

## REGIONAL CONVENTIONS 2002

### CONCLUSIONS– DECISIONS– PROPOSALS

#### INTRODUCTION

The preservation and enhancement of the cultural identity, the Hellenic Civilization and the Hellenic Education, were always the main care and pursue of Hellenism all over the world. After all, these are the elements that determine the common descent and heritage of all Hellenes, and the values based on which generations of Hellenes have been raised and will continue to be raised throughout the world.

The 4 Regional SAE Conventions of 2002 (Oceania, Asia–Africa, Europe, N. & S. America), proved for once more the fact that Hellenes Abroad have a special need for contact with the homeland and its culture. It is especially encouraging that Youth Hellenes of the Omogeneia express during the last years, a great concern for Liberal Hellenic Education (language, history, culture), showing that there is a tendency to enhance relations with Greece and anything that is Greek. This tendency is also recorded at the decisions of the Regional SAE Conventions. These decisions include a large number of requests and proposal regarding the increase of funds for the support of educational, cultural and hospitality programs.

The interest of Hellenes Abroad is focused on four thematic areas:

1. Recording of Hellenes Abroad and the possibility of intercommunication through a complete information system.
2. The Olympic Games 2004, Volunteerism and their support through the presence and participation of Hellenes from all over the world, and ELLINIADA 2003.
3. National– Church, Army related and other issues of general interest.

All the above are included in the Minutes of the Conventions, which reflect the willingness and wish of the Omogeneia expressed through the Regions.

On all issues the obvious concern is that regarding the funding sources and the percentage of participation and involvement of Hellenes Abroad in specific activities.

Following you will find the detailed decisions and requests of Hellenes Abroad in categorized form.

## 1. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES – SCIENTISTS NETWORK

### *ASIA–AFRICA REGION ( November 1–3, 2002)*

- Acceptance of Hellene students from African countries to universities of the EU with no fees.
- Scholarships for studies in Greek universities under the condition that the degree holders will offer their services to the countries where they live.
- Scholarships to excellent students and supporting teaching at the schools of the Omogeneia.
- Coordination and cooperation of the Hellenic Associations with the Coordinators of Education.
- Establishment of Centers of the Greek Language and Culture.
- Teaching of the Greek Language to foreigners.
- Support of the technical education.
- Detachment of more teachers.
- Facilitation to detached teachers in “difficult” countries.
- Support of the libraries with Greek books.
- Establishment of a university seat of Hellenic Studies in Amman.
- Separate announcements for scholarships for Hellenes abroad and foreigners.
- The Federations of Hellenic Associations abroad should participate at the committee responsible for the detachment of teachers.
- Establishment of a center of Mediterranean Studies and Research in Alexandria.
- Enhancement of Greek education in Tunis, Zaire, Harare and Zambia (Establishment of a Center of Greek Education).
- Bilateral agreement on the access of Greek students at the Egyptian universities.
- Information of youth on issues of professional orientation.
- Educational Advisor in Zimbabwe.
- Establishment and organization of bilingual schools in S. Africa.

- Maintenance of the university seat of Hellenic Studies at the university RAU in S. Africa.
- Recognition of the Greek language as an elective course at the schools of S. Africa.
- Procedure of DIKATSA for the recognition of degrees from foreign universities.

***EUROPE REGION ( November 8–10, 2002)***

- Recognition of diplomas awarded by technical schools.
- Additional courses of Greek Language at the Hellenic communities.
- Educational material in the form of CD-ROM
- Special training of the detached teachers for the acquisition of excellent knowledge and teaching to children.
- In between countries agreements for educational programs.
- Participation of the detached teachers in the activities of the Hellenic Associations.
- Establishment of contests for youth Hellenes abroad.
- Enhancement and promotion of the model of bilingual schools.
- Recognition by foreign countries of the Greek diplomas, degrees, etc.
- Formation of a special interparty committee for Hellenic education.
- Book on the history of Hellenism Abroad.
- Educational television programs for youth.
- Agreement with EU countries for the teaching of the Greek language at all schools of the EU.
- Effort for the maintenance of the course of ancient Greek at schools and universities abroad.
- Formation of a scientific committee within SAE, for the assessing of the work of scientists abroad and the study of other scientific issues.
- Exchange Programs for scientists.
- Formation of an education committee within SAE.
- Training of university professors for the teaching of the Greek language and history.

- Training of translators for bilingual editions.
- Organization of conventions in Greece with the participation of Hellene scientists abroad.
- Research and further education programs for Hellene scientists abroad.
- Search for an ideology, strategy and tactic for Hellenism as the vision of “global movement”.
- Mapping of the scientists within the Omogeneia.
- Support of the publications of Hellene scientists abroad.
- Organization on a regional level of history seminars by SAE.
- Communication network among scientists abroad.
- Formation of educational councils with the participation of teachers, parents and other relevant agencies.
- Improvement of ERT’s satellite program.
- Establishment of a visiting professors’ program.

#### ***EASTERN EUROPE***

- Teaching material and teachers for Czech, Romania, Poland and Hungary. Establishment of Cultural Centers.
- Special programs for Hellenes in N. Hpeirus.
- Support of university schools in N. Hpeirus.
- Support of Hellenic Studies in Sofia.

#### ***BLACK SEA***

- Use of scientists of Hellenic descent.
- Financial support of students who study in Greece.
- Support of Greek education in countries like Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Belarus, through detached teachers.
- On time mailing of educational material.
- Procedure for scholarships for Greece from the Consulates.
- Special educational programs for repatriated Hellenes in Greece and Cyprus.
- Special programs of distance learning.

- Establishment of a seat of Hellenic Studies in Kyrgyz.
- Seminars on professional orientation for Hellene youth who live in Greece.
- Education Advisor for Uzbekistan.
- Cooperation of Greek and Black Sea universities especially where there are seats of Hellenic Studies.
- Establishment of contests and awarding of winners with scholarships for studying at Greek and foreign universities.
- Detachment of teachers of the Greek language for teaching in universities.
- Financial support and training of self-taught teachers.
- Audio-visual and other educational material.
- Establishment of bilingual schools.

***N. & S. AMERICA REGION ( November 22-24, 2002)***

- Establishment of seats of Hellenic Studies.
- Establishment of programs of the Greek language and education in various universities.
- Support of the Hellenic Associations with history and literature books.
- Organizing of events and conventions for the promotion of distinguished Hellene scientists abroad.
- Book for cultural courses for youth Hellenes abroad.
- Greek teachers and kindergarten teachers not only for the communal but also for the schools and the independent schools.
- Disposition of teachers who work at the offices of the Coordinators for Education at the Greek schools.
- Fixed compensation to the Archdiocese of America in order to decrease fees for the teaching of the Greek language.
- Special preparation of the detached teachers for their easiest adaptation within the local conditions.
- Inclusion of the Greek education within the daily school system.
- Systematic teaching of the Greek history.
- Establishment of an art-city in sensitive areas of Greece based on the model of Silicon Valley

- On time mailing of educational material.
- Special training of detached teachers on children's teaching and better knowledge of the language and culture of the country where they are detached to.
- Expansion of the operation of programs of Hellenic Studies based on the model of the program at the Washington University, with funding for the support of poor Hellenes abroad and through the cooperation among Hellene Academicians, Hellenic Communities and Hellenic Government.
- Use of the funds of Hellenic associations for scholarships.
- Programs of adult education.
- Use of unemployed Greek teachers.
- Establishment of the University of Hellenism in Greece for youth Hellenes abroad.
- Program similar to ERASMUS for students in Greece and the US.
- Development of the University of the Aegean the degrees of which will be recognized by the American Universities.
- Establishment of Greek speaking child care centers.
- Support of the community of Mexico.

#### ***OCEANIA REGION ( September 2002)***

- Establishment of a world data bank for the promotion of the Greek language and culture.
- Establishment of Centers of Hellenic Culture all over the world.
- Student exchange programs.
- Recognition of the degrees held by Hellenes in Australia.
- Organization of programs of volunteer work in Greece for youth.
- Establishment of a research department for the Genocide of Pontian Hellenism.
- Establishment of a university of Greek language and Culture in Australia, which will award degrees of equal merit to those awarded by the Greek universities.
- Exchanges and cooperation among Hellenic schools abroad.

- Use of teachers who serve at the offices of the coordinators of education at the Greek schools.
- Reevaluation of the educational material.
- Educational CD-ROM
- Tele-Education programs.
- Use of unemployed Greek teachers and students of Greek departments for the teaching of the Greek language.
- Scholarships for Greek language and culture studies at Australian universities.
- Educational sources on the INTERNET for the enhancement of Greek speaking education.
- Support of Saturday schools.
- Research and study on educational issues in the countries where Hellenes reside.
- Program similar to ERASMUS for students among Greece and Australia.
- Student exchange programs for the summer, under the condition that the courses are mutually recognized by all universities.

## **2. CULTURAL ISSUES**

### ***ASIA–AFRICA REGION ( November 1–3, 2002)***

- Distribution of the documentary produced by Ms. Stellana Kliri.
- Cultural events organized by the company Friends of N. Kazantzakis.
- Promotion of the Omogeneia through the use of documentaries.
- Film Festival.
- Support of the cultural groups by the GGAE and the Ministry of Education.
- Culture Festival in Kazakhstan on September–October.

### ***OCEANIA REGION ( September 2002)***

- Cultural Olympiad.
- Literature Contest.
- Creation of theater work–shops.
- Council of Hellenic Arts.

## ***N. & S. AMERICA REGION ( November 22–24, 2002)***

### **1. Proposal for the organization of a Greek Theater Festival.**

Its establishment on an annual basis and its promotion as a self-funded event that will develop and promote the cultural relations among Greeks and Hellenes–Americans.

### **2. Creation of a Cultural Marathon focusing on music and modern dance groups in six cities of N. & S. America, in sight of the Olympic Games.**

## **3. BUSINESS ISSUES**

### ***PROPOSALS OF THE BUSINESS NETWORK FOR THE ACTION PLAN FOR 2003***

#### **1) Creation of a Web site for the Business Network. The web will include the following:**

- i) Information on the Network (operation, activities, events, etc)
- ii) Information on Local Networks around the world (names, addresses, e-mails, fax, phone numbers, business activities, etc)

#### **2) Membership that will ensure access at the services provided by the Network.**

##### **i) Suggested Services:**

- |                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) News Letter            |                             |
| (2) Conventions/ Seminars  | (5) Business Expeditions.   |
| (3) Governmental Agencies. | (6) Useful information.     |
| (4) Chambers of Commerce   | (7) Links                   |
|                            | (8) Access to the Data Base |

#### **3) Issues like, promotion of specific business types, products, etc.**

#### **4) Administrative support**

#### **5) Local/ Regional Meeting– Suggested Regions: N. America, Oceania and Europe– The organization will be done by a local financial agency in cooperation with the Business Network.**

***Goal:*** Offering of information and exchange of ideas among local businesses and representatives of the Hellenic State for possible cooperation.

- 6) Business meeting in Thessaloniki: A large business meeting in Thessaloniki aiming at the development of relations among Hellene businessmen from all over the world and Greek businessmen.
- 7) Formation of an Advisory Team: Within the framework of the strengthening of relations with the business community in Greece we support the proposal of SAE President, Mr. Andrew A. Athens for the creation of an Advisory Team (with the participation of chambers of commerce and other agencies) for the offering of organizational support to SEVE with the foreseen participation of the Network. This advisory team will suggest actions and will undertake initiatives for the support and achievement of common goals.

#### **4. YOUTH ISSUES**

##### ***ASIA–AFRICA REGION ( November 1–3, 2002)***

- Planning of a Youth SAE Asia–Africa Convention.
- Recording of Youth – Creation of a web site – Newsletter
- World Youth Camp – participation
- Support of youth in Kazakhstan
- ELLINIADA– participation, young athletes
- Organization of a summer camp for the youth of Africa with possible expansion in Asia
- Information on DIKATSA
- Foundations of Hellenic Culture (increase of their number – resolution)
- Adoption of the program of NAHYOSA for the offering of medical assistance (resolution)

##### ***N. & S. AMERICA REGION ( November 22–24, 2002)***

- Take Action ΣΑΕ – The organized response to American media through a system of observation for the support and strengthening of Hellenic issues and positions.
- Volunteers for ATHENS 2004 – organization of 9 seminars on volunteerism.
- Youth S. America Convention.

### ***OCEANIA REGION ( September 2002)***

- Documentary “Children of the Black Sea”
- Documentary “Olympic Truce”
- Program “Working Holiday Maker” – expansion of the program to Greece and other countries with the participation of SAE.

### ***EUROPE REGION ( November 8–10, 2002)***

- Recording of youth – Creation of a web site – Newsletter
- 2003 – Year Dedicated to Youth Abroad
- Hospitality Programs: World Cultural Camp in cooperation with EETAA.
- Sister cities.
- Cultural Events.
- Strengthening of relations with the Church.
- Legal entity for the Network, increase of the budget, promotion of the Network, participation and secretarial support.
- Proposal regarding the establishment of local youth associations, and the participation at the Youth Europe SAE Network of independent youth organizations.
- Creation of Youth Culture, Sports and Information Centers.

## **5. SPORTS ISSUES**

*It is a common characteristic of the decisions and resolutions of all Regional Conventions the fact that they all express their interest in participating as volunteers at the Olympic Games ATHENS 2004, as well as in the participation of athletes in ELLINIADA 2003. The following are specific proposals regarding only the Asia–Africa Region.*

- Organization of track–and– field games for the promotion of the Olympic ideals.
- Documentary by Ms. Stellana Kliri with the title “Peace of Flame–Olympic Truce”.

## **6.WOMEN'S ISSUES**

### ***N. & S. AMERICA REGION ( November 22–24, 2002)***

- Creation of a web site for the promotion of communication among Hellene women abroad.
- Study of various ways for fundraising for the Network.
- Summer hospitality program for Hellene women abroad.
- Study of a mechanism for the selection of women delegates from the Regions.
- Strengthening of the Network through systematic publications and events.

### ***ASIA–AFRICA REGION ( November 1–3, 2002)***

- Creation of a Historical, Geographical and Social Map for Hellene women in Africa and Asia.

### ***EUROPE REGION ( November 8–10, 2002)***

In order to achieve the approach of as many as possible women, it is suggested to organize discussions with the support of the Hellenic Communities in each region with the issue “The role of Hellene Woman within the community today”. The goal of these discussions is the operation of these organizations within the wider frame of the Hellenic communities. It is also suggested to organize of Women’s Conferences at the end of 2003 in Europe. These Conferences could elect delegates for the Convention.

The Convention should elect a Coordinating Committee aiming at the cooperation and promotion of women’s issues with the Coordinating Council of Europe Region.

### ***OCEANIA REGION ( September 2002)***

Nothing new was presented on the Women’s Network in this Region.

## **❖ NETWORK’S PROPOSAL FOR AN ACTION PLAN FOR 2003**

### **A. General Plan**

- 1) Program for the teaching of the Greek language and culture for foreign wives of Hellenes of the Diaspora.
- 2) Two–day event on the issue of “The participation of women in the decision centers”, with the participation of women’s organizations in Europe, aiming

at the adoption of common positions and the acceptance of these positions by the States–Members.

- 3) Hospitality Exchange Programs among foreign wives of Hellenes abroad and Hellene women. The program offers the possibility for mutual hospitality of one foreigner from one Region for ten days, by one Hellene woman from another Region.

The program could include also their children.

#### **B. Olympic Games 2004**

- 1) Organization of a Symposium in Athens with the participation of women who have contributed in various ways in the organization of the last 4 Olympic Games. The Symposium will include exchange of knowledge, views and experiences. There will also be a study of the possibility to offer motives for similar activities at the Olympic Games 2004.

This symposium will consist a world project that will bring together people who share common experiences and will give them the opportunity to develop cooperation, exchange know-how, etc.

Within the context of the symposium the opportunity will be given for the development of relations with agencies and organizations such are: Chambers of Commerce, Association of Women in Greece, Association of Greek Women Scientists, etc.

- 2) Organization of seminars in elementary and secondary foreign schools.

These will be conducted by teachers of these schools, and with the cooperation of the Consular Educational Advisors.

Subject: Women–Olympics–Peace

Distribution of audio–visual material from the General Secretariat of Olympic Games.

- 3) Contest

- a) Essay contest on the subject “Olympic Spirit”, for secondary education.

- b) Painting for elementary education.

The program is only for children of Hellenic descent.

- 4) Publication of a leaflet for Hellene women athletes who have won a medal in Olympic Games since 1896, and of distinguished Hellene women athletes abroad.

The leaflet will include their biographical notes and information on the Network.

Apart from the Greek language it will also be published in 3 other languages: English, French, Spanish.

## **7. GENERAL ISSUES**

### ***N. & S. AMERICA REGION ( November 22–24, 2002)***

- Approach of the wider base of the Omogeneia.
- Creation of local working teams.
- Participation at the National Fund of Hellenes Abroad.
- Web site– Newsletter
- Unanimous approval of the proposal regarding the participation of all journalists–members of the OLLOME for the formation of a SAE Communication Network similar to the existing SAE Networks.
- Proposal for the change of the word Apodimos in the name of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad. Proposals for alternative names will be submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for assessment and implementation.
- The “Adopt a Church” Program has started. The initial study has been completed for the support of two churches in Georgia, one in Bulgaria, one in Imvros and one in Africa.
- Official recognition of the Patriarch Eirhnaios by the Israeli Government.
- Through a special resolution the delegates show their support to the Ecumenical Patriarchate and demand from the Turkish Government to respect its rights and to secure the religious and cultural rights of the Greek minority. They also request the immediate re–opening of the Theological School of Halki.

### ***ASIA–AFRICA REGION ( November1–3, 2002)***

- Use of the INTERNET, which consists a form of approach and communication for:
  - a. The exchange of ideas
  - β. The learning of the Greek language and history ( e–learning)

c. Flaw of information and transportation of data on issues regarding the Omogeneia

- Creation of a web site for every organization of the Region within the central web site.
- Recording of Hellenes of the Region.
- Visits at the communities of the Region.
- Reduction of military service for Hellenes, permanent residents abroad and immigrants.
- No military service for Hellenes who return permanently in Greece and are married or have under their protection members of their families.

#### *Social Security*

- Pensions to Hellenes abroad at the country where they reside.
- Reduction of the fees for the issuing, renewal of passports and no fee for the issuing, renewal of passports for poor Hellenes abroad.
- Summer Camps in Greece for the elderly.
- Medical care for Hellenes who return in Greece and have no insurance.

#### *Nationalities, Citizenships*

- YPEX should look into the cases of foreign spouses of Hellenes abroad in various countries.
- Acquisition of the Egyptian Nationality by Egyptian Hellenes.
- Recognition of the Greek Nationality and renewal of passports for Hellenes who are not registered in the files of any Greek agency.
- Promotion of ETO.
- Establishment, during the Hellenic Presidency of the EU, of trade assistance regarding exports from Europe to countries of Asia and Africa based on the model of the American Assistance to similar countries.
- Mediterranean programs of the EU for NGO's of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Palestine.
- Unanimous decision for the support of the Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mr. Eirinaios and the need for efforts regarding his official recognition by the Israeli Government.

#### *EUROPE REGION ( November 8-10, 2002)*

- Creation of a data base.
- Re-opening of the Theological School of Halki.
- Program "Trofos tis Orthodoxias kai tou Ellinismou".

- Recognition of the Pontian Genocide by the USA.
- Use of the law 2790/2000 parallel to the establishment of the National Viza, for the facilitation of Hellenism in the Black Sea.
- Creation of a committee for the distribution of humanitarian support to the areas of the Black Sea with a budget of 600 million GRD.
- Resolution for Epistolary Voting for Hellenes Abroad.

#### ***OCEANIA REGION ( September 2002)***

- Ensure the successful organization of the ELLINIADA.
- Signing of a bilateral agreement between Greece and Australia on issues of Social Security.
- Programs at the Black Sea area.
- Solution on the church problem.
- Resolution regarding the official recognition of the Patriarch Eirinaios by the Israeli Government.
- Creation of a data base.
- Resolution regarding a monument for peace on mount Olympus.
- Resolution regarding the decision of the Olympic Airways to end its flights to and from Greece.

#### **NOTE**

The complete minutes of the Regional SAE Conventions 2002, which include the detailed conclusions, decisions, proposals and resolutions are at the disposal of anyone interested, at the offices of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad in Thessaloniki.



**WORLD COUNCIL OF HELLENES ABROAD**

**REGIONAL SAE CONVENTIONS 2002**

**CONCLUSIONS– DECISIONS– PROPOSALS**

**Thessaloniki May 2003**

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