

OFFICIAL INVITATION
To the active European members of WFUCA and Clubs
known for WFUCA in the European region

*Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary General,*

We have the honour of informing you that a Regional European Meeting will take place from the 16th to the 18th of February 2001 in Buşteni, Romania. The principle aim of this meeting is the creation of a European Federation.

We have, in fact, already dispatched to you, on 22 December 2000, the draft Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the Constituent Assembly. The Secretary General requested you at that time to send us your proposals of amendments concerning both these texts, which should reach WFUCA's Secretariat no later than 27 January 2001.

The Romanian Federation has the pleasure of inviting two participants from each country to attend this meeting. Their expenses will be covered from the 15th February in the evening until the 19th February after breakfast. We kindly ask you to indicate your flight or travel schedule on the attached registration form, to be returned simultaneously to the Romanian Federation and to the World Federation, before February 1, 2001. This information is needed to enable us to meet you on your arrival in Bucharest. Also, please kindly check whether you need a visa to enter Romania.

We wish to draw your attention on the importance of this meeting, which is part of the process of regionalization in Europe, as approved and adopted by all the members of the Executive Board of WFUCA, at its 20th Session held in Bilbao. The General Secretariat forwarded the decisions taken at this meeting to you on the 10th November 2000 (by letter PG/00/780).

We are looking forward to meeting you soon in Romania.

Yours sincerely,

Paul ORTEGA
George CHRISTOPHIDES
Jolanta ROSTWOROWSKA
Patrick GALLAUD

President
Vice-President for Europe
European Member of the Executive Board
Secretary General

Constituent Assembly of the European Federation of UNESCO

Clubs and Associations

(16-18th February 2001, Romania, Busteni)

Proposed Schedule

Thursday, February 15th

9 – 20	Arrival of the delegates in Bucharest and transfer to Silva Hotel in Buşteni
20	Festive dinner

Friday, February 16th

9:30	Opening ceremony, Presentation of the delegates Opening speeches from WFUCA, Romanian Government Officials and Mr. André Zweyacker
11	Break
11:30 – 13:30	Plenary under the temporary presidency of Mrs. Paula Iacob, President of the Romanian Federation of UNESCO Associations, Clubs and Centres Election of the Bureau of the Constituent Assembly Agreement upon the interior regulations of the functioning of the Constituent Assembly Election of the Credential Committee
14	Lunch
15 – 17	Debate upon the Statues and voting on the articles
17	Break
17:30 – 19:30	Debate upon the Statues and voting on the articles
20	Reception hosted by The Secretary General of the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO

Saturday, February 17th

9:30 – 11	Debate upon the Statue sand voting on the articles
11	Break
11:30 – 13:30	Voting of the Statues
14	Lunch
15-17	Election of the Candidature Commission Submission of candidatures
17	Break
17:30 – 19:15	Elections
19:30	Show
20:30	Official Dinner

Sunday, February 18th

9:30 – 11	Debates upon future EFUCA programs
11	Break

11:30 – 13:30	Debate upon future EFUCA programs / EFUCA Executive Committee first reunion
14	Lunch
15 – 19	Debates upon future EFUCA programs / Meetings with delegates of Romanian UNESCO Clubs
20:30	Reception hosted by the UNESCO Centre of the Romanian Federation of UNESCO Associations, Club and Centres

Monday, February 19th

9 – 17	Departure of the delegates
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Seventeen delegations arrived in Busteni, at the UNESCO Centre of the Romanian Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations, to take part in the Constituent Assembly of the European Federation of the UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations.

They represented national federations or clubs of European countries where there were no structures at national level, and also a regional federation, the Catalanian federation.

The national federations were represented by the Armenian, Belarusian, Cypriot, French, German, Greek, Italian, Moldavian, Polish, Romanian and Spanish delegations. The Russian delegation announced three days before the beginning of the Assembly that they could not participate. All these national federations are active members of WFUCA.

The delegations that represented clubs from countries without representation at national level were the Belgian, Bulgarian, Croatian, Maltese and Portuguese delegations, three of them being also active members of WFUCA (Belgium, Bulgaria and Malta).

The Catalanian Federation, founding member of WFUCA until the founding of the Spanish Confederation (to which it was also founding member) also participated in the Constituent Assembly. The Catalanian Federation left the Spanish Confederation, but it is recognized as a UNESCO non-governmental organization by the Spanish National Commission for UNESCO.

The work of the Constituent Assembly began by electing the Assembly's Bureau. In order to reconcile different points of view about who should lead the Assembly, there was a first vote to establish the procedure. Thus, a Co-presidency of the Constituent Assembly was established: Mr. George Christophides, Vice-President for Europe of WFUCA (new rule) and Ms. Paula Iacob, President of the host country federation (WFUCA rule). This new rule had 8 votes in its favour. The rapporteurs were established by consensus: Ms. Marialuisa Stringa (Italy) and Mr. Patrick Gallaud (WFUCA).

Then there was the vote to establish if the new procedures proposed by the Working Group, taking into account the proposed amendments, would be followed. There were 9 votes for the new procedures. It must be mentioned that the Armenian delegation, which came later, did not participate in the first two vote sessions. During the afternoon of the first day (the 16th of February), the procedures were adopted article by article, after debating on each amendment proposed for the procedures.

The Statute was adopted in the same way on the 17th of February. Several amendments were adopted. Consensus was not reached in some cases and a voting session was necessary, being adopted the variant of the majority.

The only delegation that decided not to sign the Statute at the end of the work and, consequently, not to join the new organization was the German delegation.

In this way, the Constituent Assembly concluded to establish the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations having as founding members, 15 active members and one associate member, the Catalanian Federation.

Through the adopted statute, there was founded an international, non-governmental organization, new regional branch of WFUCA that was named "European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations" and that reaffirmed the support to the UNESCO Constitution, ideals and principles. It defines the European Region as an area of multiple cultures, civilizations and common values in the sense retained by UNESCO. It also understands the need to respect this cultural diversity, engaging itself in a partnership meant to promote the common objectives of European fellowship, peace and development in order to apply effectively the ideas and principles of UNESCO.

The elections took place and the Statute was signed on February 18. All the elected members are mentioned in the Constitutive Document. Two Honorary Presidents were elected: Ms. Marialuisa Stringa and Mr. André Zwejacker. An Honorary Member, Mr. Josep Marines de Foix, was also elected. As Mr. George Christophides, the WFUCA's Vice-President for Europe was elected President of the new federation, the only other nominated member of the new Executive Board was Ms. Jolanta Rostoworska. The members of the Nominations Committee were established by consensus as being members of the Belgian, Croatian and Italian delegations, because they decided not to send candidates for the new Council.

Due to the requirements of the Romanian law, in order to establish the juridical status of the new organization, an Account Commissioner was also elected in the person of Ion Grosu, Romanian. It was established by consensus that the subscription will be 50\$/ year.

Mrs. Maxim Victora and/or Iacob Paula were authorized to handle the procedure of obtaining the juridical status for the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations, and were given the task of opening a bank account to the initial patrimony. The juridical status was obtained on the 5th of March, 2001; file 1/2001/Romania, Prahova County Court, and the bank account for the initial patrimony was opened (no. 183/22.02.2001).

We have succeeded in finalizing the efforts to constitute the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations despite all the difficulties and divergences, in a highly democratic spirit, open to free speech, explicitly appreciated by several participants.

A letter on behalf of WFUCA was prepared and sent towards all the UNESCO National Commissions.

To the Secretaries-General of the National Commissions of the European Region

Madam, Sir,

We have the pleasure of informing you that the Constituent Assembly of the European Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations was held in Busteni, Romania from 15 to 18 February 2001.

The Federation elected a President, Mr. George-CHRISTOPHIDES (Cyprus), Vice-Presidents Ms. Paula JACOB (Romania) and Messrs. Juan Antonio VERA CASARES (Spain), Silvio DE MATOS (Portugal) as well as a member of the Board, Mr. Jean LAMMOTTE (France). Ms. Jolanta ROSTOWOROWSKA (Poland), member of the Executive Boards of WFUCA for Europe, is a member of the European Board in her own right. The Executive Secretary is Ms. Daniela POPESCU (Romania) and the Treasurer, Mr. John MARONITIS (Greece).

This Federation is in line with WFUCA's policy of decentralization as approved by the last two of its World Congresses. Thus, after Asia and Africa, WFUCA now has a third regional branch.

Due to our limited funds, it was unfortunately impossible to send invitations to representatives of National Commissions to this meeting, contrary to our usual procedures on the occasion of international congresses. There was a slight misunderstanding in this connection, inasmuch as the technical organizers invited some National Commissions a few days before this meeting. As you may be aware, the National Commission of Slovenia reacted strongly, and in our view, reasonably. The Secretary-General of WFUCA had an opportunity of clarifying the matter with Ms. KLEMEN-KREK during the seminar "Reading to Build Peace" which was held last week.

It is our responsibility of informing you, as advising members of WFUCA that this European entity has been the object of many debates and divergences of views, even controversies most of which were solved at the constituent assembly. Both of the Executive Board of WFUCA and the practical majority of our active members consider that the essential points were approved by all: the creation of the Federation within WFUCA, and a clear confirmation of the status of a regional branch attributed to this European Federation.

We are at your disposal for any additional information you may wish to receive and, thanking you for your cooperation, remain,

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Gallaud,
Secretary General, the World Federation UNESCO Clubs, Centres and Associations (WFUCA)

George Christophides,
WFUCA Vice-President for the Europe Region, President of EFUCA

Jolanta Rostoworowska,
Member of the WFUCA Executive Board for the Europe Region, Member of EFUCA Executive Board