-Mediterranean Member States, to establish close collaboration with the Foundation.

The Foundation being a civil society entity governed by an intergovernmental body, it seems imperative to address the widespread fears of the Foundation being a government-run institution for instrumentalizing civil society.

(ii) The Programme of the Foundation
At the initial stage of the Foundation, a number of national partners expressed concerns about a too ambitious and broadly designed programme of the Foundation, which would go far beyond the financial means available to it. Another number of partners would like to see additional activities be included into the programme, such as translations of literary works, development of libraries, cultural and arts festivals, or media campaigns which would fit with their expectation to get funding for their envisaged activities. The key question will be whether the Foundation will be successful in its endeavour to act as an important instrument for civil society cooperation in the region and to assume a catalytic and leverage function which would influence existing cooperation agreements and related budgets, or whether the Foundation should be more modest and restrict its programme to a number of projects which could be financed from its budget. The Executive Director expressed his clear preference for the former of these two options.

The Executive Director reassured the Board that the activities included into the approved Programme and Budget for 2005 are well under way, and that expected results would be delivered on time, with focus on visibility actions.

(iii) Financing
With a view to the administrative and financial procedures adopted by the Board, many representatives of national networks are concerned about the corresponding administrative workload required for obtaining financial support from the Foundation, and the ensuing time frame. In this context, an amendment of the statutory restrictions concerning private donations to the Foundation seems to be necessary. The fact that the Foundation’s budget does not include provision for the financing of the functioning costs of national networks has led to some disappointment. The networks urged the Executive Director to bring the issue of their operating costs to the attention of the Board of Governors, insisting on the need to develop networks as a constituent element of the Foundation, conceived as a network of networks. They also urged the Executive Director to present guidelines for national networks, in addition to the recommendations circulated in January 2005.

3. Tour de Table

The Presidency recalled the earlier decision by the Board to consider amending the Foundation’s Statutes in the context of the adoption of the Board’s Rules of Procedures. The issue of the number and the venue of Board meetings would need to be clarified in this context. Concerning long-term financing of the Foundation, solutions should be found which would allow the Director to concentrate on his work instead of spending too much time on fund-raising.
All members who took the floor agreed on the need to find solutions for the financing of national networks and for giving priority to visibility actions. 

*France* underlined the need to early implementation of concrete projects in the Member States and of the principle of equal footing in North-South partnership. The possibility of reducing the number of members of the Board should be examined. 

*Spain* warned against reduction of the scope of the programme and a possible misunderstanding of the Foundation as a “project” rather than a process and an instrument. 

*Italy* proposed to seize urgently the opportunity of ongoing discussion on the Commission’s budget for the years 2007 and beyond for securing the future financing of the Foundation, and to establish contacts with the private sector. Even in the absence of an agenda item “Board of governors of the Foundation”, all forthcoming meetings of the EuroMed Committee should allow to address relevant issues under “any other business”. 

*Tunisia and Algeria* proposed for 2007, on the occasion of the city of Algiers being cultural capital of the Mediterranean, the organisation of an intellectual forum with the Foundation, stressing the need for education for cultural diversity. The activities in Member States should be multiplied, relations with the Civil Forum and regional organisations should be established. For the years after 2007, Algeria proposes a minimum contribution of Member States to be fixed. 

*Portugal* requested a complete list of focal points of regional activities and networks, to be made available to all national networks, in order to avoid duplication of efforts. 

*Denmark* requested from the Commission comprehensive information on funding possibilities, preferably in the format of a guide to apply for funding of projects. 

*Sweden* explained why it took some time to identify a non-governmental head of its national network who is now being established after the financing of staff for its coordination was secured. 

*Israel* proposed clarification of the specific role of the Foundation within the Barcelona process. The Foundation and the Commission should clarify the ties with the other parts of the third chapter of the Barcelona Declaration, thus contributing to enhanced coherence of the process. 

*Austria* supported the view that the Foundation was not conceived as one of the many competitors for project funds from the Commission but rather as a linkage between EU and other actors active in the region such as UNESCO. 

*Belgium* underlined the role of the Foundation as facilitator and its competence in labeling relevant activities and projects. 

*Poland* insisted in seizing the momentum of launching the Foundation and to convene a next meeting which would focus on the development of national networks. 

The representative of the *European Commission* recalled the long and sometimes cumbersome history of the last three years of putting the idea of an Euro-Mediterranean Foundation into practice: “Today, a dream comes true.” She confirmed that the Commission would be prepared to consider the inclusion of further co-financing the Foundation in its budget as of 2007. 

### 4. Date, venue and agenda for the 5th Meeting of the Board of Governors 

The fifth meeting of the Board of Governors will take place on 19 May in Brussels, with main focus on national networks. 

### 5. Any other matter: 

No further issue was raised.
Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures
Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Board of Governors, Brussels 19 May 2005

Session document; origin: Executive Director, 28 May 2005.

Agenda

16. Report by the Presidency
17. Report by the Executive Director
18. Functioning of the national networks
19. Date and place of the 6th Meeting of the Board of Governors
20. Any other matter

Documents:
47/05 Minutes of the 3rd Meeting 12 April 2005 (date:10.05.05)
48/05 Minutes of the 4th Meeting (date:10.05.05)
49/05 (EN, AR) Host Country Agreement between the Foundation and the Arab Republic of Egypt (date: 10.05.05)
50/05 (AR, EN) Presidential Decree on hosting the Foundation in Egypt (date: 10.5.05)
51/05 Anna Lindh Network of Networks/national networks (date: 10.05.05)
52/05 Organizational Chart of the Foundation (date: 11.05.05)
53/05 Development and financing of national networks (date: 11.05.05)
54/05 Minutes of the Networks Meeting 18-20 April 2005 (date: 11.05.05)

1. Report by the Presidency

The President informed the Board of his intention to sign, on behalf of the Board, the contract with the Executive Director for a three years term, renewable once in line with the Statutes. The conditions of the contract would be the same as those of the contract between the European Commission and the Executive Director for setting up the Foundation in Alexandria, which had expired shortly before the meeting.

2. Report by the Executive Director

The Board of Governors acknowledged, on the basis of information provided by the Executive Director, receipt of the pledged contributions of Algeria and of an additional contribution of 50,000 EUR from Luxembourg.

The inauguration events from 18 to 20 April had been particularly well covered by the media in the Mediterranean Partner countries, including regional newspapers such as Al Hayat and TV stations such as Al Jazeera, thus giving visibility to the Barcelona
Process in the region where it was lowest. Press coverage in Europe includes the Economist’s “question of the week: What does Europe against a clash of civilisations?”. The small number of negative reactions include an Internet campaign by the European extreme right and, attacking the Foundation’s programme for the “Dialogue between Cultures” as dangerous for European cultures and some islamist voices raising similar, but symmetrically opposed objections. All important press clippings available will be published in a press review, the Euro-Mediterranean World Music Festival during the inauguration event will be used for a CD production; the intellectual forum “Unity in Diversity” will be subject of a publication; and the whole event will be used in a variety of formats of promotional audiovisual materials, including a contribution to the 100 hours “Barcelona Plus 10” project of the European Commission.

The following three aspects will be in focus of the Foundation’s PR strategy for the coming few months:

- The “need to guarantee cultural and religious diversity” as stated in the Barcelona Declaration and recommended as the Foundation’s priority by the High Level Group of Experts (Prodi groupe des sages), EuroMeSco and the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA).
- The Foundation being one of the three institutions created by the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, together with the EMPA and FEMIP, each of the three linked to one of the three chapters of the Declaration.
- The Foundation’s contribution to the implementation of the action plan for the coming five years of the EM Partnership, with focus on education, as outlined in the recent document prepared by the European Commission.

External relations are guided by these objectives, together with the principles of creating synergies and adding value to existing activities.

The Executive Director further reported on progress concerning establishment of full legal personality of the Foundation in its host country. The Presidential Decree and the Host country agreement being signed, only the latter would require parliamentary ratification which is expected by end of this month. Immediately after this session, he would, therefore, enter into negotiations with the Commission on a contract on the grant earmarked for the Foundation. He expressed his confidence about the possibility to adapt the existing financial rules of the Commission to the specificities of the Foundation, e.g. through invoking the provisions for decentralised ex post control which is one of the three control mechanisms foreseen in those regulations. The problems to be solved include the Commission’s requirement of a detailed three years budget, whereas the Statutes imply an annual budget to be approved by the Board. This might lead him to propose an amendment of the relevant provisions in the context of the revision of the Statutes envisaged for autumn this year.

In the debate, Lebanon and Palestine confirmed imminent transfer of their pledged contributions. Sweden requested clarification of the respective role of the Presidential Decree and the Host country agreement for the legal status of the Foundation. Egypt confirmed that the Presidential Decree (which takes effect upon its publication in the official gazette) has created legal personality of the Foundation in its host country. The Host country agreement would be moving this week to the Parliament. Greece recommended a pragmatic solution of the problems created by existing rules and provisions for the Foundation’s budget. Several members recommended consultations between the Luxembourg and the incoming UK Presidencies concerning amendments.
of the Foundation’s Statutes, recalling the pending decision on electing a President and a Vice-President and several proposals for admitting observers.

Concerning visibility, several members expressed interest in the press review on the inauguration events which should also be made available on the Foundation’s website. Several members welcomed the fact that, for the first time, official session documents were made available in Arabic (doc. 49 and 50) and that the Foundation’s website is trilingual (En, Fr Ar). They recommended additional efforts in this regard, with a view to enhancing visibility and outreach in the Arab world. Several members regretted that, since 1999, the Arabic programme of EuroNews has been suspended and recommended that the evaluation of this programme by the European Commission be completed soon. Italy informed about the regional RAI Med programme in Arabic and recommended the EU and the Egyptian flags being hoisted at the Foundation’s Headquarters. Palestine recommended the Foundation to play a role in the Middle East peace process. Algeria recommended good visibility of the Foundation in the ongoing Barcelona +10 media campaign. France, while welcoming the organizational chart of the Foundation (doc.52), requested a chart of the Secretariat, as soon as its international staff would be completed.

3. Functioning of national networks

The Executive Director presented document 53 on the development and financing of national networks, clarifying that the Minutes of the last network meeting in April (doc.54) had been provided to the Board for information and with the intention to transmit the concerns expressed by almost all networks to the Foundation’s governing body.

Underlining the statutory central role of national networks in an institution conceived as “network of networks”, he suggested the following dual approach:

On the one hand, the instrumental role and service function of the Foundation for enhancing Euro-Mediterranean co-operation should be defined in a much clearer way than in the Statutes. The Foundation could play a central role in the co-ordination between the numerous regional EuroMed programmes and projects: The national networks could involve or at least establish regular contacts with the national civil society actors which are contributing to EuroMed activities. This way, they could build on expertise available rather than creating parallel structures. The Foundation as a whole could seek concertation with the co-ordinators of major regional programmes and projects, especially with those having established their own regional structures such as EuroMeSco, major EuroMed Heritage programmes, EuroMed Youth, EuroMed Human Rights, and the NGO platform. This way, existing expertise could be combined with a view to contributing not only to the implementation of existing programmes of the Commission but also to future programming and to enhancing coherence of the numerous Euro-Mediterranean activities. He announced relevant initiatives for the coming few weeks.

On the other hand, the envisaged development of national networks as civil society actors requires, in most countries, financing mechanisms that would not totally rely on national governments. The encouraging development towards establishment of national networks outside governmental institutions, reported in doc. 53, could be put at risk if such mechanisms would not be identified. He recalled the Board’s consensus on excluding the use of the small budget of the Foundation for supporting the
functioning costs of national networks. Among the existing mechanisms, the Commission’s NGO co-financing seems to be best suited for co-financing the development of civil society structures in EuroMed developing countries. Since this mechanism, originally designed for supporting the contribution of NGOs to national development efforts, also includes a North-South component, it would also be worthwhile to study the possibility of co-financing North-South co-operation between national networks under this scheme.

The task of national co-ordination between civil society actors involved in the numerous EuroMed activities, however, would require a new co-financing mechanism. The Executive Director invited the Board to give, in the context of ongoing intergovernmental deliberations on the future orientation of the Barcelona process, favourable consideration to the establishment of such national co-ordination which would fall under the mandate of the Foundation. The national networks can hardly be expected to enhance significantly the coherence of EuroMed activities at national level, corresponding to a number of expressions of political will by the 35 governments, if there would be no possibility of co-financing their efforts from relevant EU budgets.

While welcoming the Executive Director’s analysis and approach, several members requested an inventory of the various mechanisms for financing EuroMed activities from the Commission’s budget, including also other than MEDA programmes. Jordan and Portugal insisted in external financial and technical assistance for the development of national civil society networks. Several members requested more detailed information about provisional financing mechanisms established in Member States, some of which being qualified by the Director as “creative”. With reference to the 18-20 April network meetings, the representative of Italy stressed the need of further facilitating direct contacts between networks. He reported of five major initiatives developed by the Italian network after the April meetings as concrete proposals for the implementation of the Foundation’s three year programme.

The representative of the European Commission confirmed that, besides the MEDA programme, a number of programmes managed by various General Directorates include significant financial support for regional EuroMed activities as well as for national projects of the Mediterranean partners. All relevant information is available. She recommended that the Foundation should establish its own direct contacts with partners within AIDCO.

The Executive Director explained that, in some EU as well as Mediterranean partner countries, existing institutions had been given the mandate of co-ordinating the national network, together with a corresponding revision of their programmes and budgets and/or additional financial resources. Several of these “creative solutions”, however, are earmarked as “temporary solutions”, in expectation of external co-financing to be available soon. The majority of networks would hardly be able to reach an operational level without a co-financing possibility. In a number of countries, both EU and Mediterranean partners, continued absence of such mechanisms would most probably not allow the development of a civil society network in line with the Foundation’s mandate.
4. Place and date of the 6th Meeting of the Board of Governors

The Board called on the incoming UK Presidency and the Executive Director to invite to the next meeting, as necessary. The Executive Director recalled two statutory items that would need to be considered before the end of this year: amendments to the Statutes and the 2006 Programme and budget.

5. Any other matter: No further issue was raised.
Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue Between Cultures
Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the Board of Governors, Barcelona 27 Sept 2005

Session document; origin: Executive Director, 17 October 2005

Agenda

21. Report by the Executive Director
22. Programme and Budget 2006
23. Development and Financing of the National Networks
24. Election of President and Vice-President (Statutes Art VI.1)
25. Rules of Procedure of the Board
26. Amendment of the Statutes of the Foundation
27. Date and place of the 7th Meeting of the Board of Governors
28. Any other matter

Session Documents:

104/04 REV 4 (EN,FR) Statutes of the Foundation (approved 30.11.04)
08/05 (EN) Draft Rules of Procedure of the Board of Governors (date: 27.01.05)
68/05 (EN) Minutes of the 5th Meeting on 19.05.05 (date: 09.06.05)
49/05 rev. (EN, AR) Host Country Agreement between the Foundation and the Arab Republic of Egypt (date: 25.07.05)
53/05 (EN) Development and Financing of National Networks (date: 11.05.05)
54/05 (EN) Minutes of the Networks Meeting 18-20 April 2005 (date: 11.05.05)
77/05 (FR) Programme du Réseau italien (date: 22.07.05)
79/05 (EN) Information Note and Proposal by the Commission (date: 25.07.05)
101/05 (EN), 102/05 (EN), 103/05 (EN,FR) Results of the EuroMed Regional Networks Meeting (Alexandria 7-8 September 2005) (date:16.09.05)
104/05 (EN,FR) Circular Letter to the National Networks 15.09.2005
105/05 (EN,FR) Revised Programme 2005-2008, Draft Programme and Budget 2006
107/05 (EN), 107/05 ADD (EN,FR) Contract between the Commission and the Foundation (03.08.05)

1. Report by the Executive Director

1.1 Financial situation of the Foundation

The Board of Governors acknowledged, on the basis of information provided by the Executive Director, receipt of the pledged contributions of the Czech Republic,
Finland, Germany (first instalment), Greece, Lebanon, Morocco, and Poland. Altogether, 50 per cent of Member States pledged contributions have been received by the Foundation. In addition, the first payment under the grant contract with the European Commission has been transferred to the Foundation’s bank account in Alexandria.

As indicated during the last meeting on 19 May and at the EuroMed Committee meeting on 27 July, the initial three years financial perspective of the Foundation, covering the years 2005 to 2007, has now been aligned with the three years grant contract signed between the European Commission and the Foundation on 3 August 2005.

Under the two conditions that (a) all pledged Member States contributions will be received on time, and (b) the Foundation operates in full conformity with the administrative and financial rules governing the contract with the Commission (that means: all expenses of the Foundation would be considered eligible for co-financing), the operations of the Foundation would be financially ensured until July 2008.

This was made possible by severe austerity measures applied to the implementation of the 2005 budget approved on 27 January by the Board of Governors. Anticipating that the European Commission would consider all expenses before signature of the contract non-eligible for co-financing, and that, therefore, all expenses could be paid only from Member States contributions, the expenses of the Foundation during the period January to July 2005 were limited to 460,000 EUR (approximately 25 per cent of the seven months share of the budget approved in January). To the extent possible, activities for implementing the approved 2005 Programme had been postponed after the end of July.

The “co-financing gap” between Member States contributions and the up to 5 million grant of the Commission is, therefore, not higher than 60,000 Euro. That means: If the Foundation would receive, before July 2008, in addition to the initial Member States contributions, voluntary contributions or donations of 60,000 Euro, which seems to be realistic, the co-financing grant by the Commission can be obtained in full.

1.2 Host Country Agreement

At the request of the Egyptian Government, the host country agreement signed on 14 April 2005, has been amended by two new paragraphs:
- referring to a hosting agreement signed between the Foundation and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (on the in-kind contribution of the Host country),
- and to standard rules for settlement of disputes.

As a consequence, parliamentary ratification was not possible before Parliamentary recess in July. Since there is no more session of the present Parliament scheduled, and a new Parliament to be elected before the end of the year will, most probably, not convene before January 2006, the Foundation, referring to the constitutional provision for an ad hoc inter-sessional mechanism, has made proposals to the Egyptian authorities concerning earlier ratification. Following the example of the hosting agreement with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, the Foundation has also concluded a hosting agreement with the Swedish Institute which, however, does not need to be reflected in the Host Country Agreement.
1.3 Contribution of the Foundation to the Barcelona +10 Summit

One day before the Summit, the Foundation convenes the Heads of the national networks for a meeting to which also the members of the Advisory Committee and representatives of other regional networks are invited. Major topics are the adoption of guidelines for the national networks and a debate on the future of the Foundation as a network of networks (27 November).

The representatives of the networks and members of the Advisory Committee are also invited to participate in meetings the Foundation will co-organize such as a EuroMed Women’s conference, the third EuroMed and the Media conference, and a EuroMed music event. In addition, the Foundation will give presentations to the meetings of EuroMed local authorities and the Eurocities EuroMed group, scheduled for the days before the Summit in Barcelona. (details in DS 104, Circular letter to the networks).

The Executive Director will circulate the list of participants to the Member States, inviting all 35 Governments to consider favourably the possibility of including their Heads of networks into their official Summit Delegation.

1.4 Visa for the Foundation’s Staff

The Foundation is facing serious difficulties with obtaining, by the date required for missions, Schengen visa for its non-European staff. A number of such missions had already to be cancelled last minute, mainly because of invitations did not meet Schengen requirements such as received well before the two weeks Schengen procedure and being addressed to the person invited. Cancellation of missions leads to difficulties in preparation of joint activities, cancellation of flights leads to additional expenses, and precious working days of professional staff are spent on visa procedures (one or two days travel to Cairo in every case).

The Executive Director suggests, therefore, that established practice for granting long term multiple entry visa to non-European staff of EU Delegations in MEDA countries be also applied to the Foundation.

He thanked the Presidency for having arranged, within 48 hours, a visa for a Palestinian staff member for her mission to London in September.

Furthermore, he noted that visa problems are not limited to non-European staff since also EU citizens need pre-arrival visa for a number of MEDA countries. Provision of long-term Schengen visa being the priority, the visa problem calls for a general solution with a view to removing obstacles to the Foundation’s operations.

1.5 Programme implementation

Major activities since May include:

- Meeting with other regional networks, programmes and projects (Alexandria, 7-8 September), resulting important new orientations for the development of the Foundation’s programme (doc.s 101, 102 and 103);
- Meeting with intergovernmental organizations active in the region and within the Foundation’s fields of competence in Rabat (14-16 June), ending with the adoption of a commitment on concrete and sustainable steps towards the Dialogue between Cultures (doc.106). The latter meeting was followed by invitations to the Council of Europe’s Conference of Ministers of Culture (Faro, 27-28 October), which will consider a Euro-Mediterranean strategy, and to the forthcoming
ISESCO Conference on the Dialogue between Cultures and Civilizations (Tunis, 29-30 November).

- Experts meeting on the Education Server Project (Alexandria, 4-5 August);
- Launching conference for the EuroMed schools programme (Alexandria, 21-25 September), bringing together regional and national co-ordinators of the UNESCO Associated Schools Network and European or EC-funded schools networks and programmes.

Forthcoming activities include, in addition to the Barcelona +10 events: an expert meeting on the Foundation’s journalistic award (to be launched in Barcelona), an expert meeting on philosophy and social sciences; a training seminar for the Palestinian network (with support from Germany). The Executive Director distributed the first publication of the Foundation (EuroMed World Music CD).

In conclusion: With signature of the EC grant contract on 3 August, the Foundation has entered into its operational phase.

1.6 Discussion:

Many members expressed concern about the visa problems reported by the Director and invited the Presidency and the Commission to look into the matter.

- **France**: In order to provide immediate assistance to the Foundation, the Director is invited to distribute a list of staff members concerned (with all visa-relevant data) to members of the Board.

- **Spain**: The European Commission is invited to assist the Director in applying the established practice with EU Delegations in MEDA countries to the Foundation. This should be possible within existing rules and regulations. There is no reason for waiting until an overall solution has been found for all EuroMed regional projects, assistance to the Foundation should be the first step.

- Most speakers supported these concrete proposals:
  - **Italy**
    - expressed serious concerns about the delay of ratification of the Host Country Agreement. According to the Italian Government’s position, ratification is required before transfer of the Italian contribution. Last date would be 15 November 2005; otherwise, the Italian contribution would be lost.
    - announced that the annual Mediterranean Prize of the Fondazione Mediterraneo (the Head of the Italian network) will be renamed “Euro-Mediterranean Prize for the Dialogue between Cultures”, to be awarded jointly by the Italian network and the Foundation as a whole. In consultation with the Presidency, Spain, the Foundation and the Commission, appropriate modalities will be identified for including the forthcoming award into the programme of the Summit.

- **Poland**
  - suggested that – in line with the approved Strategy of the Foundation – appropriate modalities be identified for linking bilateral and multilateral action. In particular, it is recommended to include co-operation with and support to the Foundation into existing bilateral cultural agreements in the EuroMed region.
  - recommends that “building confidence between conflict partners” be among the main priorities of the Foundation.
2. Programme and Budget 2006

The Draft Programme and Budget 2006 as well as the revised and (with regard to the new contract with the Commission) re-aligned Three Years Programme 1.8. 2005 – 31.7.2008 (doc.105) were approved.

In the light of the discussion, the Board
(1) requests the Executive Director to consider how to further improve – within existing rules and regulations - interaction, co-ordination and consultation with the national networks;
(2) expresses the hope that the percentage of the budget spent on programme activities (2006: 54 per cent) will increase in future.

In the discussion, the following statements were recorded:

**Egypt (for the Arab group)** requests that the Foundation stays away from political issues (incl. inter-religious dialogue and school textbooks) and focuses on culture.

**France (and many others)** underlines the importance of involving the national networks - within the frame of existing rules and regulations – into the further development of the programme. In this context, the proposal of inviting the members of the Advisory Committee (being the statutory body for consulting the programme) to the forthcoming network meeting is supported by several members.

**Poland** wishes to see the national networks involved into the co-organisation of events.

**Portugal** wishes to have information on forthcoming calls for proposals.

The European Commission encourages the Executive Director to further ensure the highest possible level of co-ordination with other EuroMed activities/programmes.

**The Executive Director**

- **reassures Egypt** of his awareness of political connotations to several of the programmed activities. In the 2006 programme, the scope of the two issues mentioned by Egypt has been significantly reduced, as compared to the programme approved by the Board in January 2005. There will be no stand-alone action by the Foundation in these fields which form part of the “Rabat Commitment” concluded with international Organizations such as ALECSO, ISESCO, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference. The term “Culture of Religions” which is used in the Programme, has been deliberately chosen for excluding inter-faith issues from the Foundation’s programme.

- **agrees with France** on the need and advisability of involving to the extent possible the national networks into the preparation of the programme. The “red line” not to be crossed is marked by rules and regulations identifying “conflicts of interests”: The roles of decision-makers (including formal consultation) on a programme and budget and those of beneficiaries must be kept separate. Therefore, the Foundation has established informal ways of collecting ideas and proposals from the national networks which do not lead to their exclusion from benefiting from the Foundation’s budget (including calls for proposals). The new programme document approved by the Board reflects more than 70 concrete proposals received from national networks (or recorded during network meetings) since January 2005, and more than 50 proposals from other sources such as
regional networks. This informal consultation process will be further developed.

- **Three general remarks** must be made on the involvement of national networks:
  
  (a) As agreed in January with the Board, intergovernmental decision-making on the Programme is restricted to a programmatic frame. A detailed plan of action is to be developed jointly by the network of networks.
  
  (b) Two thirds of the programme budget are reserved for calls for proposals, restricted to the national networks. That means: two thirds of all activities financed by the Foundation will be identified through concrete projects, developed and proposed by the national networks.
  
  (c) Provision has been made for including the programmes and projects independently developed by national networks as their contribution to the Foundation’s Programme into the detailed plan of action (such as the Programme of the Italian network, doc. 77/05; more such programmes are expected). Additional synergies with the national networks will most likely result from this measure.

- **informs Poland** that a mechanism for involving networks into the co-organisation of events is being developed and will be discussed at the forthcoming networks meeting.

- **informs Portugal** that detailed information on the rules and regulations governing Calls for proposals will be included into the revised version of guidelines to be sent to all networks in about two weeks. Full information on all calls approved by the Board together with the Programme 2006 will be published on the Foundation’s website. The rules and regulations established by the contract with the Commission allow flexibility in co-financing rates (between 10 and 90 percent). The rates announced may vary, according to the subject and target group. Therefore, the Executive Director intends to make use from the “as a rule” clause in the administrative rules and regulations approved on April 12 by the Board, limiting financial support by the Foundation to 50 per cent of the eligible costs of a project. In consultation with the Commission, he noted that each call can establish specific limits for co-financing, with respect to different target groups. Schools, for example, normally would have serious difficulties in collecting 50 per cent of a school-to-school project under the Foundation’s programme.

- **reassures the European Commission** of his commitment to identifying synergies and avoiding duplication of efforts with the other EuroMed actors, which already resulted in amendments to the Programme and a fruitful meeting with the other regional networks.

### 3. Development and Financing of the National Networks

After an introduction by the Executive Director to the documents presented to the last meeting (doc.s 53 and 54) and his 15 September Circular Letter to national networks (doc.104), 14 members took the floor.

There was general agreement on the fact that the question of financing national networks was not given appropriate attention when deciding on the establishment of the Foundation as a network of networks, and also that there would be no possibility of using the budget of the Foundation for this purpose. Most speakers expressed the wish to identify possibilities of co-financing the networks by the European Commission, several others were in favour of, at least, not excluding this possibility.
Spain considers financing of national networks a matter to be solved by each Government and does not think that the Commission should co-finance the national networks functioning costs. Spain also questioned the “lobbying” by the Executive Director in this regard with Parliamentarians. Luxembourg and Poland invited the Executive Director to further report on “best practices” of financing the networks.

The Executive Director concluded, from his past efforts in identifying co-financing possibilities with the European Commission, that there would be no possibility to co-finance running expenses of networks. The only possibility would be the identification of services rendered to the EMP by national networks which could, eventually, be subject of EC financial support. Such services could, for example, consist in visibility actions, including the gathering of national actors involved in various EMP programmes and projects. Existing budgetary provisions, however, focus on services rendered by media rather than those to be rendered by national networks. Initiatives for introducing relevant provisions into the EC Budget 2007 and beyond could come either from the Commission or from the European Parliament. Contacts with Parliamentarians, in particular with the Rapporteurs of the EP Committee on external relations (“re-visiting Barcelona”) and of the EMPA (“relations with the Anna Lindh Foundation”) have either been developed by Heads of national networks or initiated by the Parliamentarians themselves in pursuit of their mandate. The Executive Director has consulted the Presidency in this regard and will continue to do so. Since taking up his functions in November 2004, he feels continuously under pressure from national networks to find solutions for their financing problem and has invested significant efforts in this matter. He feels that his possibilities are now exhausted.

The Commission confirmed that, for the time being, there is no financial mechanism for solving the problem other than individual participation of national networks in Calls for proposals (incl. NGO co-financing) or relevant Calls for tenders/services.

The Presidency concluded the debate by underlining that this problem should be solved as soon as possible and by setting up a study committee on the issue of financing national networks (with Italy, Sweden, UK, the Foundation, the Commission and the Legal Service of the Council as members).

On the issue of the development of networks, the Executive Director reported on progress as well as on shortcomings:

- 21 out of 35 networks have established themselves with a minimum of 5 member institutions; actually, the largest number of members of a network is 70. Since notification of the composition of a network to the Foundation is prerequisite of participation in the Foundation’s restricted Calls for Proposals, establishment of the remaining 14 networks can be expected within the coming few months – which would be a direct positive effect of the application of the Commission’s rules and regulations to the Budget of the Foundation.
- Three countries did not yet nominate a contact person for the institution nominated as Head of their national network.
- Eight networks are still represented by Government officials. Since one year ago 24 out of 35 networks were represented by Governmental officials, increased commitment by Governments is noted to comply with the relevant provision in
Article XII.1 of the Foundation’s Statutes: “Each country will identify appropriate institutions and organisations that at national level are working to develop a dialogue between cultures and civilisations within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean societies and will select the institution/organisation that will play the role of head of the national network.”

The Executive Director will contact the Governments concerned with a view to facilitating the participation of all 35 national networks in the activities of the Foundation, including the Calls for proposals.

4. Election of President and Vice-President (Statutes Art VI.1)

The Presidency informed the Board of the result of consultations held:
There seems general agreement that the President should come from a Mediterranean partner country, and the Vice-President from a EU country.
Since – according to the Statutes – the EuroMed Committee assumes, “for the initial period of three years” – also the role of the Board of Governors, the choice is limited to the senior officials representing the Member States in the EuroMed Committee. Therefore, changes in the composition of the Committee need also to be taken into account. Further consultation is needed. The Board decided to postpone the decision until its next meeting under Austrian Presidency.

5. Rules of Procedure of the Board, and:
6. Amendment of the statutes of the Foundation

Decisions were postponed to the next meeting with following qualification:
All members that would like to submit amendments are invited to submit them before end of October to the Presidency.
Both documents, together with amendments proposed, will then be circulated to the Board. The Executive Director recalled the following conclusion of the January and April meetings: Since the “Draft Rules of Procedure” consist mainly of wording either taken from the Statutes, or created upon relevant requirements of the Statutes, both documents should be seen together. Adoption of Rules of Procedure would, consequently, allow significant shortening of the Statutes.

7. Date and place of the 7th Meeting of the Board of Governors
will be agreed upon between the Austrian Presidency and the Executive Director.

8. Any other matter

The following clarification was agreed upon: The “initial three years period”, referred to in the Statutes, will be defined as the calendar years 2005 through 2007, since the first Board meeting was held in January 2005.

No further issue was raised.
Additional documents:

- Approved 2005-2008 Programme and Programme and Budget 2006 (DS 124/05 [EN,FR])
- Guidelines for national networks (DS 125/05 [EN,FR])
- Bank details of the Foundation (DS 126/05)