



Chairman's report for the IFRRO AGM 2001 in Cape Town

Dear friends,

Since our last AGM in Stockholm the Board and our Secretary General have been faced with a number of major developments.

Our Secretary General Stephanie Faulkner for personal reasons has decided to go back to Australia and continue her career in her home country. After this announcement we have placed an advertisement in the Bulletin and have mailed the vacancy to our members and other relevant relations. On the basis of that we received 16 applications. The Search Committee have made an analysis of those applications and interviewed candidates. The Committee was able to come up with a proposal for the Board to hire a new Secretary General for IFRRO. This candidate has presented himself to the Board in its meeting end of June 2001. The Board unanimously agreed to give the chair a mandate to finalise the terms and conditions with this candidate.

In the process of finalising an employment agreement this candidate however decided not to pursue the position of Secretary General anymore for personal reasons. The Search committee has now selected a number of candidates with which interviews will be held. It is our joint intention to present a new Secretary General to the members before the end of the year.

In the mean time we agreed with Stephanie Faulkner that she will continue working for our international federation as a consultant on a part-time basis. Since her move back to Australia, Stephanie has worked from a long distance, closely together with Marie-Agnès, the Board, and other IFRRO members and relations. I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank Stephanie and Marie-Agnès for the excellent work they have performed in the last months in very difficult circumstances.

In the summer we were also confronted with the announcement that Daniel Gervais was leaving CCC and was therefore stepping down as vice chair of IFRRO. I have written a letter to Daniel Gervais, also on behalf of the membership, expressing our appreciation for all the good work Daniel has performed for IFRRO. He has been active in many committees as a Board member and since our Amsterdam meeting, as vice chair of our federation. We all have been able to benefit from his extensive knowledge and experience in international copyright and we all highly appreciated the warm and friendly way he worked with all of us.

I will also like to thank CCC for giving Daniel the opportunity to act as Board member and vice chair in all these years.

The core of the business of RRO's is joined management of rights. In Europe discussions are taking place on the question whether or not the commission should take initiatives regarding a form of supervision on collective management. If such an instrument will be developed, it will have a major influence on the work of RRO's. The pressure will also be put on other regions to have government supervision on collective management as well.

It is the point of view of IFRRO that we should not blindly be apposed to any discussion on the need for RRO's to be more transparent. We have therefore taken the initiative to internally discuss the possibility to come up with a code of best practices on the basis of which our members could express this transparency to interested parties.

The Board will report on the discussions within the European Group on this issue and on other initiatives the Board would like to take in this respect.

The European Group has finalised its activities on the European Directive regarding copyrights and related rights in the information society. National legislators have started the implementation procedures to transfer this directive into national legislation. This would have a major influence on the position of rightsowners and their societies on the online storage and dissemination of information. We have all witnessed the introduction of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act in the United States and the discussions on the Digital Copyright Act in Australia. These legislative instruments will influence our day-to-day business in the following years. IFRRO shall have to make a major effort to provide services to members enabling them to provide users and rightsowners with adequate instruments for the exploitation of digital rights. This item will therefore remain an item prominent on our future agenda's.

In order to be ready for this future the Board felt it necessary to freshen up the structure of IFRRO. That is why the Board has developed new statutes and structures for our international federation to be decided upon by the AGM in Cape Town 2001. We feel that it is necessary to strengthen the Board and to give the IFRRO Board the opportunity to establish a transparent and efficient structure of working groups and committees for the benefit of our members.

We sincerely hope that the AGM will approve the new statutes and thus provide our international federation with the necessary tools to face an exiting future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Beemsterboer', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

André F. Beemsterboer
Chairman