MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the LATIN LANGUAGE GROUP (SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020)

On Sunday, August 9, 2020, with the presence of almost 50 people and with consecutive translations in Italian and Portuguese, we developed perhaps the longest assembly in the history of the (Latin) language group of RIDEF. The discussion began at 8:30 am Mexico time, 3:30 pm in Italy and Spain and concluded at 11:30 pm European time.

This meeting is a success of democracy, with a great participation of professionals who are opposed to the attempts to privatize education in times of neoliberalism and pandemic.

The decision is to follow the agenda proposed by the C.A. and to introduce questions of the motions presented by the assistants, about the document of the French group ICEM and what the AC responded.

1.Moral report

The ICEM asks what to do with the movements that could not pay the contribution to the FIMEM: Should they suspend their membership status? Some prefer to pay directly at the Ridef to avoid having to pay bank charges. But this year the Ridef could not be done.

2.Network of delegates

The creation of a Network of Delegates is positively valued as proposed in the motion of the MCE, MCEP, MEPA and REPEF movements, we agree with the ICEM on the need to regulate their functions in the Regulations.

The ICEM proposes a change of statutes with two years of activity of the delegates.

A change of statutes would allow a better organization of the FIMEM. In this case, the functions of the delegates could be defined.

3. Debts of Benin and Haiti and Ridef 2022.

Debate on the lack of payment of Benin and Haiti: It is concluded that we will ask for more information and we think that the two countries are two different issues. In the case of Benin, they organized a Ridef which they could not pay. In the case of Haiti the movement seems to have lost almost all of its presence. Apart from the economic problem, there is an ethical problem in the use of FIMEM money.

Different aspects of solidarity are discussed. It is important to justify in which way the financial support was spent. It is concluded that the CA has to accompany the movements and do a follow-up, before making any decision to remove a movement.

FIMEM helped a lot to Abem in the organization of the Ridef, sending three people to Dogbo and a volunteer, Luc, to help and support all the stages. Here we not only have a debt but the Ridef has not obtained any economic benefit.

It is a moral responsibility that we all have to assume because solidarity is fundamental for our movements: they ask for solidarity, but there must be some kind of compensation.

The CA did not receive money from Benin and there were several talks with Haiti but without any success. More attention needs to be paid to the economic management of the Ridefs; the last two have produced economic problems and we still have no information about Morocco. The 2024 Ridef cannot take place in Bulgaria but no other movement has submitted its candidacy.

4. Role of the FIMEM

The inclusion of the motion on the need to increase the social commitment of the CA and the Modern School Movement in general is highly valued. It is argued that in times of advance of a neoliberal common sense this fight also in education is very necessary. These positions must be taken into account when electing the members of the CA.

It is proposed to present to this language assembly a commission on this issue based on the motion presented on political commitment.

The FIMEM has to assume all the instances of popular pedagogy, arisen to create conditions of emancipation for all. At this time, the political reasons of popular pedagogy are fundamental because in an increasingly interdependent world it is necessary to support a planetary education and the guarantee of rights for all.

5. Commissions

We talked about the issue of commissions formed as a result of the proposals of the general assembly in Sweden. They are an attempt to encourage international participation in our movement. It is valued if it is necessary that whoever wants to participate must be authorized by their movement. It is concluded that a more technical commission is not the same as a more philosophical-pedagogical one; the latter would need more authorization from the movements. It is clarified that a commission cannot be decisive. The decision on whether the functions of the commissions should be clarified in the Regulations is postponed to next Sunday.

6. New members

It is discussed that we need to define the ideology of new movements like Ghana and Congo regarding our support of secularism and, also, we talked about other aspects of the Modern School Charter. REMFA sent them a letter requesting clarification on these points. We have a response from Ghana.

7.Double commission

We do not agree with Mariel's proposal regarding the non-participation in the CA of a member of the RIDEF organizer.

8. Benaiges Scholarship

MCEP reports on the subject of the Benaiges Scholarship. There is a detailed description of the most important milestones of the process, making it clear that there is no reason for delaying to call for a new scholarship. It is concluded to support the MCEP in its motion. There is a need to communicate, promote and publish the scholarship. It is necessary to call for the scholarship as soon as possible, to support it financially and, also, to leave the organization as it is: without creating any commission, since the work is done by the jury. There is no need to modify the scholarship statute either. There is a general disagreement with the supervising work made by Flor.

The process of selecting Flor as a member of the CA is discussed. The MEPA does not agree with this procedure. First, it was said that the trips would not be paid and once Flor was appointed, the criteria were changed.

9. CA members

We should not have left the Swedish GA with four members because any decision of the CA would not have been regular. Thanks to an agreement between the delegates, a fifth member can be found. It is appreciated that these representatives have substitutes provided and that they are clearly endorsed by their movements.

10. Motions 6 and 7

The two motions are presented. Number 6: we must educate in knowledge and practice the limits between human beings and nature.

The FIMEM has to pronounce itself on this issue. We have to transform school programs in all countries.

Motion 7 is on social justice.

In the REMFA motion there is a third point on the defense of the public school.

11. AG 3

How to organize the general assembly is discussed. The CA proposal consisting of holding an assembly only with the delegates is stated and limiting the issues that can be voted on. It is decided to propose an assembly open to all because otherwise it does not seem to us that democracy is promoted. If the FIMEM is a democratic organization, where is established what can be discussed, when, and by whom?

The task of the CA, as an elective body, is to organize a meeting with the maximum possible democracy.

It is taken as a reference to follow the REMFA letter to send to the CA. It is agreed to request that the agenda be the same as that proposed by the CA, but interspersing the motions, which we request to be voted on, with the items on the agenda.

Teresita proposes to do it before 14.

In the GA it will be proposed to name Teresita honorary president of the Fimem.

The meeting ends at 11:30 p.m. European time.