



Minutes of IPWG meeting

Date: 7 December, 2003

Venue: Meeting held during the Project School in Komarno, Slovakia

Participants:

Adam Kucza, AEGEE-Zielona Gora: adamkucza@o2.pl
Catalin Ciuperescu, AEGEE-Bucuresti: catalinciuperescu@go.ro
Sandro d'Onofrio, AEGEE-Termoli: sandro.donofrio@aegee-termoli.it
Cristian Olteanu, AEGEE-Bucuresti: cristian_olteanu@hotmail.com
Pavel Blidaru, AEGEE-Sibiu: blidariup@yahoo.com
Lukasz Malys, AEGEE-Poznan: lmalys@wp.pl
Jadranka Masic, AEGEE-Beograd: masic@panet.co.yu
Jose Hartemink, AEGEE-Utrecht: jose_hartemink@hotmail.com
Nuria Estrada, AEGEE-Barcelona: nuria17@yahoo.com (secretary)
Rob Tesh, IPWG board: robtesh@web.de (moderator)

Minutes:

(recorded by Nuria, typed by Rob)

Local WGs and membership issues

Bucuresti: few members

Poznan: wants to become more active

Utrecht: trying to set up a local wg

Joining IPWG: Lotus ID incompatible with wg portal, other technical difficulties

Website: not updated since 2001; Sandro offers technical support.

Rob: In case of technical problems please email ipwg@aegee.org directly. Proposal: this advice should be added to the wg portal.

Comment: maybe too many events planned for 2004?

Question: What is IPWG for?

- discussion lists
- training (diplomatic seminar, etc.) as we are "ambassadors" outside our country
- promote integration, take tension out of politics
- give members a clear idea of the relevance of international politics and show the role AEGEE has to play
- form common political positions for AEGEE - but not all members may agree. But it is also controversial who can make political statements on behalf of AEGEE. At present this is the CD.
- it is important that we can express clear and well-researched political opinions so that the CD can decide properly on behalf of the whole network (they are often asked to take positions)

Question: Should the IPWG draft (n.b. not decide) political positions for AEGEE-Europe?

- need to distinguish general matters and specific matters.
- problem of identity within the organisation
- not clear whether IPWG should go into political issues outside Europe (eg. Iraq)
- importance of formal and democratic procedures before any decision



- besides its general mission, AEGEE should develop specific suggestions to decision makers
- interdependence of political issues that seem to be "outside" Europe (eg Iraq)

Those present agreed that in some cases this would be a good idea.

We should remember when drafting positions that IPWG does not have the right to make public statements on behalf of AEGEE.

Question: What would be the procedure if one Antenna is asked to take a position on a political issue?

- Follow CIA if possible, also follow Antenna's statutes (Convention d'Adhesion, AEGEE's mission)
- It would be a decision of the board of the antenna
- It is not clear what procedure to follow! A clear procedure is needed.
- It is a good idea to write to the relevant list and see if there are any objections.
- in case of doubts, speak with the Juridical Commission and IPWG.
- maybe a formal procedure is needed, but sometimes antenna prefer freedom to make their own procedures
- perhaps guidelines are needed.
- widespread misunderstanding within AEGEE about decision making
- maybe guidelines on these procedures should be given by the JC.

Question: What procedure could IPWG follow when drafting positions or recommendations on political issues?

This question was discussed in some detail. The following proposal was reached:

1. [optional]: Raise the issue with thought-provoking questions and links to research materials on IPWG-L
2. Discuss issue: on IPWG-L, in local groups. Important: results of local discussions should be sent to IPWG-L
3. Moderator reads the IPWG-L discussion and the results of local discussions, and reports to IPWG members
4. If members or others (e.g. CD) request further action, members vote on _whether_ to take a position
5. Report to members on what action could or should be taken, e.g. why the CD needs to take a position
6. Discussion by members with proposals for statements
7. Vote on final draft
8. Moderator writes report on the whole process

The resulting report could then be sent to the CD as a "statement proposed by the IPWG," or otherwise acted on.