

WACS EUROPEAN CONTINENT MEETING

held on Saturday, 21 July 2001, at the Strand Palace Hotel, London.

PRESENT:

Brian Cotterill (Chairman) – United Kingdom

Franz Zödl – Austria

Harald Fargel – Austria

Yiannakis Agiapiou – Cyprus

Gert Sørensen - Denmark

Klaus Meyer – Germany

Siegfried Schaber – Germany

Reinhold Metz – Germany

Gissur Gudmundsson – Iceland

John Clancy – Ireland

Patrick Brady – Ireland

Brendan O'Neill – Ireland

Peter Thompson – Ireland

Paolo Caldaia – Italy

Gian Paolo Cangi – Italy

Carlo Sauber – Luxembourg

Vincent Lungaro-Mifsud – Malta

Gunnar Nagel Dahl – Norway

Carlos Madeira – Portugal

Dumitru Burtea – Romania

Joe Queen – Scotland

Frantisek Janata – Slovakia

Robert Kmet – Slovakia

Srečko Kokcic – Slovenia

Iztok Legat – Slovenia

Sven-Åke Larsson – Sweden

Ken Fraser – United Kingdom

IN ATTENDANCE:

Pere Chias Suriol, Juan Garriga, Diego Arcos – Catalonia (Observers)

Trudy Hayter (Minute-taking) – United Kingdom

1. OPENING AND CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The Chairman, Brian Cotterill, welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that it would

be conducted in English. Help in translation was available if necessary.

The Chairman introduced Ken Fraser, Trudy Hayter and Leigh Cotterill (German translator if required), together with Siegfried Schaber (President), Reinhold Metz (Vice-President) and Klaus Myer (Secretary) of WACS, who took over from Rolf Unsorg who had retired due to ill health.

The Chairman requested all present to introduce themselves. Each country then gave a short introduction.

The Chairman said the meeting was to be seen as an opportunity for suggestions on how to promote issues of importance within the Association and those that could be promoted through WACS. Although no final decisions could be made during the day, suggestions can be put forward at the next Board Meeting in October.

The Chairman stated that the new Rule Book will come up for approval in Kyoto so any input would be appreciated during the meeting. It was imperative that everything was correct before it went to print.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from the following countries:

Takhir Amiraslanov – Azerbaijan
Mr Kazubski, Mr Kurt Scheller – Poland

Norbert Moratilla – Spain
George Knecht, Norbert Schmidiger –
Switzerland

Natalia Nomofilova +4 – Russia

-2-

3. **WACS MEMBERSHIP CRITERIA**

A suggested outline for an Application Form for the WACS Membership Criteria was put forward for discussion as follows:

Name of Association:

Address:

Telephone Number:

Fax Number:

E-Mail Address:

Web-site Address:

Number of Members:

Year Established:

Association Structure:

Rules – Guidelines – Constitution:

Officers and Election Procedure:

Official Government Approval:

Annual Fees:

This form was fully discussed together with whether there should be an Associate Membership and Certificate of Membership. It was queried whether there was a list of companies who wished to become Associate Members and it was established that there was no such list currently.

All members gave their opinions and the following points were agreed:

- Ø Countries should be visited to validate their application (check on travel insurance)
- Ø Two nominations were required
- Ø Must have elections between two and four years
- Ø Education
- Ø Payment to be made by Direct Debit/Standing Order – ideally required in January of each year (This would prevent non-payment and would carry over even if officers changed)
- Ø One Application Form could be used for Associate Members, Companies and Sponsors, etc
- Ø A three-page questionnaire should give good feedback.
- Ø If a country changes officers, eg President, Secretary, etc WACS must be advised and a new rule book sent to the new officer. (At present information is not passed on)
- Ø Whenever a Board Meeting is held, information should be sent to each organisation, including the minutes.
- Ø All countries should send magazines to each other – this information could then be used for the WACS Newsletter.

4. WACS WEB-SITE

Reinhold Metz from Germany explained the Web-site entry for WACS and went through the contents page in detail. He requested that members give him information and requested logos of those Associations currently missing. Cyprus had only just come out of Africa so their logo would be forthcoming, together with that of Malta and Ireland. Sweden's logo was incorrect. It was important that details of new personnel were passed on making communication much easier. Minutes of Meetings will be put on the Web-site. There would be more information available in future, eg recipes, cook books, good schools, country events etc and he encouraged members to read the Web-site more often for better communication. In future, all Associations will be linked.

Information to be E-Mailed to Peter Knipp although, as Luxembourg pointed out, he is always so busy as is Reinhold Metz. (*E-Mail address for Peter Knipp: peter@asiacuisine.com*)

The Chairman thanked Reinhold Metz for his input.

-3-

5. COMMUNICATION

Communication always comes up in every Congress or Meeting. The Chairman had been in contact with thirty-one countries but had poor response. This could be due to the fact that the information held was not up-to-date. A form was passed round for completion of full details from each Association.

The Chairman stated that he would really value everyone's input in thinking of effective ways to improve communication with their Board Member and one another, starting with each Association's current data.

Points made by the Chairman about his visits so far:

- Ø Whilst in Russia he met several representatives from Buelorussia who wished to join WACS.

- Ø Chef Ireland was an excellent show with twelve live kitchens working from 8 am – 6.30 pm each day
- Ø Ken Fraser attended the Cyprus Salon Culinaire on behalf of the Chefs and Cooks Circle to judge the competition. It was major success with 384 entries. The judges were very impressed by the standard achieved and passed on many positive comments to the Cyprus Chefs Association.
- Ø Static Classes are now not as well supported - there appears to be a major trend towards Live Cooking with the Cold Static Classes attracting less entries.
- Ø Whilst in Malta, he had a meeting with the Cookery and Food Association and met with representatives from Uzbekistan and Ukraine who wished to join WACS, but no official documentation had been received to date.
- Ø He congratulated the new President of Norway on his appointment to President of the Nordic Chefs Association.
- Ø He thanked all the countries he had visited for their hospitality and enthusiastic support of WACS.

Ireland stated that regional information was given at each of their quarterly meetings and suggested reports from the different countries WACS would be informative. They also pointed out that not everyone had web-sites, so hard copies should be sent.

Luxembourg requested a list of sponsors/advertisers for use when doing a seminar. It was believed there was no such list readily available. The Chairman to take to the next Board Meeting.

6. NORDIC PRESENTATION

Denmark stated that it was a pleasure to attend the meeting and gave a presentation, stating they had 6000 members in their Association. They were currently training for Gastronomy Competitions around the world.

Sweden stated they had good chefs working with good food in a clean environment. For competitions they had a national team and many individuals who are very keen and excellent competitors.

Norway and Sweden were both achieving good results in competitions.

There appeared to be different guidelines for different countries. Over the last two years Sweden had worked with good chefs to make amendments and educate the judges with new guidelines. This would be an education for young chefs who wanted to compete.

Discussion took place on the rules for all competitions.

All views should be put forward to Reinhold Metz regarding the use of Rules and Regulations of WACS.

All guidelines will be on the internet. Changes will be shown in colour so that they can be seen immediately. It was felt that the previous rules were too strict. Any Culinary Competitions should use WACS Rules as guidelines.

-4-

7. EUROPEAN CONTINENT

Although no changes could be made at the present time, the Chairman requested the feeling of the meeting regarding the Membership of the European Continent. The response so far had been an overwhelming majority to keep Europe as it is as there is a danger of fragmentation. It was, however, important to encourage close relations with countries in their region, eg the Nordic Association which involved Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

The following points were made:

<i>Malta</i>	WACS must address the issue if it gets too big How countries will work together with the Criteria and Guidelines Cautious approach to fragmentation
<i>Ireland</i>	If Europe did fragment, it would be a bad thing One country one vote Err on the side of caution System is good as it is at the moment
<i>Norway</i>	Had no intention or wish to split Europe

<i>Germany</i>	If someone wishes to form a regional group with Europe (ie Nordic Chefs) this would be acceptable
<i>Cyprus</i>	Natural that all close countries will attend each other's competitions and should carry on doing so

After further discussion it was agreed that the European Continental Division of WACS is best left as it is and Associations should continue to work in individual areas. Suggestions made that each member country should have one national competition to be recognised by WACS using their rules and judging criteria. Competitions must be credible.

Other points were also made:

<i>Ireland</i>	Each country who is a member of WACS should be allowed to have one national competition recognised by WACS Limit how many competitions in any one year Chef Ireland should be a WACS Competition. This would encourage major sponsorship
<i>Cyprus</i>	Expressed the view that WACS was working well Small countries have a problem attracting major sponsors WACS should be more flexible for new countries and recognise individual culinary traditions
<i>Malta</i>	Would like a WACS Assessment at Exhibition in November Judging criteria at Hotelympia not good
<i>Chairman</i>	Explained that WACS would be happy to assess a competition for WACS status but can only do this once an invitation is received
<i>Scotland</i>	Benefited from representatives coming over from other countries to their Salon Culinaire and Exhibition
<i>Germany</i>	Requested details of any competitions in initial stages for approval
<i>Italy</i>	Have great enthusiasm for WACS WACS to make sure countries are growing in right direction Italy has 120 Associations, 5000 members, 20 Regions.

8. EXCHANGE/TEACHING PROGRAMME

The Chairman indicated that the United Kingdom and some other countries have qualified people available who have shown interest in teaching in other countries. This would be more beneficial than a student exchange system. These could be two week courses and it would be necessary for the host country to guarantee the air fares and accommodation to get the scheme started.

Through a letter, Switzerland had indicated that an exchange programme was a good idea but expensive. To overcome the language problem, a teacher with, say, twenty pupils, could have an interpreter. There may also be problems with VISAs, Work Permits, etc.

The following points were made:

<i>Malta</i>	Suggested a pool of approximately twenty people with different areas of experience
<i>Ireland</i>	Agency gives funding for training The country looking for training could contact Government for funding Nothing to stop WACS requesting funding from EEC Most important to find out the requirements of the country WACS could put together a Working Group
<i>Norway</i>	Top chefs will not work for nothing
<i>Roumania</i>	Very important for their country to have help to develop gastronomy and thanked WACS for the opportunity

The Chairman asked whether any countries could envisage problems with governments, visas and work permits and stated this was not often a problem in the United Kingdom.

After further discussion the Chairman suggested that countries write to either himself or WACS:

1. If they are willing to give talks/lectures, etc to other countries and their speciality
2. If they require help in any specific areas and would like to invite lecturers/chefs to their country
3. Regarding the point made by Sweden that Chefs would not work for nothing, the Chairman agreed that volunteers should be given some remuneration. However, if people have volunteered to give their time free it is just to get the scheme going and, hopefully, if we can get funding from the EEC or some other source, then of course payment can be made.

9. PROXY VOTES

A thorough discussion took place regarding who should hold the Proxy Vote when a country does not attend a meeting (Continental Director or another) and how a vote should be given. Each country was asked to comment and the following points were made:

- Ø Ireland expressed the view that the vote was vitally important and should be protected at all times.
- Ø Cyprus agreed that every country should be represented.
- Ø Malta disagreed and felt it incorrect to give a proxy vote.
- Ø Germany suggested abolishing the proxy vote. They have done this in their own association where only members attending are able to vote.
- Ø Concerns were expressed over countries who find it difficult to find a delegate to attend and who would then be denied their right to vote.

Taking the above concerns and views into consideration, it was agreed unanimously that

the way forward should be to give a postal vote to fully paid-up member countries who are unable to attend. To achieve this it was suggested that all nominees for election to the WACS Board should be submitted three months in advance of the election date to enable a voting form to be produced with all nominees names and allow countries to apply for a postal voting form if they are unable to attend.

10. FUTURE FOR WACS – THE WAY FORWARD

The Chairman asked the meeting to comment on what they would like to see WACS achieve or be involved in and the following points were made:

<i>Ireland</i>	Foot and Mouth situation was very sad for England and they felt that the chefs of Europe and Catering Magazines did not offer support at this time There should be one vision for the future – a Mission Statement from WACS
<i>Malta</i>	WACS should discuss a medium and long-term strategic plan covering many topics
<i>Portugal</i>	Felt that WACS needed to find the right balance
<i>Scotland</i>	Raise money for UNISEF or some other worthy cause
<i>Chairman</i>	Stated that the World Cooks Tour for Hunger was a great success. Unfortunately it was discontinued due to countries who had offered to host the event withdrawing their support

It was agreed that an European Proposal be put forward that the maximum competition age for juniors should be 23 years and it was hoped that colleagues from other WACS regions would approve this.

11. PRESENTATIONS

The following presentations were given:

AUSTRIA:

Franz Zodl gave the presentation in German with Harald Fargel translating into English.

"In February 1902 the Austrian Emperor, Francis Joseph Ist, signed the foundation charter of the Austrian Chefs' Association. In 2002 we are going to celebrate the 100th anniversary of this date. One hundred years – that is not just an ordinary anniversary, 100 years, this means consistency, it means quality, and also – the fact that in ten decades, not one of them is exactly like the others. One hundred years of different cultural trends, but one single culture that is consistent and yet innovative: the art of cooking. One hundred years Austrian Chefs' Association – an occasion to celebrate, to meet friends, and above all, to present the achievements of the members of the Association to an international audience with the slogan 'The World Cooking in Vienna'. Cooks from all over the world will present the current cuisine of their countries in affiliated restaurants, which will receive extensive coverage by the media.

From 20-22 February 2002, teams of at most three cooks from each country will be cooking in various hotels or restaurants in Vienna and – at the same time – participating in the contest '100 years Austrian Chefs' Association'. The number of dishes or meals sold will be awarded a prize. In addition, the event will also include an exhibition at the staterooms of the Vienna City Hall. There, one hundred years of culinary art will be presented in various ways: the historical aspect; the international one and also the theme 'living healthily'.

-7-

Moreover, a versatile and continuous programme will be presented on a show stage. On several tables set by the respective teams at least two show platters are to be exhibited. The governing theme will be 'Then and Now', representing the developments in one hundred years of culinary art. In co-operation with various sponsors, these may provide good possibilities for the international teams to present themselves.

By staging 'The World Cooking in Vienna', the Austrian Chefs' Association has focused on three main points, which are to turn this culinary festival week into a truly sensational event:

- Ø Meet friends from all over the world; the opening ceremony at the Vienna City

Hall will become a giant 'get-together'

Ø 'The World Cooking in Vienna'

Teams from the various countries will cook at affiliated partner restaurants, receiving particular media coverage to promote additional publicity for this event

Ø In addition, a great charity campaign will be advertised.

Ø Cooks present themselves and their achievements.

Starting with a highly original meeting with journalists, both the cooks and their suppliers will demonstrate their art. All cooks will present their work in the media – there will be plenty of hints, tricks and celebrities.

In my capacity as President of the Austrian Chefs' Association, I ask you for your support and invite you to participate. Take off for three days and come to Vienna to join our anniversary celebrations. For further information please visit our Homepage:
www.VKO.www3.at

We cooks know how to work, but we also know how to celebrate; come and enjoy this event with us."

ITALY:

Paulo Caldaua and Giani Cangi stated that it was hoped that Italy will launch a new international competition in a huge complex March 2002 and queried whether WACS would be in agreement after seeing the details. They had 18000 members and were anxious to go ahead. They believed they had covered all areas and had a promotional brochure. The Chairman suggested they send in the rules and competition details.

They also queried whether WACS would be in favour of them holding competitions for cold and hot/cold in alternate years. (Unfortunately their video was unable to be shown).

IRELAND:

John Clancy thanked the meeting for allowing them to make a presentation.

The new logo for 2004 was shown. Ireland would be hosting a Congress from 21-25 March 2004 at the Burlington Hotel in Dublin where they were able to accommodate 15000 people in the Congress Centre.

775 rooms had been booked in hotels. Air Lingus would be giving special discount fares for delegates.

The Social Programme consisted of:

- Ø Welcome to Dublin
- Ø Traditional Ireland Programme
- Ø Modern Ireland Programme
- Ø Tours
- Ø Accompanying Persons Programme
- Ø Pre-Conference Programme to incorporate 17 March celebrations

Live on-line registration form and hotel reservation would be available.

-8-

Committee:

John Clancy – Marketing

Patrick Brady – Honorary Treasurer

Norbet Thul – Chief Executive

Eoin McDonnell – Secretary

Brendan O'Neill – Treasurer

Local Professional Organisation – Ovation Group – was established in 1994: 222.ovation.ie

Prices would be confirmed at a later date – it would be a good deal

They were hoping to hold a Junior Cookery Championship Competition

As they had no previous information, John Clancy requested any sponsorship details from WACS, maybe a list with everyone's name therein.

LUXEMBOURG:

Carlo Sauber produced a video to give an idea of a competition held in Luxembourg every four years. The next Luxembourg Trade Show would be held from 16-20 November 2002 – Expogast 2002. Everyone was invited. Apart from improvements in the rules some two weeks' prior, the competition remained the same as last time.

Web-site address: 222.vatel.lu

The Chairman thanked all the countries who had given presentations.

12. GUIDELINES FOR THE TERMINATION OF WACS MEMBERSHIP

The Chairman asked the meeting for views on when the termination of membership of WACS should be activated. At present a reasonable amount of time was allowed for payment but there are some countries who have not paid for more than two years. Letters have been written and three reminders have been sent out this year. If the Direct Debit system was used, this would not be a problem.

The Chairman had spoken to various countries privately regarding non-payment.

After discussion the following suggestions were made:

- Ø Reminders may not have been received because Associations' details not up-to-date
- Ø If a country has not paid up, they cannot enter competitions
- Ø If they cannot afford the membership, they cannot be a member, especially if not paid up by Congress

The Guidelines now stipulate that payment should be made before 31 March 2002. Portugal stated that they always pay in October, but can make arrangements to alter accordingly.

The Chairman stated that Belgium had not been heard of for a very long time in spite of much communication. There were good chefs in Belgium and he asked if anyone could

give him a contact name to pursue with a view to bringing Belgium back into WACS as a paid-up member.

At the next Board Meeting it would be suggested that membership would discontinue after two years of non-payment, or at least find a happy medium.

-9-

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

<i>Germany</i>	<p>Copies of a book entitled 'KochKunst in Bildern 6' were offered for sale at a cost of £50 each. This book had cost £80 in Ireland.</p> <p>Siegfried Schaber thanked Brian Cotterill for his hospitality and all the countries who had participated. This meeting was a yearly event and he questioned whether it was too much for the Continental Director to host each time. He asked whether anyone was interested in hosting the next meeting and re-iterated that communication was very important.</p>
<i>Austria</i>	<p>Suggested they could hold a European meeting before their forthcoming celebration. They requested WACS Guidelines for any Salon Culinaire and felt it was better the country knew of the request for judges (not just individually). It was confirmed that if it is a WACS approved show, their guidelines must be used.</p> <p>Thanked the Chairman for the invitation to attend this meeting in London and felt they now know more about the financial situation of other associations.</p>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<p>Yiannakis Agiapiou thanked Brian Cotterill for inviting them and felt it was a good meeting with everyone always working for the benefit of WACS. He asked that anyone visiting Cyprus should let him know so that he could welcome them as individuals.</p>
<i>Slovakia</i>	<p>Their culinary team is only in their second year. They will try and enter each competition for the experience, their first time being in Germany last year. They had CDs for their Culinary School. They were hoping to go to Luxembourg next year and hoping to win, although they had difficulty with sponsors. The Chairman was thanked for his hospitality.</p>

<i>Iceland</i>	Requested guidelines be given at the next meeting on dress code as he was the only one in a chef's Jacket, and the photo would have looked far better with everyone dressed the same.
<i>Denmark</i>	Thanked everyone for a very good and positive meeting, which was important.
<i>Norway</i>	Thanked the Chairman for the invitation. Norway would like to hold a Congress in 2006 or 2008 and hoped to get the vote. They are going to do a promotion in Japan in 2002. Explained about Norway's Association which included 22 Guilds, 1400 Members and a National Culinary Team. The Chairman thanked Gunnar Nagel Dahl for coming over and congratulated him on doing a great job for the Association.
<i>Luxembourg</i>	Thanked the Chairman for the organisation of a very positive meeting.
<i>Sweden</i>	Outlined project over four years and showed book 'Around the World – Culinary Experience' in three languages – Swedish, English and German – showing nine countries and four continents. 35 million people have seen their press – Sweden has 8 million people.
<i>Scotland</i>	Joe Queen thanked the Chairman for the invitation which he was pleased to accept in the absence of Tony Jackson. He felt it had been a very productive and informative meeting.
<i>Portugal</i>	Thanked the Chairman for the invitation and, after nine years in the Association, was very pleased to be present amongst top people. He was pleased to see the observing Spanish delegates interested in joining WACS as an Associate Member.
<i>Catalonia</i>	<p>Thanked the meeting for allowing them to come over as observers to find out about WACS. They outlined their situation in Catalonia and stated they wished to share the experience internationally. They had one of the oldest guilds' seats in Parliament and sponsors for courses. They were funded by the Government who were always willing to push culture forward. They had an amount of money to spend on culinary arts and hoped to hold an international meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that it was wonderful that they wished to put forward an application to host a meeting and expressed his appreciation of their enthusiasm.</p>

<i>Italy</i>	Thanked the Chairman for the invitation and they were interested in playing their part in the Association. They requested that WACS look into the fact that less youngsters wanted to come into the profession. What must they do to convince these people what an important issue this is? Cuisine is becoming international but their own type of cuisine, tastes of traditional dishes, must be safeguarded. They hoped for continued commitment from WACS with more cultural exchanges and eventually would put in a Congress bid. They felt WACS should not be just about competitions, but more input into people rather than just rules and regulations.
<i>Malta</i>	Felt it was a very productive meeting and requested notes taken be distributed. It was important that points made at the meeting should be followed up and individuals should take the initiative on what has been discussed. Everyone should take a lead from Sweden and their achievements. Details of a well organised Salon in Malta between 15 and 18 November 2001 were circulated. The Chairman reiterated that any request for attendance should be by written invitation.
<i>Roumania</i>	Stated they have been members since 1972. They liked the topics discussed at the meeting and thanked everyone for the participation. Their Association has progressed through experience and they gave proposals of what had been done in the last two years. They were pleased to learn more about other countries' achievements and had been pleased to be at the meeting and thanked the Chairman for his hospitality.
<i>Ireland</i>	Thanked the Chairman and stated that the meeting had been constructive with some great ideas. The key is communication. He offered Dublin to hold the European Meeting in 2003 and a letter would be sent regarding this.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their input and hoped they had all benefited .

He reminded those interested in the 2002 Congress to register by November 2001 to obtain the best rates.

He reminded everyone once again about the importance of communication and that

people are more than happy to visit other countries, but they must receive invitations.

Venues for the next meeting had been offered by Spain, Ireland and Austria. Poland had made an offer by letter last year.

He stated that the Minutes would be circulated and requested any errors be identified on receipt rather than at the next meeting when valuable time would be wasted trying to remember what had happened at this meeting.

He thanked Trudy Hayter and Ken Fraser for their help.

Siegfried Schaber, World President of WACS, thanked Brian Cotterill for the hospitality and everyone for attending a fine meeting. He stated that the points discussed would be worked on. He hoped to see everyone at the next meeting and wished them a safe journey home.

The meeting closed at 4.55 p.m.

WACS European Meeting Minutes/TH

30 July 2001