

2010 ICEM Board of Directors and General Assembly
La Habana (Cuba) on the 21th and 22d of April

Françoise Barrière, ICEM President, open the meeting of the Board of Directors and thanked the Cuban fédération and his président Juan Pinera for wellcoming the General Assembly this year as well as the 14 participants representing Belgian, Chinese, Cuban, Spanish, French, Greek, Mexican, Polish, Swiss federations as well as the IOM ICST, IMEB Orquestra del Caos. The agenda is adopted with an amendment : as contrary to the former agenda sent by the President, the voting for a new office is deleted. After verification, it will be made in 2011.

The moral report of the President tells that little time happened between the Valencia AG in November 2009 and today. the ICEM situation has few changed. Outside of some initiatives by federations they have worked on projects together the activities have not been numerous. However, ICEM announces the very recent release of the ICEM CD 2, thanks to the efficiency of the Polish federation. Some CDs were brought to Havana and are distributed to participants. Françoise Barrière concluded his report by drawing her personal moral analysis of the general situation for electroacoustic music and its problems to develop its field: the closure of many centers who were related to radios, the development of mass culture and the prevailing cultural industries, the fall of diffusion of electroacoustic works by broadcastings (Often not because of the own will of the producers but because of the reluctance of musical managers to program contemporary music of high level because of the ratings), the steady fall of the State subsidies in many countries, slowing not yet production but also distribution. After development of the establishment of academic training and education in many places, it should be noted that some centers diversify teaching and students are turning increasingly to applied music with visual arts, to the shows or lap top music, DJ music.

Several centers do not have the means to exist as an suffisant attractive place for the creation and diffusion ; so many composers, for earning money, have established their home studio and go into more commercial networks, write only works for instruments and electroacoustic music or intermedia. It spreads on electroacoustic music itself a reputation as a music said 'obsolete', which does not evolve with the "taste" of the day. However, Françoise Barrière concludes that the level of the young generation of composers and new vocations are always high and quality is unwavering.

The present members of the ICEM confirm their sharing of this concern.

Because the Electroacoustic Music Rostrum exists no more David Fortez (delegate of FeBeMe federation) proposes to use the EBU system to the ICEM members wishing to propose a program of works for broadcasting. EBU is an union of European radios but also Canada. The federation must contact the producer that represents the EBU in its national radio. This producer will send to Ms. Hoffman at ORF / Austria the musical program the federation wants to propose. Mrs Hoffman will send it to producers in the EBU networks for encouraging them to include the works in their broadcastings..

For countries outside Europe or Canada, David Fortez suggests sending proposals directly to Ms. Hoffman or himself (he is producer of the RTBF Radio/Belgium. Please ask the office to obtain the D. Fortez email).

The activities of the ICEM are discussed. Besides concerts during the General Assemblies ICEM concerts are held in some series and festivals. As more and more frequently, the federations directly contact each other to build and diffuse programs from a particular country in the manifestations of an another.

Without waiting for the time scheduled for later in the agenda, the situation of some federations is evoked:

The Cuban federation traces its history from its birth thanks to Juan Blanco, the creation of the festival Primavera en La Habana, the two studios in Havana, one in the University, an another independent and directed by Emmanuel Blanco. The situation is now very difficult. Concerts are held regularly, but the technical equipment of the two studios is old and it is not renewed, which makes difficult the possibilities of creation. Many composers left the country to benefit better working conditions outside.

In Norway, J. Rudi is very pessimistic about the situation of electroacoustic music. The composers are isolated and do not feel the need for collective activities.

Contacts have been taken between Gisella Belgeri of Cemat (italian federation) and Françoise Barrière. Exchanges as well as the presence of an Italian representative during ICEM meetings had stopped ; yet the CEMAT

also faced with serious financial problems, but it does not leave ICEM and the links are maintained with the federation.

Columbia and the actions led by various members of the ICEM to convince the Columbian composers for recreating a federation is the following subject. After an pessimistic email of Roberto Garcia about the chances of success, the latest report mentions that a meeting with important composers will be soon held where the project will be discussed. Wait the result !

In Mexico where for long time it was impossible to found an electroacoustic music federation, the efforts of Manuel Rocha Iturbide and others led to the creation of a federation where the main electroacoustic currents in the country are represented.

In Russia, the federation seems inactive. However the composer I. Kefalidis developed a studio in the Tchaikovsky Conservatory (which is not the Theremin studio now private) and he wants to participate to the international community. Outside he organizes an annual festival in October. He presents his candidature this year.

Mr Zhang put forward the idea of contacting his colleagues in the Korean association of electronic music with which he works ; he will offer them to relate their association with ICEM.

Nikos Stavropoulos informs the ICEM members that the British electroacoustic composers have left the Sonic Arts Network for divergent aesthetic orientation and are in the process of forming an independent association. He thinks they might be interested to join the ICEM. In Costa Rica, the Cuban federation will make negotiations for the entering of the national association in ICEM. The GA approved the idea that Nikos is responsible for transmitting interest and begin negotiations for membership when the time comes. Finally, F. Barriere reminds that ICEM has not heard news from Chile for many time. It seems that the means of the Chilian composers are very limited. It is the same case for the Romanian federation. Nobody in ICEM have contacts with the Czech composers, not even the Polish fédération. It makes difficult contacts with the federation which however organizes an annual competition and gives news

sporadically.

Next point is the financial situation. Now the cash is characterized by a positive € 2342, 51. The ICEM paid the production of the second CD and the sending of 100 copies to the participating fédérations and OIM. The office will ask them for his contribution of € 300 to the CD printing. ICEM can think to produce a third CD. The cost of shipment will be paid by ICEM. The cost of the site is low. It is being to renovate and the works of federations that offers a program can be found on the site, as well as the items on the history of electroacoustic music in several countries

For the 2010 financial project, the positive could be further increased. It could be projected the editing of a book on the international history of electronic music with the participation of the federations within two years. This would imply a real work of writing articles and updating of those available on the net. For 2010 projects, in addition to regular activities, the possibility of publishing a new CD ICEM is approved. The participants of this third CD can be Belgium, Italy, The Moscow Centre, the Orquestra del Caos, Mexico. The federations must select works of composers (no age limit) for 15 minutes. Concerning the entry of new federations, the office will ask regularly news from those who are associated to the negotiations . Federations that have not sent any work to put on the web site for ICEM concerts propositions are invited to do it.

The 2010 budget will be difficult to predict because this AG is earlier this year and most of the federations shall pay during the Autumn.

Some federations require a reduction in their contribution due to the weakness of their capabilities: Belgium, Poland, Switzerland. The GA accepts this exceptional reduction of the dues. If other fédérations or OIM have similar difficulties, they have to write to the office to explain their situation and ask a réduction. Without it they will not participate to the ICEM future actions during one year.

The dates of the 2011 General Assembly is discussed: Archipelago (Switzerland) in March appears to be compromised, because the direction of the festival changed its aesthetic goals. Two other countries are mentioned

with the same dates each, the end of October: Greece hosting its annual conference could receive the meeting ; China in Beijing, where XiaoFu Zhang holds its festival Musicacoustica and would be interested. Each proposal is awaiting confirmation. The Board will monitor the project and disseminate the announcement of the definitive location as soon as known.

The agenda is ended. The General Assembly is closed by the thankings to the Cuban federation for its hospitality and the concerts held during the 2010 festival "Primavera in the Habana".