Lettre d’introduction.

Introductory letter.

The ICEM has sent us an important set of questions concerning the functioning of the Board and of the FIMEM.

Our answer was late and we apologize for that.

We suggest that all delegates read this letter carefully, it provides a lot of interesting information.

And don't forget to continue questioning by e-mail if you need further clarification.

Have a good meeting in your movements and in your language groups.

The FIMEM Board of Directors

ICEM QUESTIONS forwarded by LEONARD DE LEO

In the paragraph: CA DECISIONS TO BE VALIDATED IN AG3

1) - Arrears policy applied

ICEM Question:

***- Is it a question of withdrawing FIMEM membership from movements that have not paid their fees and other documents to be produced?***

***Indeed, some non-European movements take advantage of RIDEF to pay their dues directly, thus avoiding costs. Your voting proposal does not specify whether this point takes into account the cancellation of the RIDEF 2020.***

A proposal for an arrangement with the movements for which bank charges are too high is proposed in the convocation for the GA-(18.06.2020).

// To be up to date in their dues from 2016 to 2020 (+10%) before June 15, 2020. To agree on other terms of payment (paying directly to the Ridef, distribution of payments,...) please make prior arrangements with the Fimem treasurer cafimem@gmail.com //

It is not a question of losing membership, a status that is not easy to acquire, but of raising awareness and making the movements more responsible.

A member who is expelled by the Board of Directors can still appeal to the General Assembly (IR art 4).

 The names of these Movements are kept in a list of non-affiliated Movements ...until their situation is regularized...

**2) Delegates: 2-year mandate and liaison officer between RIDEF and RIDEF.**

**ICEM Questions :**

***- Are these the delegates of the movements for the FIMEM GA?***

Yes

***Could you explain why the mandates are extended for a period of two years among the dates of AG?***

The FIMEM GC requests a link between the Ridefs to circulate information among the members of their respective Movements, among the Movements and with the FIMEM GC, this was also requested in the Ridef 2018 GA in Sweden.

 A new delegate member could be cut off from the reality of the files. It is preferable for the new delegate to take over his or her responsibility at a RIDEF.

**- Will there be events that fall under the GA during these two years?**

 No, but the Board of Directors, the Commissions and the Movements.

***A- The two-year mandate: is this exceptional due to the cancellation of RIDEF 2020, or is it a final decision valid for all future General Assemblies after 2021? G  après 2021 ?***

As already mentioned above, we would like it to be definitive and ratified by the GA.

***-- You mention the task of liaison officer between two RIDEFs: is it "between two General Assemblies"?***

Dissemination of information does not only concern the GA but also the commissions and communications of the movements.

***- Will delegates have and will they have a liaison role on RIDEF and not just for the GA?***

The responsibility for the information concerning the Ridef depends on the CO (Organizing Committee).

***-According to your answers, would this not require an amendment to the rules of procedure regarding the role of delegates?***

As a result of the decisions taken at previous General Assemblies, several amendments will be required (statutes and regulations). But it is difficult to motivate our members on such an abstract subject... We are behind in the updates and Commission #5 has been inactive in 2018-2020.

**3) Debts Haiti and Benin: Withdrawal of these movements as a member or cancellation of debt or otherwise**

***ICEM Questions :***

***- If one of the proposals is to abolish membership, could you tell us the circumstances that led to these debts so that we can clearly establish what is the responsibility of the movements concerned and what is the responsibility of the IMEF?***

***- In the case of Benin's proposal, reference is made to the RIDEF 2016 budget.***

***Could we have access to the accounting elements of this RIDEF to enable us to understand the precise nature of this debt? What decisions have already been taken by the FIMEM Board regarding the debts of Benin and Haiti***?

As mentioned in our official documents, FIMEM assumes 60% of the deficit and the organising country is responsible for repaying 40% of the debt.

As the situation was difficult for Benin, we proposed a spread over several years. This agreement was accepted by Benin and a start was made on repayment. At Ridef 2018, the AdF held a raffle to help Benin. 400€ were collected and the Beninese gave us 355€. The balance is close to 1000€.

Benin informed the CA that it will not currently be able to settle its debt to FIMEM and the CA decided to bring this issue to the GA.

We are sending you in attachment the financial balance sheet and the report of the members responsible for the FIMEM-Board for this Ridef.

For Haiti, the situation is different. The person who benefited from the solidarity to participate in the Dogbo Ridef and who at the same time had to hand over the contributions of the Haitian Movement arrived in Paris but never introduced himself at Dogbo. Several communications and a proposed agreement from the Board of Directors took place with the president of the Movement...but Haiti stopped answering the emails of the Board of Directors, until its request to participate in the Ridef-Quebec, without proposing any financial arrangement but only the payment of its membership fee (not made elsewhere). This is why we are asking this problem at the General Assembly.

**In the paragraph: CA DECISIONS TO BE VALIDATED IN AG3**

4) Role of FIMEM: working for all the children or only for those from working-class backgrounds ?

ICEM Questions :

***- Could you tell us where this question came from and what specific elements or findings motivated it?***

 ***- Is it the practice of certain movements or of FIMEM as a whole through its Board of Directors or through its GA votes?***

This question comes from Mariel but she believes it is shared by several movements. She notes that in most of our communications we talk about all children...but in reality FIMEM seems to be concerned only with working-class children. If this is the case, the wording of some of our official documents would have to be changed.

In reality Freinet, and then over time, many teachers of the Freinet movements, and not only (Popular Education movements throughout the world, and also the "New Education"), have strongly devoted themselves to the children who needed it the most, we then speak of Popular Pedagogy). The strong (still increasing) inequalities existing in the world, as a result of neoliberal policies, require great investments in education (not only economic). This is why FIMEM fights against injustice and works for the affirmation of Human Rights, and affirms solidarity at all levels, giving great attention to children, teachers and Movements, who are most in need.

FIMEM promotes work with all children from all backgrounds as a fundamental and universal right. The right to education for all is necessary for the economic and socio-cultural development of all types of societies.

**5) RIDEF**

Choice of locations according to costs, place of women, secularism, quality of workshops ... advantages and disadvantages of having one person who carries both FIMEM and CO responsibilities.

ICEM Questions :

***- Will this question be presented by the FIMEM #6 committee (RIDEF committee)?***

No...unfortunately, all the participants who were there at the beginning (Commission #6) have deserted. Gabi is now alone...she's the one who produced the first working document. FIMEM's answers to a large part of these questions should indeed be included in the "cahier de charge" of this Commission, which is the purpose of its creation.

***- If so, could we be more specific about these issues?***

These questions come from proposals gleaned from e-mails received or heard

Some of these questions, such as secularism and the place of women, are regularly raised at the FIMEM General Assembly to ensure that the ideals of FIMEM are respected (Charter of the Modern School and statutes).

***- On what occasion was the woman's position in question?***

***- On what occasion could a problem of secularism arise or has it already arisen?***

It is always during the RIDEFs, in the standpoint within the FIMEM, that there have been debates, sometimes heated, on these themes.

Today, it is in the question of the affiliations of the Congolese and Ghanaian movements, managed by directors of private and religious schools, that the MEPA issue has arisen.

***- Many current movements have not been RIDEF organizers:***

***would you have any clarification on the possible incompatibilities of being both a member of the Board of Directors and a member of the Organizing Committee of a RIDEF? Do you have examples of blockages?***

The double responsibility of CO-RIDEF and CA -FIMEM has created tensions within the current Board, Mariel sometimes confusing her two hats and taking initiatives that are sometimes limited or transmitting questions and information that are not adequate. But on the whole this has gone well with increasing fatigue for her, making her less tolerant of our arguments.

The Ridef of Benin deprived us of Edouard's presence at the Board of Directors where he was present for less than an hour a day while we were overwhelmed with work. And during the preparatory phase, he did not play his role as a link between the two entities.

We believe that a Ridef is a huge task and that it is necessary to devote all our energy to it.

The investment in CO, which is just as energy-intensive, leads to a lack of availability to the Board of Directors.

The CA-FIMEM will automatically lose the skills of the double-hatted member.

There are obvious conflicts of interest that must be avoided, it is not a question of advantages and disadvantages. There is only one way: in the years preceding a RIDEF, there must be no one on the Board responsible for the movements that organise a RIDEF.

Regarding the costs of the Ridefs, the Board's work is hard.

We are co-responsible for the financial aspect but we have no imperative mandate on the management of the accounting.

 And either in Benin or in Sweden, the CO-Ridef did not take into account all our requests and questions...

It's very frustrating when you see CO making decisions that in the past have been negative, without heeding our warnings.

It is fair to give the CA-MEMEFIMF the possibility of imposing operations to protect the interests of the hundreds of people involved in the RIDEF.

With regard to the costs associated with the organisation of a RIDEF, it would be desirable for the organising country to commit itself to it at least four years in advance and share its preparations with the Board in order to be able to organise the work and negotiate all the possibilities of sponsorship and free of charge in terms of logistics and reception infrastructures. When all costs are clearly defined as being reduced, this would help both the participants and the organisers.

**6) Benaiges - creation of a commission or not?**

**ICEM Questions**

***- Could you tell us how this FIMEM grants currently operate? What needs would motivate the creation of a commission in relation to the current operation?***

A summary of the work done will soon be posted on the site. The Board is in favour of the creation of a Commission.

As we did not have access to the documents of all the partners and the consultation was not finished, the Board decided not to launch a grant in 2020.

You will find a specific letter concerning the Grant in the documents for the GA

**7) Presentation of proposals from movements, language groups, commissions.**

**ICEM Questions :**

***- At some point in this GA, will there be a presentation and clarification of the place, role, work, actions and decision-making powers of the commissions within the FIMEM? To define :***

***- what relationship they have with the FIMEM Board;***

***- if they are a support to lighten the tasks of the CA;***

***- whether they have the power to take initiatives on behalf of FIMEM or of the CA;***

***- whether they have the power to make proposals at the GA in the same way as the movements;***

***- whether this would not require a clear definition of their role in the rules of procedure or in the deliberations of the GA***.

The AGV Commission will select the items to be dealt with as a priority this year and which will have to be carried over.

The committees are very lethargic. The Commissions that have worked really well in 2018-2020 are : #1,#2,#3, #4, #6…. Commission 7 did not finalize its file in time for the Ridef.

It's as if our members went into hibernation between 2 Ridefs ... and wanted to make the revolution in two weeks.

-The commissions are beneficial because they bring a complementary reflection to the administrative work of the board.

Their initiatives will improve visibility, speed up decision-making and the opening of new sites. They will make proposals (like the //4 commission at present) that can be voted on at the GA.

-The relationship between the CA-FIMEM and the commissions will have to be clearly defined, in order to avoid overlapping tasks and frustration. Their role could be included in the RP.

**8) Suggestions about the translations of the texts for the GA on the FIMEM website**

***For this virtual GA, translations are essential and indispensable. It is a priority if we want to communicate in good conditions. Here are some questions and suggestions: - Is there a list of translators for this GA. If so, is it sufficient?***

It seems that Gabi settled this internally, with the participants of the AGV and the AG Commission.

***- Is commission #3 "translations" solicited and can delegates address it?***

Commission #3 translates only the official documents and correspondence of the Board of Directors.

***- Can we agree that the authors of the texts for the GA request their own movement for translations in both languages in order to relieve the work of translations? Which movements would be likely to do so?***

This would be an excellent operation, relatively facilitated by DeepL.

Any movement wanting to post a document on the site must

take over the translations.

Le CA-FIMEM