

Report of the General Assembly of 20th April 2023

President:	Samuel HAMEN
Vice President:	Nathalie RONVAUX
Secretary:	Jeff SCHINKER
Treasurer:	Claudine MUNO

Present:

Jean BACK, Ulrike BAIL, Ian DE TOFFOLI, Tullio FORGIARINI, Gast GROEBER, Samuel HAMEN, Susanne JASPERS, Francis KIRPS, Nelly LECOMTE, Colette MART, Anne-Marie REUTER, Nathalie RONVAUX, Jeff SCHINKER, Elise SCHMIT, Florence SUNNEN, Mandy THIERY, Florent TONIELLO,

Appointment of proxies:

- Guy HELMINGER has appointed Jeff SCHINKER as his proxy.
- Bernd Marcel GONNER has appointed Samuel HAMEN as his proxy.
- Claudine MUNO has appointed Nathalie RONVAUX as her proxy.
- Nora WAGENER has appointed Elise SCHMIT as her proxy.

The meeting was held at the cultural centre in Weimerskirch.

**Address: Centre Culturel Am Duerf,
I, Rue Henri Lamormesnil, L-1915 Weimerskirch**

Starting time of session: ~6:45 PM.

Agenda:

- 1. President's address**
- 2. Activity report 2022**
- 3. Treasurer's report for 2022**
- 4. Auditors' report**
- 5. Approval of the balance sheets and accounts**
- 6. Appointment of the auditors for 2023**
- 7. Appointment of a new board of directors**
- 8. Creation of a new executive committee**
- 9. Open discussion**

I. President's Address

The outgoing President Samuel HAMEN took the floor for an address on the topic of solidarity and the lack thereof that could be observed in recent times – a point of criticism, as well as a guide forward for the coming years:

"I would like to pick up on an episode that, if I remember correctly, I had already mentioned when this ASBL was founded in September 2020. It was, I think, 2018 or 2019, when an open discussion was held at the Escher Kulturfabrik about the so-called professionalisation of the literary scene in Luxembourg. The event was well attended and the discussion was lively, prior known complaints were raised, prior known answers to them were given, prior known wishes were expressed. The conversation felt quite technical. One of the people present was Jhemp Hoscheit. He, who is well known for his knowledge of trade union engagement of writers, suddenly spoke up and used a word that had not been used all evening: solidarity. For the rest of the evening, this word was a bit of a foreign body in the room – it didn't sound as technical and cultural-political as the other words used that evening.

When A:LL was founded a good two and a half years ago, it was our concern – and I hope I speak for everyone here in this room – to carry this word into the day-to-day work of the association. And I have the proud feeling we have largely succeeded in doing so. We can refrain from patting ourselves on the back for all that was achieved during A:LL's first mandate. If you want, you can read about it in the activity reports of the last two years – I will present the one for 2022 to you afterwards.

The procedures have only worked so well because people have taken the time without actually having time to take. We are all more than busy with work, family or other tasks in life – that is fair enough and there are definitely priority lists on which A:LL is rightly neither number 1 nor 5 nor 42. With that in mind, it is not a given that we manage to honour the commitment we have made. I would like to thank all those who made it possible, who were active in the working groups, meetings, councils and committees. It would not have been possible without this engagement and it is the reason we are able to hold the third General Assembly today and why A:LL has already achieved a lot in the short time of its existence.

One last thought on the ominous word solidarity before we move on with the agenda: We tell our members to be in solidarity with their fellow writers, for example, by following our rate recommendations when it comes to reading fees. Or in the bigger picture: we also demand solidarity from politics, the public, and society in general, in order for our work as writers to be appreciated and recognised. That's why, in the course of my time on the committee, I have sometimes been surprised, more often lately, that we value solidarity less in our direct dealings with each other, be it in the tone of voice, be it in the way we take part in critical discussions, which have to happen in every association. Proclaiming and demanding solidarity to the outside world, but only partially practising it internally, is of course possible, but at the expense of authenticity, and in any case of integrity, one's own, or at worst that of the entire association.

So instead of a complaint that looks to the past, I would like to conclude by expressing a forward reaching wish: I wish for the new Executive Committee, the new Board of Directors to have stamina, a lot of joy, energy and resources for old and new projects, but especially an agenda based on external and internal solidarity because without it, this game here, that we all play together and not against each other, cannot be done. I agree completely with Jhemp Hoscheit."

2. Activity Report 2022

Samuel HAMEN continues with the activity report.

There were a total of five meetings of the Board of Directors during the year, in January, March, June, September and November 2022.

Throughout the year and during meetings, A:LL was also regularly in exchange with actors from the literary and cultural scene, including Kultur:LX, the Conseil Supérieur des Bibliothèques Publiques, the Ministry of Culture, ULASC, the Conseil national du livre and the Publisher's Association.

Throughout the year, A:LL participated in the organisation and logistics of a reading tour in collaboration with SCRIPT. This initiative allowed writers to be invited by schools to share their work and to introduce pupils to literature and the literary

scene. As part of the cooperation, a convention was signed with SCRIPT, which naturally came to an end on 15th August.

Throughout the year, A:LL delivered advisory reports on the following topics: Legislative project: the law of 24 June 2010 on public libraries; Inventory: book sector; Legislative project to modify the law changed on 19 December 2014 on 1) social grants for freelance and performing artists, 2) the promotion of artistic creation.

Throughout the year, A:LL informed its members in three newsletters about calls for proposals, working groups, cultural policy developments and initiatives of A:LL and partners.

Also, regular meetings of the different working groups took place. In addition to the "Émergents" group, which looks after young and new writers, and the "IT/Communication" group, which looks after the website www.a-ll.lu and the social media presences, the "Rémunérations" ("Fees") group wrote various statements. These dealt in particular with the remuneration of writing services for the commissions of theatre plays. This opinion was forwarded to the Theatre Federation and is still being discussed.

Individual enquiries, referrals and suggestions made by A:LL members or third parties were dealt with by the Executive Committee throughout the year.

In March, an addendum to the A:LL Convention was signed with the Ministry of Culture.

In April, the second General Assembly took place at the Cultural Centre in Beggen.

In November, A:LL's new website went online, which allows the association to present itself and its work in a clear and structured way.

In November, A:LL positioned itself in a letter to the Ministry of Culture regarding a call for proposals for the National Literature Competition 2023 (screenplays) and subsequently spoke with the responsible persons at the Ministry of Culture about the details of the call for proposals.

In November, A:LL was present at the *Walfer Bicherdeeg* for the first time and advocated for the visibility of writers.

In December, A:LL published a rate recommendation for readings. This reference document for all writers and institutions was prepared in consultation with all parties concerned.

At the end of 2022, A:LL had 51 active members.

The report was unanimously accepted.

3. Treasurer's Report for 2022

Claudine MUNO takes the floor via video conference and presents her report as treasurer. She confirms that the convention with the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is still 25,000 euros. On 31 December there were 27,043.05.- EUR in our account and we ended the year with 26,376.52.- EUR, a result made up of membership fees of 590.00.- EUR, the state subsidy of 25.000.- EUR, a remaining balance of the 2021 state subsidy (2,000.- EUR), a transfer of 6,000.- EUR from the TS-SEGS SCRIPT for the organisation of the reading tour and 26,376.52 from 2021.

Our expenses from 2022 amount to EUR 32,923.47. This sum is made up as follows:

Costs:

Small utilities: 153.56.- EUR

Travel expenses: 44.72.- EUR

Rent for technical/mechanical equipment: 140.20.- EUR

General subcontracts: 16,988.40.- EUR

Design of a visual identity: 2,925.00.- EUR

Elaboration of a website based on the new visual identity: 14,063.40.- EUR

Other fees: 5,797.89. - EUR

Securities and account fees: 278.70.- EUR

Accounting fees: 327.60.- EUR

Insurances/liability etc.: 102.79.- EUR

Catalogues/printing costs/publications: 951,41.- EUR

Reception and representation costs: 1.510,00.- EUR

Licences - Other expenses: 628,20.- EUR

Reading project: 6.000.- EUR

TOTAL: 32.923,47.- EUR

In 2022, our working groups continued the activities started in 2021. Participation in these groups is remunerated with 20,00.- EUR per meeting and another 20,00.- EUR per hour for coordination work, writing reports and other activities. Travel costs are incurred by members having to get to work meetings, including with the Ministry of Culture.

In autumn 2022, A:LL presented its new visual identity, designed by graphic artist Michel Welfringer. This collaboration had already begun in 2021. A new website was developed by Bunkerpalace and could be presented during the 2022 *Journées du Livre*, as foreseen in last year's General Assembly.

A:LL collaborated with SCRIPT on the basis of a convention of 6 January 2022 for the coordination of the Reading Tour 2022, which allowed seven Luxembourg authors to present their texts to secondary school students. For this, SCRIPT transferred a budget of 6,000 EUR to A:LL.

The treasurer's report was adopted unanimously.

4. Auditor's Report

Samuel HAMEN takes the floor.

Fabienne GILBERTZ and Constantina TENACE went through the accounts and confirmed in a letter to the President that the accounts and expenses of last year were in order. The auditors' report was unanimously accepted.

5. Approval of the balance sheets and accounts

The balance sheets and accounts were unanimously approved.

6. Appointment of the auditors for 2023

Samuel HAMEN announced that Fabienne GILBERTZ and Constantina TENACE have agreed to serve as auditors again next year. This was unanimously accepted.

7. Appointment of a new board of directors

In order to extend one's own mandate or to run for a mandate in the new Board of Directors, a request had to be submitted. The following came forward: Ulrike BAIL, Ian DE TOFFOLI, Tullio FORGIARINI, Gast GROEBER, Francis KIRPS, Claudine MUNO, Jeff SCHINKER, Elise SCHMIT, Florent TONIELLO, Nora WAGENER and Maxime WEBER. Samuel HAMEN asked if the members of the Board of Directors whose mandate was expiring would be dismissed. Both the dismissal and the installation of a new Board of Directors were unanimously approved.

8. Creation of a new executive committee

The conversation begins with the question of who can imagine being part of the Executive Committee. Maxime WEBER, Nora WAGENER and Claudine MUNO joined the meeting by phone. Maxime is at the Roadburn Festival, so applause can still be heard in the background when he announces that he can imagine taking on a role. The applause continued when Nora WAGENER said she could imagine being part of the committee. In the conference room, Francis KIRPS declares his willingness to take on a function in the committee, Jeff SCHINKER repeats that he will remain in the committee. After a short discussion, the following new assembly emerged: Nora WAGENER becomes Treasurer, Maxime WEBER Secretary, Francis KIRPS Vice-President and Jeff SCHINKER President.

9. Open Discussion

Because the members of the Board of Directors withdrew to talk among themselves about the new committee, the open discussion was moved before item 8. Nothing was discussed except that the members who are no longer part of the Board of Directors were thanked for their work.

End of the meeting: ~7:40 PM