



IFM • SEI
international falcon movement
socialist educational international

International Committee 2018/12ii

15-16 June 2018
Brussels, Belgium

Draft minutes International Committee 2017

Draft minutes International Committee 2017 - Portorož, Slovenia

Present:

Presidium/Control Commission

IFM-SEI President	Sylvia Siqueira Campos
IFM-SEI Secretary General	Carly Walker-Dawson
Presidium member Middle East	Dani Efrati
Presidium member Europe	Heidi Niemi
Presidium member Europe	Bine Troitzsch
Control Commission Chair	Isi Pérez Quirós
Control Commission member	Chrisi Schauer

Delegates

Kinderfreunde/Rote Falken - Austria	Flo Ebner
Kinderfreunde/Rote Falken - Austria	Bettina Rehner
Kinderfreunde/Rote Falken - Austria	David Janicek
Rode Valken - Belgium	Rudy de Waele
Nueva Generación - Bolivia	Fidelito Cajías Rojas
Esplais Catalans - Catalonia	Xavi Planas Alonso
Esplais Catalans - Catalonia	Eduard Fernando Martinez
Esplais Catalans - Catalonia	Oriol Castro Arnau
Esplais Catalans - Catalonia	Alicia Flores Farré
Esplais Catalans - Catalonia	Irene Nadal Homs
Nuoret Kotkat - Finland	Kaisu Kotirinta
SJD-Die Falken - Germany	Julia Ludewigs
SJD-Die Falken - Germany	Oli Pohl
SJD-Die Falken - Germany	Ildikó Jahn
NOAL - Israel	Tal Tunik
Hashomer Hatzair - Israel	Yaara Mizrahi
Independence Youth Union - Palestine	Ruba Hilal
CHAP - Peru	Chavela Espinal Yactapure
CHAP - Peru	Eduardo Raffael Cabanillas
Fénix - Slovakia	Martina Barboríková
Fénix - Slovakia	Ondrej Pudmerický
Slovenian Falcons - Slovenia	Tamara Gajski
Slovenian Falcons - Slovenia	Ana Marija Lukenda
Slovenian Falcons - Slovenia	Stella V. Grahek
Slovenian Falcons - Slovenia	Pia Zevnik
ASD - Turkey	Muhittin Kurnaz
Woodcraft Folk - UK	Laura Hallsworth
Woodcraft Folk - UK	Aggie Taylor
Woodcraft Folk - UK	Frankie Marsh
Woodcraft Folk - UK	Nadia Asri
UJSARIO - Western Sahara	Minetu Larabas Sueidat

Guests

IFM-SEI Albania - Albania	Ana Abdi
IFM-SEI Albania - Albania	Erindi Bejko
IFM-SEI Albania - Albania	Elvis Llambro
European Youth Forum - Austria	Carina Autengruber
Kurt Löwenstein Haus - Germany	Marie Wilpers
Ajyal - Israel	Firas Khawaled
Pulse - Malta	Fleur Abela
Young European Socialists - Portugal	João Albuquerque

Secretariat

IFM-SEI - Belgium	Ingrid de Kock
IFM-SEI - Belgium	Ceci Aranda Soler
IFM-SEI - Belgium	Bet Bayó
Slovenian Falcons - Slovenia	Andrej Lozar

Friday 7 July 2017

1. Opening of the meeting

a. Opening remarks

Sylvia Siqueira Campos, President of IFM-SEI, opens the meeting.

Tamara Gajski, from the Slovenian Falcons, welcomes all delegates to Slovenia and wishes a pleasant and productive meeting to all.

Carina Autengruber, from the European Youth Forum, gives words of greeting and underlines IFM-SEI's significant input in the European Youth Forum.

b. Roll call

The Control Commission makes a roll call in order to distribute the votes to the members. A 30% quorum is required. The Presidium decides to have one vote en bloc during the meeting. Volunteers for the counting committee are proposed - Alicia Flores Farré (Esplac, Catalonia), Nadia Asri (Woodcraft Folk, UK) and Oli Pohl (SJD-Die Falken, Germany).

The IC decides unanimously to agree with the three proposed volunteers to count votes.

Fidelito Cajías Rojas, Nueva Generación, raises a complaint because his vote was denied because the organisation has a project debt within IFM-SEI. A discussion takes place as to whether or not the denial of votes is eligible or not.

The IC votes on the question should Nueva Generación get their vote although they did not pay their membership fees before 31.03 and without an agreement made with the CC.

In favour: 11 votes
Against: 0 votes
Abstentions: 2 votes

The IC decides with 11 votes in favour and two abstentions to give voting right to Nueva Generación, Bolivia.

c. Adoption of the agenda

Three changes to the agenda are proposed:

- To incorporate the Middle East workshop in the sharing of MOs activities on Saturday instead of Sunday morning
- To add into the membership upgrade section the application of the Slovenian Falcons
- To add into the member applications section the application of IFM-SEI Albania

The agenda is unanimously adopted with the proposed changes.

d. Adoption of the rules of procedure

The IC decides to unanimously adopt the rules of procedure.

e. Adoption of the minutes of the IFM-SEI Congress 2016

A remark is raised that some names and spelling mistakes were noticed in the draft minutes. A discussion about to adopt or not to adopt the Congress minutes takes place.

A vote is taken on a proposal to postpone the approval of the minutes until the closing of the IC meeting so that necessary corrections can be made and minutes reviewed.

In favour: 4
Against: 7
Abstentions: 3

The proposal to postpone the approval of the minutes until the end of the IC meeting is not agreed.

A vote is taken to approve the minutes as they are presented and to make the necessary corrections afterwards.

In favour: 4
Against: 6
Abstentions: 4

The Congress minutes are not approved. The Congress minutes will be corrected and presented at the next meeting for approval.

2. Reports

a. Activity report

The Secretary General presents the activity report from the last 10 months. The report receives a lot of positive feedback. A report in written form would have been appreciated.

A question is raised about who is doing what kind of representation work in IFM-SEI. Representation work is mainly done by the Secretary General or one of the Presidium members. If in the region our

Presidium members can undertake representation and if meetings are held in Belgium it is our Project Officer or someone from the Secretariat. Some opportunities being opened up to the membership when appropriate topic- and time-wise.

A question is raised to ask how to ensure that all organisations are getting involved in our projects. Most projects are European ones but there are sometimes opportunities to involve non-European organisations. In this case there is an open application process but due to funding restrictions it is not often possible to include all IFM-SEI regions in one project. If someone has knowledge about potential funders they can contact the Secretariat.

A question is raised about the issue with the Pionyr leader at the IFM Camp 2016. SJD-Die Falken and the police carefully dealt with the case with Pionyr. Afterwards IFM-SEI struggled with the follow-up and it was not possible to have a dialogue by email so the Secretary General went to visit Pionyr in the Czech Republic. The leader involved is no longer member of Pionyr and dialogue was established between Pionyr and IFM-SEI.

A question is raised about the outcomes of the Progressive Alliance meeting. The IFM-SEI Secretary General was invited to speak in a panel and feels we can contribute to their progress especially on gender issues. We have not committed to anything, but we keep our options open and will gather more information about programmes and priorities of Progressive Alliance.

b. Presidium reports

Presidium member reports are made orally by present Presidium members and video reports are contributed by three members not present: Ola Qawasmi (Middle East), Karlha Villavicencio Barrantes (Latin America) and Mamadou Mbow (Africa).

The reports are warmly appreciated by all. It is underlined that the communication issue was coming back in each report and a concern is raised that funding is mainly for European-focused. It is proposed that as well as our attention and work with the refugees we should also focus on genital mutilation of young girls in Africa.

The IC thanks the Presidium members for their contributions and some reflections are made in response to reporting:

- More improvement in reporting is still needed even though improvement is already visible
- Presidium members should report in a written form
- Heidi Niemi's report (Europe) is complimented for clarity
- The situation is not clear about the remaining Presidium members who did not provide a report
- The division of the different tasks is not clear
- There should be statistics monitoring how many meetings are attended and email responses are received by Presidium members
- It is not clear which tasks are being undertaken with an IFM-SEI hat or with other roles outside of IFM-SEI - this distinction should be made in future reporting
- It is not clear what has been done and what not from the strategic work plan
- Attending meetings is less important than accomplishing tasks
- There should be a division when reporting between individual Presidium members' work and what is happening in each of their regions
- The Asia Region does not seem to fit into the picture

It is stressed that regarding the work plan one of the main concerns is capacity building. Minetu Larabas Sueidat (UJSARIO, Western Sahara) invites IFM-SEI to make a study visit to the refugee camps

in the Western Sahara, as they have a lot of problems getting their youngsters represented in the world. They want to encourage their youngster's drive as to why they should join the IFM-SEI.

It was noted that we definitely need a written report and still improvement in the work of the Presidium members because at this moment only a handful Presidium members are working for IFM-SEI together with the Secretariat and volunteers. More ownership on the work plan by Presidium is necessary. The wish to work more closely with UJSARIO of the Western Sahara is highlighted.

3. Reports

a. Financial report

Carly Walker-Dawson presents the financial report. She presents the restricted and unrestricted income and expenditure for 2016 and half-year figures for 2017. [Charts in annex]

It is noted that we are moving in the right direction that costs are covered for Presidium members and Control Commission but also International Committee participation for Presidium and Control Commission should come from the general budget. If more financial sources could be found, this would be possible.

Remarks were made that it is not logical that we are discussing again the just adopted and approved membership fee system. Organisations that had concerns about it expressed that already before Congress.

b. Control Commission report

The Chair of Control Commission presents the Control Commission report.

The Chair of Control Commission reports that the Control Commission is improving their communications with member organisations.

Why are member organisations not paying?

- Mainly due to financial problems
- Some make agreements and others do not react
- We always try to contact them and make proposals but most don't answer

What can we learn from it?

- We need member fees to keep our organisation strong
- If member organisations cannot pay their fees please contact the Control Commission so that we together can find a solution

Membership fees for new organisations will be based on an engagement and dialogue between the Control Commission and the concerned organisation. Organisations leaving IFM-SEI with open debts will have to face their debts upon their return in IFM-SEI.

The Control Commission informs the International Committee meeting that Liepājas Jaunie Vanagi decided to end their membership with IFM-SEI. The organisation was under membership review at the time. It is explained that if member organisations act in contravention of our rules and principles and concerns are raised, IFM-SEI composes an ad-hoc committee. Liepājas Jaunie Vanagi was informed about the membership review.

It was also raised that also Fundación ACACIA from Colombia is under membership review at this moment. It was clarified that an ad-hoc committee should always be made up by persons who can deal with a membership review an objective way and does not have prior involvement or issues with the organisation in question.

It was remarked that if concerns about a member organisation are raised then the regional Presidium member should be informed about it first. A concern is raised that we might interfere in an inner problem of a member organisation through membership review. It is clarified that a membership review must be agreed by Presidium, with the involvement of regional Presidium members, before it is instigated. The Control Commission confirm that the Latin American region is involved in decision-making around the ACACIA membership review and the purpose of an ad-hoc committee is to find out the facts and not to judge. We are not deciding anything at the International Committee meeting on this issue, but informing the International Committee about the process for transparency and openness.

Suggestions were made to add one person of Latin America who knows the organisation to this ad-hoc committee as it will not cause any conflict of interest because there are still three others on the committee. Due to our constitution we cannot add a fourth person however all concerns are appreciated.

It was decided to adjust the agenda due to time shortage. The workshop will take half an hour less.

4. Membership issues

a. Membership applications (candidate status):

i. Ajyal, Israel

The Control Commission makes a roll call: 13 votes present.

Firas Khawaled from Ajyal, Israel, presents their organisation. Founded in 2006, they have 20 branches in different parts of Israel. They are Palestinian Arabs living in Israel and they do non-formal education, filling in the gaps left by formal education. Firas presents their organisation and the work they are doing for refugees in Lesbos, Greece, in close cooperation with Hashomer Hatzair.

Ajyal has been working for over eight years with the other IFM-SEI member organisations in the Middle East Cooperation and with the Kurt Löwenstein Haus. IYU underlines that the work of Ajyal is impressive. The Presidium recommends accepting Ajyal as a candidate member.

Vote to accept Ajyal as a candidate member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 12
Against: 0
Abstention: 1

The IC accepts Ajyal (Israel) as a candidate member organisation of IFM-SEI.

Roll call: 14 votes present.

ii. SOTHAWACA, Nigeria

SOTHAWACA has worked with Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) and works with survivors of domestic violence. More information was asked by Presidium from the organisation before the International Committee meeting but nothing was received. The Presidium recommends against accepting SOTHAWACA as a candidate member.

Vote to accept SOTHAWACA as a candidate member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 0
Against: 12
Abstentions: 2

The IC does not accept SOTHAWACA (Nigeria) as a candidate member organisation of IFM-SEI.

iii. APEPDJ-TOGO

The application is not very detailed and the organisation seems to focus exclusively on environmental issues and sustainability. More information was asked by the Presidium in advance of the International Committee meeting but nothing was received. The Presidium recommends against accepting APEPDJ-TOGO as a candidate member.

Vote to accept APEPDJ-TOGO as a candidate member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 0
Against: 13
Abstentions: 1

The IC does not accept APEPDJ-TOGO as a candidate member organisation of IFM-SEI.

iv. IFM-SEI Albania

Ana Abdi from IFM-SEI Albania informs the International Committee that they created IFM-SEI Albania because they were advised by Presidium that their organisation, FRESSH, did not fit into IFM-SEI because they were mainly doing party level youth work. They are member of the International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) and now they have opened a branch that will work as a separate organisation following the aims and principles of IFM-SEI.

A concern is raised about many IUSY members having interest in IFM-SEI and that consequences are not known at this stage if more will want to join IFM-SEI in case of setting a precedent. As the organisation has only been set up recently it might be maybe too soon to join our international without grassroots work being established with children and young people. The Presidium recommends accepting IFM-SEI Albania as a candidate member of IFM-SEI.

Vote to accept IFM-SEI Albania as a candidate member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 4
Against: 5
Abstentions: 5

The IC does not to accept IFM-SEI Albania as candidate member of IFM-SEI at present but they encourage them to take part in our activities and to continue to establish a grassroots organisation with children and young people, with the view to apply again at a later stage.

b. Membership upgrade requests

i. Slovenian Falcons

Tamara Gajski presents the Slovenian Falcons' membership upgrade. The organisation is doing non-formal education with children and organising workshops and summer camps. The children learn to take responsibilities for their actions and they also work with a suggestions box. The Presidium highly recommends accepting Slovenian Falcons as members of IFM-SEI.

Vote to accept Slovenian Falcons as a member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 13
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

One vote is not used.

The IC accepts Slovenian Falcons as a member organisation of IFM-SEI.

ii. YOBEK, Liberia

YOBEK has been member for four years now. Based in Liberia they were not active lately due to the Ebola crisis and now they are starting up again their groups and aim to start children's group in urban areas. They have not paid their debts and they have no agreement to pay at present.

The Presidium recommends upgrading YOBEK as members of IFM-SEI but they ask a strong support of the International Committee that this cannot be without a commitment of paying fees.

Roll call: 15 votes present.

Vote to accept YOBEK as a member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 11
Against: 0
Abstentions: 3

One vote not cast.

The IC decides to accept YOBEK, Liberia, as member of IFM-SEI, on the proviso that an agreement regarding their membership fees is made.

iii. Falcons of Belarus

The Falcons of Belarus is working under difficult circumstances and they are trying to establish some group work, to discuss social democratic values. We will try to involve them in our activities. It was decided to place them in the lowest category for paying member fees due to operating underground and the tough political situation. The Presidium strongly recommends upgrading the Falcons of Belarus as members of IFM-SEI.

Vote to accept Falcons of Belarus as a member of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 15
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

The IC decides unanimously to accept the Falcons of Belarus as members of IFM-SEI.

c. Membership expulsions

i. ADICR, Iran

ADICR has been a candidate member for four years. They informed the secretariat that at this moment they have no one to work on the children and youth movement and therefore cannot upgrade to members. The Presidium recommends expelling ADICR from membership.

Vote to expel ADICR from the membership of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 15
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

The IC decides unanimously to expel ADICR (Iran) from the membership of IFM-SEI.

ii. ASYOUSSED, Cameroon

We have not enough information about their actual work with children and youth, as requested by Congress 2016, and our questions remain unanswered. They were partners in one of our project but did not participate which leaves a gap in one of our projects. The Presidium recommends expelling ASYOUSSED from membership.

Vote to expel ASYOUSSED from the membership of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 15 votes
Against: 0
Abstentions: 0

The IC decided unanimously to expel ASYOUSSED (Cameroon) from the membership of IFM-SEI.

ii. OGCEYOD, Cameroon

OGCEYOD has a big debt with IFM-SEI, both outstanding membership fees and owed project money. They are not enthusiastic to cooperate and there are questions as to whether democracy exists in their movement. There were also problems occurring with EVS volunteers in the past. Although OGCEYOD has played a significant role in IFM-SEI, with a Presidium member in the last mandate, and they have had active young members, the concerns still stand.

The Presidium recommends expelling OGCEYOD (Cameroon) from membership.

Vote to expel OGCEYOD from the membership of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 8
Against: 0
Abstentions: 7

It is clarified that in our constitution it is stated that abstentions do not count towards the vote percentage. A new vote is proposed after clarification is sought.

In favour: 9
Against: 0
Abstentions: 6

The IC decides to expel OGCEYOD Cameroon from the membership of IFM-SEI.

iii. PRCS, Palestine

PRCS has been a candidate member of IFM-SEI for four years because they chose not to upgrade. It is raised that they are not able to become full member of IFM-SEI because their constitution does not allow them to be member of a political organisation. The President Secretary General visited them in March and saw the positive work they do with children and youngsters, although they said that the decision to whether or not to upgrade is not because of political affiliation. They were associate members for a long time and they expressed their wish to still cooperate with IFM-SEI in the future.

The Presidium recommends to expel PRCS, Palestine, with the aim of staying in contact and to further try to build any cooperation.

Vote to expel PRCS for the membership of IFM-SEI:

In favour: 1
Against: 8
Abstentions: 6

The IC decides not to expel PRCS Palestine from the membership of IFM-SEI.

The Control Commission inform the International Committee meeting that this decision goes against our constitution and it will have to be handled during the next Congress. This will give them and IFM-SEI more time to try and resolve the situation.

5. Regional meetings

The following regional meetings take place:

- Europe Region
 - Latin America Region
 - Middle East Region
-

Saturday 8 July 2017

6. Opening of the day

a. Speech by João Albuquerque, President of Young European Socialists (YES)

João Albuquerque speaks to the International Committee meeting. YES is very much aware of the importance of IFM-SEI - there are some different approaches but YES and IFM-SEI are working for the same goals, striving to make society more equal. Only doing this through law or through politics would not work. We cannot change society if we do not educate. Also gender equality is not easy to reach, if we together start to do the process, go against our prejudices we are stronger to push our ideas. To him IFM-SEI is very needed to change people's mentality.

7. Sharing of member organisations' activities

IYU present their feminist self-defense programme.

Ajyal and Hashomer Hatzair share their experiences working with refugee children and setting up a cooperatively run school in Lesbos, Greece.

Carina Autengruber from the European Youth Forum shares their organisation's work on migration and information about their migration network.

There is a sharing session about the current situation in Latin America.

8. Parallel workshops

- a. I Act for the prevention of sexual violence
- b. Updating the IFM-SEI constitution
- c. IFM-SEI now: aims, principles and programmes
- d. IFM-SEI then: socialist history and our movement

9. Plenary workshop: IFM-SEI voting system - how should it work?

The Chair of the Control Commission explains the voting system in IFM-SEI. Our system is based on the size of each organisation corresponding to the number of votes (between two and five). She proposes to split in working groups and think about what would be the best possible voting system for IFM-SEI.

A discussion took place about what the aim is of such a discussion now, as this is one year after we decided on the new system and it is clarified that the purpose of this workshop is more to work out how the votes in the new system could be counted. The workshop is preparation for the next Congress.

It is raised that there are different ways of calculating members and there should be a defined system. There are proposals such as collecting information about the size of each organisations every three years - 60 days before the Congress is due to start. We could try to find other ways to define the size of our organisations. It is also a matter of trust when organisations inform the leadership about the right number of members.

10. Announcements presented to the International Committee meeting

Oli Pohl from SJD-Die Falken launches a statement against the aggressive behavior from police forces held against persons trying to attend a demonstration against G20 where a bus with members of SJD was stopped and our comrades were arrested.

Kaisu Kotirinta from Nuoret Kotkat Finland invites member organisations to attend next summer in 2018 an international camp on Venter Island for their 75-year jubilee. The date is 25 July to 1 August 2018. Registrations will be open until the end of April 2018. The price is 180€, which includes accommodation, meals and travel costs in Finland.

Kinderfreunde Rote Falken Austria will launch a 'PGP-form' that will match international children's groups with Austrian children groups.

11. IFM-SEI International Camp 2020

Frankie Marsh from Woodcraft Folk presents the next IFM-SEI International camp, which will be held in the UK in 2020. It will happen on the same site as Global Village in 2006 and the theme is international solidarity. Woodcraft Folk already elected their camp board and in order to make the camp as international as possible the International Committee will elect three international members to be on the camp board. The budget will pay for the travel costs of the international board members.

The first face-to-face meeting will take place in November 2017, where the camp fee and the slogan for the camp will be decided. Every July there will be a re-election of the camp board members, including international members, so that in the case of personal or commitment issues whereby someone has to step out there is a system in place for re-elections. Bookings will be launched in summer 2019 and another face-to-face meeting will take place in autumn. The final booking deadline is May 2020. The pre-camp will take place from 27 July 2020.

Six video nominations were received for international positions on the camp board. It was decided to use a secret ballot paper where delegations can give up to three votes.

It is decided that the counting committee will collect the votes.

The criterion is that two people must be elected from Europe or the Middle East and one person from Africa, Asia or Latin America. At least one of the three has to be a woman and at least one of the three must be under 30 years old.

Election: A democratic election is conducted at the International Committee meeting 2017, where 14 votes were cast.

The following are elected into the following roles with the corresponding votes:

- Volunteer support - Natalia Calatrava Povea (Esplac, Catalonia): 12 votes
- Logistics - Jasen Mphepo (Patsime, Zimbabwe): 9 votes
- Programme - Klaus Schöngruber (Rote Falken Kinderfreunde, Austria): 8 votes

12. Announcements presented to the International Committee meeting (continued)

Eduard from Esplac informs the International Committee about the following:

1. They will have a resolution within Esplac to give voting right at any age, in this way they want to promote the universal right to vote. He proposed to start debating the topic in other IFM-SEI organisations.
2. The political situation in Catalonia currently stands that about 80% of the population are asking for a referendum about becoming independent. The referendum will be held on the 1 October. The Spanish government is opposing this referendum. Esplac will be asking their members to take part in the referendum and they will keep IFM-SEI updated of the outcomes.

Bet Bayó from the IFM-SEI secretariat presents the new On The Move visa online platform. [See www.ifm-sei.org.]

13. Closing of the meeting

Many thanks were expressed to the Slovenian Falcons for hosting the International Committee meeting and the Secretary General will pass on an online feedback form for evaluation. Our guests expressed their gratitude and their happiness for being with us.

ANNEX

A. Financial report charts

