



Report on the AITA/IATA Council Meetings March, April, May, June, September 2023

Dear Members (National Centres & Associates)

A number of online and face-to-face AITA/IATA Council meetings have been held since you received an update of the February 2023 Council meeting by Zoom. President Aled Rhys-Jones has chaired the meetings and two new Councillors elected in Debrecen at the GA – Heidi Troi and Kelli McCloud-Schingen have replaced Tim Jebesen and Frank Katoola who came to the end of their mandate. Anna-Karin Waldemarson left Council. For information, the names and contact details of Council Members are on the AITA/IATA Website [HERE](#).

1. Council meeting by Zoom 28 March 2023

a. This meeting was a single topic meeting to discuss the implications of next World Festival of Children's Theatre, Lingen taking place in the summer of 2025, at the same time as the Mondial du Théâtre, Monaco. Council noted that COVID had caused the event scheduled for 2022 to be postponed to 2024, but that because of changes within TPZ Lingen, they wanted to delay it a further year.

b. The festival receives considerable financial support from the city of Lingen and the Mayor wished the festival to coincide with the celebration of the city's 1,500 anniversary in August 2025. Aled was concerned that the Mayor had not fully understood the longstanding relationship between Lingen and AITA/IATA and, with the support of Council wanted to try and resolve the matter to the satisfaction of all parties. Council agreed that Aled should seek a face-to-face meeting with all parties, in Lingen.

2. Council meeting by Zoom 30 May 2023

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- b. A

3. Council meeting 20 June 2023, Debrecen Hungary (pre-GA)

a. This meeting was held in preparation for the AITA/IATA General Assembly to be held on 24 June 2023 in the University of Debrecen.

b. *Finance* – President Aled Rhys-Jones updated Council on the actions taken to prepare the 2022/2023 Accounts and Budget. The suspension of the mandate of the Treasurer had become necessary because of her failure to provide complete financial information and she had now resigned.

c. The complexities of establishing the budget for presentation in the Forum Book were outlined along with the considerable work undertaken by Financial adviser Dirk De Corte and Michalis Karampelis to take the accounts inhouse. The 23-24 budget had been approved by

Council by email and was based on the previous year's income and expenditure, including an anticipated amount for fundraising and grants of € 3,000.

d. *General Assembly Agenda* – Council went through the GA agenda as printed in the Forum Book and discussed the mechanics of arranging for the Tellers, given the technical nature of voting; the approval of new Members; and the election of two new Councillors. Neither of the two new candidates standing for election – Heidi Troi and Kelli McLoud-Schingen would attend in person but planned to join the event by Zoom.

e. Aled outlined what he proposed to say under the agenda item Council review and explained that he was keen to recruit new members and build relationships in the countries of the former Soviet Union and South America and he would also ask for hosts for future Council meetings. There would be presentations from: Toyama on PAT 2022; Austria in respect of the March 2024 Drama in Education Congress; TPZ on the Lingen Children's Festival in 2025; and Monaco with the dates of the Mondial du Théâtre, in August 2025.

f. *Open Forum and Colloques* – Aled confirmed that the colloques would be led jointly by Sanna Saarela, Finland and Istvan Pinczes Hungary. The proposed presentation at the Open Forum was now not taking place so instead it would be a general open discussion led by Sofia Wegelius.

g. *Instagram* – Sofia proposed setting up a new account called [weareamateurtheatre](https://www.instagram.com/weareamateurtheatre) which would be hosted each week by a different company and would announce this at the GA.

h. *Outgoing councillors* – Aled thanked Frank Katoola and Tim Jebesen for their work and support as Councillors during their tenure and had made a valuable contribution to the work of the Association.

4. Council meeting 25 June 2023, Debrecen Hungary (post-GA)

a. Aled welcomed and congratulated the new Council Members Heidi Troi (joining by Zoom) and Kelli McLoud-Schingen, who was unable to join. Each Councillor and the secretariat Anne Gilmour outlined their theatre backgrounds and work with AITA. He would hold separate Zoom meetings with the new Councillors to brief them on the Association and their role as Councillors.

b. *Reflections on the GA* -

5. Council meeting by Zoom 5 September 2023

a.

Council approved the minutes of the Council Meeting held by Zoom on 20 January 2023.

The Council of AITA/IATA offers best wishes and good health to all Members.

The Council of AITA/IATA

13 January 2025