

IPC Meeting Athens March 2011



The IPC met for their first formal meeting in Athens in March. Section Hellas were most generous in providing their national office with coffee and pastries for the meeting. Stephen Crockard, Kees Sal, Demetris Demetriou and Wolfgang Gabrutsch made positive and productive progress on a number of issues. Unfortunately, two of the commission members were unable to attend. Mirco Ciccarese became a proud father just before the meeting and Pierre Angibaud had to participate in a promotion process.

Arthur Troop Scholarship

Stephen was able to advise the meeting that all 2010 scholarships had been completed successfully and that two scholars, from Peru and Australia unable to attend their seminars in 2009 for reasons beyond their control, would be permitted to attend in 2011. Wolfgang reported that the first 2011 scholar, a colleague from Lithuania had completed her seminar. He noted that it was difficult to get answers from some of the applicants, but he was working to resolve this. Two amendments to the procedural document, which have been agreed by the PEB, were discussed. These will form a proposal by the PEB to the IEC in Romania.

Seminar Venues

The IPC supports the IBZ Gimborn, with Stephen chairing seminars there on a regular basis. The commission also looked at other venues to offer professional seminars to members. Contact has been established with CEPOL, through Section France Vice President, Didier Martin, and a possible joint seminar may be established for 2012. The IPC also discussed the forthcoming EU/PEB supported seminar on counterfeiting to be run at Gimborn. The commission is grateful for the work done on this by Philippe Antoine of the ERC.

Netherlands' Young Police Officers' Seminar

Kees gave a full update on the progress of the seminar, which will have 53 participants from 27 sections. 38 are paid for by the PEB, with the remainder paid for by their sections. It is hoped that a member of the Dutch Royal family, who is a senior officer will open the seminar. Items on the programme include visits to the International Court of Justice at the Hague, neighbourhood management units in ethnic areas, the National Police drugs laboratories and Schipol airport. The Police media dept will film the whole seminar. After the seminar, the participants will have the option to take part in the Arnhem airborne memorial march. 12 NL police will act as group leaders. Kees will be in charge for the full week and will report to the IPC on lessons learnt for support to potential future seminars. The commission noted the cancellation of the Section Ireland seminar on child protection issues and discussed the forthcoming seminar on a similar theme hosted by Section Turkey.

Drugs in Traffic survey

Demetris reported that 23 countries had supplied replies, as requested by the IPC, and he hoped that more would take the time to contribute to this very topical subject. He was reviewing the submissions, some of whom were very detailed. He was grateful that Section Australia had sent a number of replies from federal states, with different traffic regulations. He hopes to have a consolidated report ready in time for presentation at the IEC in September.

IPC Annual Report returns evaluation

Stephen indicated that some 33 sections had supplied written returns, some with very short replies to questions and others with expanded answers, such as Australia and the Netherlands. There was a discussion on a meeting of IPC liaison officers, following on from the decision to hold a meeting of ICC liaison officers in 2011. The completed report will be presented to the PEB in Luxembourg and incorporated into the IPC report to the IEC. It was agreed that a meeting of liaison officers for each commission should be proposed to the PEB, with one commission each year holding such a meeting in turn, with sections paying for travel and the relevant commission for the venue.

IPA Database project.

Kees explained his reasoning for 2 databases, one for police specialist function and one for student officers, both to offer networking access for students and specialists to their contemporaries worldwide. How this will function is a work in progress and dependent on the capabilities of the new IAC website. The commission saw this being run by national secretary generals, rather than by individual members. Liaison with the webmaster and ISG is necessary to establish what will be realistically feasible if the project is approved. Kees will revise his project paper and add on a questionnaire to be sent all IPA sections. The importance of data protection is accepted as paramount.

Forward planning for 2012

Pierre Angibaud has suggested 'cooperation between police services on an international basis' as the theme for study in the year 2012 by the commission. European police officers do of course have experience within the Schengen area, but many other services have working protocols for formal cooperation with their neighbours, from which areas of best practice may be identified. This would be initiated following the completion of the drugs in traffic survey for the IEC in Bucharest.

The second meeting of the IPC is planned for the Netherlands in 2012.

Thank you to Section Hellas

The commission members were looked after royally by our dear friends in Section Hellas. We were collected from the airport and treated to first rate hospitality and friendship. Our thanks go to President & ISG, Georgios Katsaropoulos and his team, Kiriakos Karkalis, Ioannis Karapatakis & Ioannis Panoussis, not forgetting Georgios' wife Poly for inviting us into her lovely home. An excellent after work programme was prepared by our hosts and enjoyed by all.

Stephen Crockard