

Shirin 4th statutory meeting notes (date: Friday 6 April 2018 11:00-1:00pm)

Munich 11 ICAANE

Present (listed alphabetically by surname): Mohamed ALSAMSAM (MA), Dominik BONATZ (DB), Pascal BUTTERLIN (PB), Gioacchino FALSONE (GF), Silvia FESTUCCIA (SF), Séan FOBBE (SB) [representing Rashid], Heather JACKSON (HJ), Andrew JAMIESON (AJ) [Treasurer], Ahmed KAZZO (AH), Marc LEBEAU (ML), Stefania MAZZONI (SM), Olivier Nieuwenhuijse (OL) [President], Mirko Novák (MN) [Vice President], Silvie Perini (SP)

Apologies (proxies): Frank BRAEMER (FB), Marina PUCCI (MP) [Secretary]

Attachments: 1) agenda; 2) financial report; 3) list of attendees

1 Welcome

ON opened the meeting at 11:15am and welcomed attendees: copies of the agenda and financial report were circulated

2 Reorganisation of Shirin: structure and organisation

MN commented on the existing structure/system of National Committees (NCs) under the umbrella of the International Committee (IC) noting problems in constituting NCs (i.e. attempts in Germany and France failed). The structure was discussed in Marburg and it was decided to streamline the organisation by forming only one committee. In some cases NCs were only represented by one person and in some cases this individual either never appeared or never organised any activities. It was considered that one single committee would be more flexible and effective.

ML mentioned the Belgium NC, noting it focused action at a local level and smaller actions, he also commented that it would be better, if everyone, has access to core business of the IC

MN commented on the informal situation of Shirin in Switzerland

ML commented that the planned new structure offers greater flexibility

ON commented on the situation in Germany, also noting that less formality will be easier

DB was in favour of greater flexibility

ML commented on the matter of formal registration

ON inquired about the situation with Rashid

SB commented that Rashid only has one committee (single organisation)

ML mentioned that any changes (to Shirin) must be registered with the authorities in Belgium (it is a legal requirement)

ON noted that following the Marburg meeting the revised statutes were registered

3 Shirin website: updates

SB commented that the Shirin website was slow and overloaded (with images) contributing to the problems with speed and pages loading

AJ mentioned that if possible it would be a good idea to increase the Arabic content on the website

ON noted that MP collected a long list of website changes and also reported it may be difficult for André Tomé to continue updating the Shirin website owing to changes in his position

MN suggested Alexander Sollee may be able to help with the website and would ask Alexander to see if he can assist with revamping the web pages

ON suggested it would be good to undertake the changes by next month

4 Shirin presentation: 11 ICAANE

ON noted Mirko's presentation on Shirin yesterday

ON mentioned the difficulty to engage openly with Kurdish representatives

ML mentioned that as an umbrella organisation Shirin needs to be mindful of the delicate situation, especially relating to Syrian institutions, and of the importance to maintain contact with private persons, especially our local contacts (i.e. in the Afrin)

ML also noted it is important for Shirin to have its own projects, Shirin specific projects (local projects outside of Syria)

SB talked about Rashid's participation at the United Nations (which have contributed in increasing Rashid's profile) and suggested Shirin may like to join Rashid and collaborate in this area, offering to provide access and legal advice concerning obtaining accreditation at the UN (May 2019)

ML noted that this offer of expertise would be useful and welcome

ON commented that work on human rights and collaboration with Rashid could be beneficial

SB mentioned that the UN don't have any idea about what is happening (to heritage in Iraq and Syria)

MN was in favour of this project but mentioned that we must keep in mind the different situations in Iraq and Syria

ML commented that this issue is difficult and dividing

ON noted that we must face this issue

AK asked about the Scandinavian Institute, human rights and Arabic language

ML mentioned funding, and help for Syrian students

DB noted there is not much funding available for Syrian students

ML mentioned grants in Brussels

PB noted that there are some grants in France

SM mentioned refugees in Italy

ON mentioned Dutch universities and the situation in Leiden with refugees

ML stressed the need to show some empathy

SB suggested co-branding projects, noting some of Rashid's projects are co-branded, and suggested this was an area for cooperation (possibly adding Shirin as a partner)

MN mentioned Horizon 2020 and funding opportunities, suggesting that Rashid and Shirin apply for funds and make this a focus for an application

ML mentioned contacts in Belgium

ON mentioned that Shirin is involved with two groups linked with Horizon 2020: 1) Maastricht group; and 2) Dutch project (NGO) 'Walk of Truth'

ML suggested the possibility of contacting some people in the Middle East (such as the group in Lebanon working on mosaics)

SB raised the issue of staffing, noting Rashid and Shirin do not have administrative support

MN mentioned the potential for admin support to be provided by universities, noting that collaboration with Bern University for example comes with support and takes care of financial issues

PB noted that to apply for Horizon 2020 you need a PIC (participant identification code) number

ON noted that you must also have accreditation to obtain the PIC number before you can apply

PB noted universities have accreditation and could apply, noting that the uni controls the funds

ML mentioned that formal association with unis come with support

SB noted formal association with unis may be difficult to obtain

DB mentioned that in Germany the situation is complicated, noting it could be advantageous for Shirin/Rahsid to apply directly to avoid uni overheads

MN commented it would be preferable for a uni to be involved for admin support, making it easier to handle projects, noting that if someone was employed that person would be employed by the uni and covered by uni insurance

ON noted that Leiden Uni may be one possibility, they have been supportive in the past, Leiden's faculty of archaeology has indicated heritage work should be developed, Maastricht may also be interested. Incentives were also mentioned: big projects with multiple partners may increase interest and increase funding opportunities and in return the uni provides admin support

ON indicated he will pursue this idea re: Horizon 2020 and uni collaboration

MN suggested it would be good to identify one big project for Shirin/Rashid collaboration which may increase chances of success in attracting/obtaining funding

ML raised the matter of the cross-over between Rashid and Shirin, suggesting a representative from Shirin sit on the Rashid committee and vice versa

SB agreed this was a good idea

PB suggested Rashid/Shirin cross-over and collaboration be reflected on the websites

SB suggested issuing joint reports/statements (on cultural heritage, human rights, potential funding etc.) as one area for cross-over and collaboration

MN suggested that as archaeologists the best expertise we have to offer is in the area of artefact inventories

ML suggested 'depositories of inventories'

MN commented that this is our strength

ON flagged that this is difficult (and may not be realistic) noting the Raqqa experience: it is a slow process and takes time

MN stated that for current projects it should not take too long

ML noted the inventories Hartmut Kuhne collected

SP mentioned it is not easy and is also expensive

MN noted we are network, so we can share info: simple lists, pictures and registration numbers

ML noted difficulties with using a single database

GF mentioned the situation at dig houses in Syria

MN commented that we are the only ones that can help (with the identification of objects) from our sites based on our inventories

SB mentioned 'smart water' pilot project: which leaves chemical finger print / genetic code as a way of identifying objects

MN noted we need to focus on what we do as archaeologists

ON suggested Shirin could start making a list of sites and collections

MN suggested it could be a Horizon 2020 project (with people to manage the record system)

ML suggested that such a project would reinforce our credibility

DB recommended that the projects needs to be useful

ML noted this project would help authorities in fighting the illicit trade in antiquities

MN noted access issues to the database, and that it will be difficult to convince some colleagues

SM mentioned a focus on museums, and producing lists of museum collections

DB mentioned making the project public would be useful in raising awareness

ON noted we should not wait too long

ML suggested a meeting between Rashid and Shirin with the objective of making a list of specific projects, dates and priorities

ON mentioned the continuation of the Raqqa museum project, and opportunities for Shirin to be involved, noting it is small but would be symbolic (as a former IS capital)

ALL agreed this would be a good idea

6 Shirin and Neutrality

ON noted that the issue of Shirin and neutrality as a problem

ML commented that everyone knows his stance on this issue and suggested it is important to keep contact with private persons and students in Syria but expressed the need to be cautious with any authorities, stating that if we want to be neutral it is difficult, and asked is neutrality possible?

ON believes neutrality is possible

MN suggested taking our own stance on neutrality

SM mentioned that she is in contact with many former students in Syria, suggesting it is important to maintain these contacts

ON suggested that we maintain contact but don't put it on the website

ML mentioned the US model: no contact with the regime

ML also mentioned a posting on the DGAM website about Shirin

ML recommended a ban with organisations in Syria but maintaining contacts at the individual level

ON cautioned about posting guidelines on the website, noting that in Holland the situation does not allow one to invite DGAM

SM noted that in Italy the ministry of foreign affairs does not permit contact with Syria

ML suggested better not to propose guidelines (in political sense)

MN noted that we depend on attracting colleagues, and suggested better not to maintain a position

ML noted that Shirin is not representing the archaeologists – but rather a mix people/positions

GF mentioned contacts and paying site guards

7 Membership

It was noted that Shirin membership is annual and that we need to develop a better system with dates to help with renewing memberships

8 Date of next meeting

ML suggested the morning of 19 April 2019 in Brussels

9 RAI

MN mentioned the chance to meet or represent Shirin at the next RAI in Innsbruck

10 Financial report

AJ tabled the financial report, noting the major expenditure in the last financial year was to off-set expenses of our Syrian colleagues to attend the Marburg workshop

11 appointment of additional members to the Shirīn Conseil d'administration

The following indicated interest in joining the Conseil d'administration Marc Lebeau, Silvie Perini, Silvia Festuccia, Gioacchino Falsone

Meeting closed at 1:00pm

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Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative & Network

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Syrian Heritage in Danger: an International Research Initiative & Network

Statutory Meeting 2018 - Agenda

1. Report from the Executive board on organizational changes and corresponding changes in the statutes; ✓
2. Report on proposed changes to the Shirin website; ✓
3. Reports on concrete measures and projects in which Shirin International has been involved during 2017-2018; reports on ongoing and future initiatives; ✓
4. Reports on activities from the National Committees 2017-2018; reports on ongoing and future initiatives by the national groups; _____
5. Cooperation with DGAM and Syrian local authorities;) ✓
6. Cooperation with other NGO's and UN departments; _____
7. Cooperation with the sister NGO Rashid; ✓
8. Involvement with groups: Damage assessment, Network of informants, Monuments and Sites Project, Museums; _____
9. Report of 2017-2018 AISBL's accounts;
10. Organization of the next meeting.

Attachment 2 Financial report

SHIRIN. Comptes 27/03/2018 (Euros)

ENTREES		SORTIES	
Solde 01/01/2017	1,181.78 €	frais bancaires	74.40 €
		website	14.70 €
cotisations et dons des membres	625.00 €	subvention Workshop	1,060.00 €
cotisations des institutions (1)	500.00 €	frais de notaire	957.00 €
dons			
TOTAL	2,306.78 €		2,106.10 €
	SOLDE	200.68 €	

Attachment 3 List of attendees

ANDREW JAMIESON
B. BUTTERWORTH

AUSTRALIA
France

Ahmed KZZO
Mohamed AlSamsam
Heather Jackson

~~at~~ Syria-Switzerland
Australia
Melbourne, Australia

~~Donat~~
Donat Bunk

Germany

* Silvia Perini

UK

* SILVIA FESTUCCIA

ITALY

* Giacchino Falson

ITALY

* Mirko Kovac

Switzerland

* Marc LEBEAU

Belgium

* Olivier Nieuwenhuys
Netherlands

For RASHID

Sean Fobbe

Munich