



*Consultative status with  
UN Economic and Social Council*

# International Union of Tenants

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Stockholm May 21, 2001

## **Minutes from the IUT Board meeting Stockholm Rosenön, May 11-12, 2001**

### **1. Role call**

**Present:** The Secretariat:

President: Ms Elisabet Lönngren

Secretary General: Magnus Hammar

Acting members:

Austria:

Heinz Barta, Mietervereinigung Österreichs

Czech Republic:

Milan Taraba, SON

Anna Pachtová, SON

Denmark:

Niels Busk, Lejernes Landsorganisation

Finland:

Anne Viita, Vuokralaisten Keskusliitto

France:

Evelyne Brun, CNL

The Netherlands:

Mária van Veen, Nederlandse Woonbond

Sweden:

Torborg Wärm

**Prevented:**

Germany:

F-G Rips, DMB

Norway

Lars Aasen, Norges Leierboerforening

### **2. Welcome, opening of the meeting**

Elisabeth Lönngren welcomed the IUT Board to Stockholm and to Rosenön

### **3. Adoption of the agenda – other businesses**

- Habitat II +5
- Swedish EU report on Housing and Housing policy in Sweden
- Housing report from the Woonbond

**The Board adopted the proposed amendments to the agenda**

### **4. Minutes from previous Board meetings**

#### **a. Dresden, September 2000**

The Secretariat asked the Board to note Item 14, about membership fees. The Board had decided to propose to the Congress that the minimum fee should be raised from 1200 Euro to 1500 Euro, in 2001 and onwards. This proposal was never put before the Congress. But as the IUT Statutes says (§ 10) that it is up to the Board to decide on membership fees, this question is already decided upon.

**The Board adopted the minutes**

#### **b. Amsterdam, December 2000**

**The Board adopted the minutes**

## 5. The IUT Congress, review and discussions

### a. Congress balance of may 11, 2001 (Nederalandse Woonbond)

Mária van Veen presented the preliminary balance and the financial outcome of the Congress. (Appendix 1).

As of May 11, receipts totalled 131 282.92 NLG, and costs totalled 124 105.94 NLG. In other words, there is a preliminary surplus of 7 176.98 NLG. Mária informed that the surplus will be offered to be included into the IUT-budget.

**The Board adopted the financial report, and congratulated the congress-secretariat at the Woonbond for the very good and efficient financial keeping of accounts.**

**Also, the Board accepted to receive the surplus from the congress with gratitude.**

### b. The Board discussed the follow up of the workshops.

The general opinion was that the workshops

needed to be followed up. The Secretariat had prepared a summary of the workshop: "The future of Rental Housing".

**The Board decided to ask the Secretariat to send out this paper (Appendix 2) to all Board members for the purpose of commenting part A 1 - 6.**

**Members are asked to comment all 6 parts, but members may also choose to comment on those items that they consider are of most interest / importance.**

**Though, the board was of the opinion that A 1 was of priority.**

**Deadline** for submitting comments to the IUT Secretariat: September 28, 2001

**Also, the other workshops will be followed up at the coming board meeting.**

## 6. The Tenants Charter

The Secretariat had previously sent a invitation to the Board members to submit written changes to the Draft Tenant Charter, as it was presented to the Congress in Amsterdam. No comments or proposals for changes had reached the Secretariat in time for this board meeting.

**The Board decided to send request the Secretariat to propose new wording/ changes on Chapter V, VI and VIII. The Secretariat should, before May 26, send out the new Draft Tenants Charter (Appendix 3 - will be sent out seperately) to all IUT members.**

**The IUT members are then asked to either say *Yes* or *No* to the whole Charter. If *No*, the respective members are asked to suggest new wording *alternatively* delete text.**

**Deadline:** These comments/proposals should have reached the IUT Secretariat before October 5<sup>th</sup> .

## 7. Report and Plan of Action of the IUT east Europe Regional Office

Mr Milan Taraba presented the Plan of Activities for 2001, together with budget (Appendix 4 and 5).

Mr Taraba also delivered his and his organisation's many thanks to the Swedish Union of Tenants for leading the successful Ronja Project.

**The Board adopted the proposed Plan of Action together with the proposed budget.**

**The Board also adopted the proposal from the Secretariat to pay 50 000 SEK from the IUT Budget, to SON, for the purpose of carrying out the proposed Plan of Action.**

## **8. IUT Vice President for 2001-2003**

**The Board decided to request to the Secretariat to ask Mr F-G Rips of the Deutscher Mieterbund if he is willing to take on the position as Vice President.**

## **9. Membership application from the Tenants' Union ACT, Australia.**

**The Board adopted the proposal to accept the Tenants' Union ACT of Australia as a new Participating member.**

**A reservation was registered from Mária van Veen, Nederlandse Woonbond.**

## **10. Membership application from the National Tenant Organisation in Cameroon.**

**The Board adopted the proposal from the Secretariat not to accept the National Tenant Organisation in Cameroon as member of the IUT.**

The reason was that the said organisation had previously been an organisation for both tenants and landlords. When this organisation previously, in 2000, had applied for membership this request had been turned down.

In their present and new application the organisation has changed its name to include only tenants, and the object to only promote and assist tenants.

Unfortunately, the Secretariat has not received any new statutes or copy of decision from any meeting. The applicant will be urged to submit documents that verify the new name, aims and objects of the organisation.

## **11. Global Tenant**

The board had previously decided to evaluate the magazine.

**The Board adopted the proposal from the Secretariat to publish four issues annually.**

## **12. European Housing Forum Colloquium, Liège September 24-25**

Magnus presented the program and the involvement of the IUT. IUT will have one keynote speaker in one workshop ( Mr André Thomsen of the Netherlands). Ms Parmjit Uppal, chair of TPAS, England, will chair workshop 3.

Mária van Veen pointed out that Mr Thomsen is not a board member of the Nederlandse Woonbond, as Magnus had wrongly stated.

**The Board adopted the report.**

## **13. IUT Focal Point for Africa. Plan of Action 2001-2003**

The Secretariat presented the ambitious and extensive Plan of Action for IUT-FPA 2001-2003.

The Board was very impressed by the intentions and the willingness to seriously take on the responsibility to organise and develop the African tenant organisations.

The Board was also of the opinion that the proposed Plan of Actions was in the right direction.

But, the Board was also of the opinion that such a proposed Plan requires not only money, but also substantial man/women power for planning and co-operation.

**The Board decided to formally adopt the Plan of Action, but could not adopt the proposed budget,**

as the budget was based on new and additional financial resources from the IUT.

The Board decided to offer the earmarked money from the regular IUT budget, to East Africa - that is 15 000 SEK ( \$US 1500) .

The money will be paid to the IUT-FPA when the Secretariat has been presented by a proposal for a field of application. The Secretariat expects to receive a full account including receipts in original.

#### **14. Mobile phone antennas, and their impact on human health.**

Magnus reported that the Swedish organisation had, through individual members, paid attention to the possible harmful effects on the radiation from mobile phone antennas which is placed on block of flats. The IUT has also been asked from some members, i. e. Belgium, whether the Secretariat had been dealing with this problem.

Magnus reported that a study on the effects of the mobile phone radiation in the EU, will soon be published in Sweden.

Member organisations will be asked to send relevant information to the Secretariat.

**The Board adopted the report.**

#### **15. Other businesses**

##### **a. Report on Habitat II +5**

Magnus reported that the IUT has been invited by the UNCHS to participate in a panel debate/discussion on Housing Rights, in New York during the Habitat II +5 conference.

Either Magnus or Parmjit Uppal, TPAS England, will participate.

##### **b. Swedish Housing Report**

Magnus announced that the Swedish government has presented a report on "Housing and Housing Policy in Sweden. The report was presented to the Board.

##### **c. Report from the Netherlands - Woonbond**

Mária van Veen presented a MEMO on the latest development in the Netherlands - appendix 6.

**The Board adopted the reports**

##### **d. Mária van Veen brought the attention to the two documents on housing from the French EU Presidency, September 2000.**

The documents were:

- European public policy concerning access to housing (blue).
- Regular national reports on changes to housing policies in European countries (yellow).

These two documents were presented at the Board meeting in Dresden, October 6-7, 2000. As the board-members found the reports incomplete, and also with direct faults, the board decided that the Secretariat should send these reports to the IUT members in the EU and ask for comments and corrections.

These comments and corrections should have reached the IUT Secretariat **before May 11, 2001.**

These comments should then be processed by the IUT Secretariat, and then sent to the Belgium Ministry For Housing, which are to organise the next Informal Meeting with the EU Housing Ministers, Brussels October 1-2, 2001.

**At the time for the Board meeting in Stockholm, May 11, no comments or corrections from the Board members had reached the Secretariat.**

**The Secretariat will send out a reminder to the Board members of the EU.**

## **16. Next meetings**

**Next IUT Board meeting will take place in Berlin, November 9-10, 2001.**

**Milan Taraba, on the behalf of SON, invited the Board to come to Prague in the spring of 2002. The preliminary date was set to May 4-5. The Board accepted this invitation with gratitude.**

Stockholm May 13, 2001

Elisabet Lönngren, President IUT

Magnus Hammar, Secretary General IUT