Intersteno
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International Federation for Information Processing
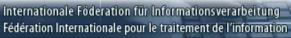### Internationale Föderation für Informationsverarbeitung
Fédération Internationale pour le traitement de l'information

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This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all e-mail addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site www.intersteno.org. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board.

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Unforgettable Paris congress - a good start in the second decade of this century

Once again the Intersteno community showed its young and '*evergreen*' face during the long awaited and carefully planned Congress in Paris.

Over 600 participants, including 181 young people under the age of 26 and representing 30 % of the total, took full advantage of the facilities afforded by this enchanting city, admiring the memories of the past which contrasted with the newest examples of to-days.

They shared in real-time their emotions, comments and pictures with their relatives and friends at home, using the latest social tools such as Facebook. Several thousand images were published; national communities created groups and messages flew all over the world during the main events of the Congress.

The picture on the left clearly shows that the latest and most advanced items of equipment, such as the iPad, were on duty.

Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux and Jean-Charles Le Masson, who in the last two years have worked hard to ensure a very attractive programme, introduced the opening session. The Congress was officially opened by the Vice President Jaroslav Zaviačič, since the President Gian Paolo Trivulzio was not able to be in Paris and sent a video message. This message is still available at the Web-TV page of intersteno.org.

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It is not easy to transfer the emotions and enthusiasm conveyed by the can-can and hip-hop dance performances of young artists on this occasion. There was a mixture of old-time and modern trends mirroring those in Intersteno with our various means of speed writing, all of them able to cope with the need to record the spoken word and quickly produce texts in accordance with the needs of communication.

The organizers focused the whole Congress on the importance of helping impaired people to be an active part of communication processes, thanks to advanced technology supported by an ability to proficiently use rapid writing methods.

This leitmotiv became reality with the testimony of two Parliamentary reporters, Ms. **Jenny Laval** of the Dutch Parliament and Mr. **Gerd Sandig** of the Landtag of Saxony (Germany). Both people, despite being blind, with slight practical help from their colleagues, are able to produce accurate reports of proceedings.

Mr Sandig uses a special steno machine that generates Braille signs to take down the speech, and is able to reach a speed of 400 syllables per minute. You can read additional information in the reports of the Intersteno Parliamentary Reporters' session which are available below.

Another interesting testimony came from **Mr Martín Córdoba**, steno-grapher at the Parliamentary Assembly in Tucumán (Argentina). Mr Córdoba was born with a physical disability of the left hand. This has not prevented him from becoming an excellent stenographer. However, it did not permit efficient use of keyboarding for his transcripts. In order to overcome this problem he utilised speech recognition, and uses Nuance Dragon software to produce his professional reports. He used the same method at the speech capturing competition in Paris, reaching a speed of 367 syllable in a 10-minute dictation, being 5th out of 48 senior partici-pants in this competition.

A round table discussion, conducted by Mr Jean-Charles Le Masson, joined together the experiences of several countries and included the subject of the education of blind people in the professional use of steno machines. This was conducted by our Spanish colleague Ms. **Liliana Avalos Bulgarelli,** Director of Stenotype España.

Also attending was **Mr Hervé Allart** (Director of Tadeo, a French organisation able to offer real-time services in order to give impaired people the same opportunity to work and communicate with colleagues and customers, and **Ms. Beatrice Souquet** (representing FISAF - French association for Deaf and Blind persons),

All speeches of this meeting were transcribed in real-time and clearly shown on a big screen, by **Mr. Wilhelmus J. Gerbecks**, a reporter using Velotype, a Dutch steno machine.

Competitions

Nearly all of the 328 registered participants from 21 countries were in Paris: The table gives the details.

Country	Qty	Country	Qty
Germany	83	United States	8
Czech Republic	56	Slovakia	7
Hungary	27	Korea	5
Italy	20	Ghana	4
China	19	Argentina	3
Turkey	19	Finland	3
Austria	16	Switzerland	2
Belgium	16	Canada	1
France	16	Spain	1
Netherlands, The	12	United Kingdom	1
Croatia (Hrvatska)	9	Total	328

They generated a total of 590 successful works in the classifications lists. The best three in each category, in addition to the diploma, received a beautiful reproduction of the Eiffel Tower.

Reading these lists one can notice some 'curiosities'. In the text production competition, for the first time a Dutch competitor, **Wilhelmus J. Gerbecks,** used Velotype (an electronic steno machine) reaching the speed of 757,53 characters per minute, which is the highest speed in this championship, even if the classification points are less than the ones obtained by competitors using standard keyboard.

Peter Bruhn, from Germany, was successful in all of the seven competition formulae. He used graphic steno for steno/speech capturing competition in which he reached 220 syllables at the fourth minute, while using speech recognition technology for the real-time competition in which he wrote three of the eight minutes at 205 syllables. Only one other competitor (**Claudio La Greca** of Italy) used the same technology in this kind of competition. Unfortunately several American competitors who were

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scheduled to attend and take part in the speech recognition contests were not able to attend. This was in contrast to their stenotypist colleagues who, after years of minor participation, came in good quantity and with success.

It is necessary to mention that only Germany and Italy had participants using all technologies i.e. keyboarding, traditional steno, stenotype, speech recognition.

Conferences in Paris

An important group of congressmen resisted the temptations of the tourist attractions of Paris and took part in the conference proceedings.

Besides the round table discussion on the main theme of the Congress, Mr **D'Arcy McPherson** of the Canadian Senate made additional contributions about improving the accessibility of impaired people to meetings and reports and underlined the need for new reporters to have a good education. **Dott Carlo Eugeni** (Università di Macerata - Italy) in combination with a Spanish colleague, spoke of experiences in teaching speech recognition using an e-learning platform as well as covering the topic of how to prepare good text in real-time for impaired persons.

Prof. Loredana Bettonte (ISIT - Trento - Italy) shared the experience of education courses for students fighting dyslexia. In these courses a combination of keyboarding and English language education are providing excellent support.

How to face the changes in text and word processing teaching was the subject of a presentation by two Hungarian colleagues **Szücs, Eszter Cecilia Varga** and **Dr. Katalin Hajdicsne**, of the Kaposvár University.

Prof. Waldir Cury, a very active member of the scientific and education committee, reported on the positive experience of distance teaching of shorthand using the Web, a practice which is also under development in several other countries including Belgium, Italy, India and the USA.
The automatic transcription of speeches will have a big impact upon our activities in the future. There were reports of two experiences on this topic: one at the Japanese Dieta, presented by **Prof. Tatsuya Kawahara**, and one already on duty in several Italian courts, by **Ezio Franceschini** (Trento - Italy).
An interesting software program was shown by **Igor Filimonov** (GZOS - Russia). This software can create specific statistical data about the typing on the computer keyboard. It will be a useful tool for teachers and students when seeking to improve their approach on this matter.
Boris Neubauer reported to the Council on the long-discussed matter of comparability of languages for our steno, speech-competitions. An ideal solution is not yet available, but this presentation will help to rethink many aspects not familiar to our young competitors.
Gregor Keller presented a report on the very important situation of associations in Germany.
All original documents available on these important contributions are published at the Conference page of Paris2011 of our website.

IPRS (Intersteno parliamentary reporters section)

The Board of Intersteno approved the appointment of a Steering Committee

to improve the impact of IPRS activity.

The following persons comprise this Committee:

- **Rian Schwarz-van Poppel** (Member of the Board and IPRS Chairwoman)
- **Lida Horlings** (The Netherlands, chair),
- **Patti Calabro** (USA),
- **Marlene Rijkse** (The Netherlands),
- **D'Arcy McPherson** (Canada)
- **Fabrizio Verruso** (Italy).

About 100 reporters attended the Congress, many of them parliamentary colleagues who followed with interest the reports of their fellow reporters, presented on 11th and 14th July. Below you find the reports, while the full presentations and speeches will be available on our website, IPRS menu.

11th July 2011

(The meeting took place in the buildings of the Assemblée Nationale, in the chamber of the Financial Committee. The meeting was preceded by a guided tour of the Assemblée Nationale, provided by the director of the French Parliamentary Reporting Office, Thierry Marchand, and two of his employees.)

Agenda

1   Opening

2   Report IPRS Meeting Budapest (02-10-2010)

3   The profession of parliamentary reporter for disabled persons (Ms Jenny Laval, Mr Gert Sandig)

     Technological developments in the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office (Mr Matthijs Bakker)

5   Logging the Future: tablet-generated e-log in the House of Commons (Mr Owain Wilkins and Mr Tony Minichiello)

6   A short presentation on the verbatim report at the National Assembly: overview, role and evolution (Mr Thierry Marchand)

1 Opening

Chairwoman Ms. Rian Schwarz-van Poppel, board member of the Intersteno Parliamentary and Other Professional Reporters' Section and director of the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office, welcomed the delegations and thanked Mr. Marchand for providing a remarkable location for the IPRS Meeting.

2 Report IPRS Meeting Budapest (02-10-2010)

Was rescheduled to the IPRS Meeting on 14th July because of time shortage.

3 The profession of parliamentary reporter for disabled persons (Mrs Jenny Laval, Mr Gert Sandig)

(Ms Laval was unable to attend due to illness. Ms Schwarz read aloud the presentation of Ms Laval on working with the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office as a visually-impaired reporter.)

Ms Laval explained her method of working. She finds her way to the working spaces and meeting halls of the Dutch Parliament and Senate with the use of her guide dog. She cannot read any printed texts but is perfectly able to work as a reporter with the help of a computer fitted with both a

Braille reading line and a screen reader. She also uses the function of the computer voice.

In the Dutch parliament, reporters work in teams of 13 with five-minute shifts each hour. Ms Laval writes down the speeches in Braille with the help of a stenography machine that produces strips of paper. This, and a digital sound recording, is the basis for her five-minute section of the report. She uses a regular keyboard for text production. The Braille reading line enables her to scroll through texts and make corrections.

Ms Laval stated: "With a few adjustments and a little help from my colleagues I can do my job like any other!"

Mr Sandig, himself visually impaired, spoke on the work of blind stenographers in Germany.

Mr Sandig, a graduate economist, has been working as a freelance steno-grapher since 1965. After extensive training he reaches a maximum speed of 410 syllables per minute. Being a blind person, he uses specially devised stenotype machines producing punched paper strips. These machines are gradually being replaced by electronic registration equipment for blind people.

Mr Sandig observed that a blind stenographer on the job needs to pay attention to a few special circumstances. When working in teams or taking turns, a problem is relieving the stenographer preceding the blind stenographer as he or she cannot keep track of time on his own. The preceding stenographer must give him a starting signal. Reaching the meeting halls and working places is a problem best solved by an accompanying person.

Mr Sandig explained the various appliances to assist the blind, such as speech recognition software, Braille-displays and screen readers. Software systems also assist the blind in using the internet, but pictures and most illustrations cannot be displayed. In his opinion electronic voice recording systems, as used in most parliaments, can be fully used by blind stenographers.

Mr Sandig stated: it is possible for blind stenographers to build up a professional career.

4 Technological developments in the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting

Office (Mr Matthijs Bakker)

(Mr Houdijk, one the initiators of the developments, was unable to attend due to health reasons.)

Mr Bakker, a reporter with the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office, held a presentation on recent technological developments in his office. Reporters in the plenary hall of the Dutch House of Representatives use laptops and a computer mouse instead of pen and steno pad. A whole new method of the reporting routine has emerged, in which the reporters enter their digital notes with a mouse click and thus create a framework for their five-minute section of the report. In effect they take on the role of a marker or logger. They mark new speakers, interruptions, other floor actions and procedural events by choosing items in a list. Each entry has a timestamp attached to it. Also an item list for every specific meeting is available, prepared in advance by a senior editor, with the actual agenda of a sitting.

All of this is enabled by a comprehensive new xml-based software system, named VLOS (Digital Reporting Support System) especially developed for the Dutch Parliamentary Reporting Office. This workflow program deals with the whole reporting process, including metadata and publication on the internet. The program links audio fragments to work documents and assigns ready-made frameworks to the reporters. The reporters in turn can electronically submit their finished reports to a senior editor for review. When a substantial stretch of text has been checked it is published on the intranet and the public website of the Dutch House of Representatives. These publications are updated every hour until the report of the proceedings of one meeting is completed.

VLOS fits in the broader strategy for information management of the Dutch House of Representatives. VLOS will eventually provide tags that enable the public to search through video records.

In answering a question by Ms Calabro of the American delegation, Mr Bakker stated that VLOS is based on Windows-software and will not work on the OS Macintosh-platform.

A member of the Finland delegation wondered how much time and money was spent on developing VLOS. Their system, combining reports from committees and plenary sessions, took five years to develop and cost some € 5 mln. Mr Bakker indicated that developing VLOS took about eight years and a large amount of money. However, VLOS is still not a finished product.

Ms Loreley of the Argentinean delegation, eager to introduce new technologies, asked if VLOS could be used by other parliaments. Mr Bakker responded that VLOS is especially developed by private contractors for and owned by the Dutch House of Representatives.

A member of the Austrian delegation asked if the tagging of video files was functioning. Mr Bakker responded that aligning of the published text report and video files will be a reality in the near feature.

Mr. Minichiello of the UK delegation argued that a lot can be learned from the experiences in developing VLOS. To continue discussions on this theme would be very useful. Mr Bakker proposed that all interested delegations create a working group.

Mr Ramondelli of the Italian delegation pressed the need for parliaments that no longer use stenographers or steno typists to develop VLOS-like

systems on an international, interlingual platform. When asked, five other delegations stated that their parliaments are working on similar programs: Finland, Iceland, UK, Canada and France.

A member of the Icelandic delegation explained that they also work with an xml-based system, although the functions are not combined as in the VLOS-system.

Mr McPherson of the Canadian delegation informed the meeting that the Lower House has worked with a robust but very expensive metadata system called PRISM since 2000. The Upper House was developing a piecemeal system on its own. To his knowledge, the parliaments of Brazil and Portugal were developing their own reporting systems..

Mr Bakker underlined the importance of collaboration and exchanging views between reporting offices. In his view the new handbook by the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament produced by the United Nations offered good ideas on these developments.

Ms Schwarz said that IPRS had already made contact with Mr Casini, head of the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament. Working on this theme is a future task for IPRS.

5 Logging the Future: tablet-generated e-log in the House of Commons (Mr Owain Wilkins and Mr Tony Minichiello)

Mr Wilkins, a Hansard reporter, explained that one of the central ideas of working with a tablet was to make the reporting process more efficient. The current practice in committee reporting involved a sub-editor logging the proceedings on paper. Every 15 minutes a member of staff collected these sections to be scanned. Between 8 to 16 editors then access these logs in PDF-form to report the committee's proceedings, using streaming audio as well. One problem with this process was that on busy days reporters must wait up to half an hour before receiving their log.

With this in mind, the development of the tablet was started in July 2010. It was a process of trial and error, involving management, sub-editors, reporters and tablet developers.

Mr Minichiello, sub-editor for Hansard, elaborated on his experiences with the tablet in Select Committees and Delegated Legislation Committees. The sub-editor writes on the tablet in a normal way with a special pen. Members can be logged by tapping on their name, useful in instances of quick exchanges. In addition, every two minutes the time is inserted in the log. The sub-editor can make corrections in his log going back 20 minutes in time. The log is sent, every minute or so, via a wifi link that is accessible for all reporters. This is very useful in closed meetings.

Working with the tablets has not been imposed on sub-editors overnight. They have managed to use it successfully and see the reason for using it. In committees, one colleague does a paper log as a back-up. The system is still being developed and is not 100 % successful. Battery life, lack of wifi in some committee rooms and the tablet's tendency to freeze continue to be ongoing issues.

Mr Wilkins concluded with the advances made over the past year. These included time tags which made it easier for reporters to find their section of the report, individual boxes for each member, improved navigation enabling "jumping" instead of just "scrolling". In the near future it is planned that sub-editors will be able to draw in procedural fragments from

a menu in the same way that they are currently able to draw in names of members.

Mr Golden, member of the American delegation, asked if it was possible to transfer the digital ink of the tablets to character text. Mr Wilkins said that it was the feasible.

Mr Zwijnenburg, member of the Dutch delegation thought that it would be useful to use a keyboard together with the tablet. Mr Wilkins said that the tablet could be used as a keyboard. The idea behind the tablet was that making it similar to the paper log system would increase the possibility of all 16 or 17 sub-editors making use of it.

Mr Ramondelli was curious to know the difference between sub-editors and reporters. Mr Wilkins explained that the sub-editors log events in the committee rooms and the reporters check and revise reports with the help of the e-log and a digital audio recording.

6 A short presentation on the verbatim report at the National Assembly: overview, role and evolution (Mr Thierry Marchand)

Mr Marchand reported on the structural reform of the verbatim report department. In 2004 a specific computer program, Nickelchrome, was designed to accelerate the output of this department. This new working method had proved very efficient and saved public funds by reorganizing staff structure.

Recent constitutional revisions had led to the creation of a committee report department and a plenary sitting report department. In these circumstances it had been decided to launch SYCERON (Système de Compte Rendu Optimisé Numérique - Optimized System of Digital Report). This was aimed at offering a unique and permanent solution to the needs of the two departments, moving towards a more structured format on the model of .xml. In the future. As before, article 33 of the Constitution concerning the public nature of debates remained essential.

(After the meeting the members of the delegations were invited for drinks at the offices of the French Parliamentary Reporting Office)

14th July 2011

(Venue of the second session of the 2011 IPRS Meeting was the Salle Lisbonne of the Foyer International d'Accueil de Paris (FIAP) Jean Monnet.)

Agenda

1   Opening

2   Mr Tatsuya Kawahara and Ms Junko Masuda: "Automatic reporting. Deployment and initial evaluation of new transcription system using Automatic Speech Recognition in the Japanese Parliament (Diet)"

3   Mr Fabrizio Verruso: "Summary and minute reports in the Italian experience. An analysis of the Italian Constitutional Court"

4   Ms Anna Namysl and Ms Monika Rydel: "The stenographic reports division of the Polish Sejm and Senate"

5   Ms Mi Kyung Cho: "The Korean National Assembly and its stenographic department"

6   Ms Lida Horlings: "Present situation and future of IPRS"

1 Opening

Chairwoman **Rian Schwarz-van Poppel** opened the second session of the IPRS Meeting and welcomed all delegates.

2 New transcription system using Automatic Speech Recognition in the Japanese parliament (Diet) - Mr Tatsuya Kawahara and Ms Junko Masuda

Mr Kawahara is a professor at the Academic Centre for Computing and Media Studies of Kyoto University. He presented a new transcription system, based on the use of Automatic Speech Recognition (ASR), which has replaced manual shorthand writing in the Japanese Diet. The system became fully operational in 2010.

The ASR-system is speaker-independent. In order to customize it for parliamentary speech it was trained by filling it with data, both audio records and texts. A first evaluation, carried out in 2011, showed that in plenary meetings the accuracy was over 95% as compared to the official record.

Nevertheless, the draft produced by means of ASR,requires editing by reporters. The reporters not only have to correct recognition errors but have to deal with the differences between spoken and written language, changing colloquialisms and removing redundancies, fillers, repairs etc. Although some types of revisions can be automated, and the underlying linguistic models are likely to improve in the future, Mr Kawahara emphasized that reporters will continue to play a central role in producing the verbatim report of the proceedings.

Ms Masuda, a supervisor at the Records Department, explained how the new system changed the work of the reporters in the Diet. In general, reporters no longer attend the debates in person, but receive the automatically generated draft record of a five-minute take of the proceedings on their PCs for further processing.

During the discussion with the audience, Ms Masuda added that the total time needed to produce the report had not decreased with the new system. Further training of reporters may result in speeding up the process.

3 Summary and minute reports in the Italian experience - Mr Fabrizio Verruso

Mr Verruso is a parliamentary reporter at the Sicilian Regional Assembly. He examined the legal status of the reports of parliamentary proceedings in Italy and the role of the Italian Constitutional Court in the legislative process. The Italian Chamber of Deputies and Senate have three different types of reports made of their proceedings: a verbatim report, a summary, and minutes.

The minutes are the record of the decisions taken in parliament, together with a list of the subjects discussed and the names of speakers. They are read in public and signed by the President of the Chamber and the Secretary. However, this does not give the minutes a privileged legal status in comparison with the verbatim report.

The summaries are the more widely used reports, yet their legal value tends to be considered as being lower than the verbatim report.

As regards the probative value of the parliamentary reports as a category, it cannot be absolute, since that would conflict with the power of the Constitutional Court. Nevertheless, in Mr Verruso's view the reports do

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have a privileged value among other types of parliamentary documents.

4 The stenographic reports division of the Polish Sejm and Senate - Ms Anna Namysl and Ms Monika Rydel

Ms Namysl, editor, described the working method of the parliamentary reporters in the Sejm. Both chambers of the Polish parliament, the Sejm and the Senate, have their own administrative body, called the chancellery. Reports are made by the stenographic reports division, a name that might be misleading, since in general shorthand is no longer used. Digital audio and video records of the proceedings are broken up into 10-minute segments, which are then transcribed by typists. Reporters edit these draft versions. Moreover, they are present at the plenary debates of the Sejm in 15-minute shifts, which enables them to include interruptions by MPs as well as non-verbal signs in the report.

Ms Rydel, editor at the Polish Senate, addressed the advantages and challenges of remote working. The Senate employs editors who work at home. A coordinator assigns drafts to them that correspond to 10-minute segments of the audio record. The editors can download these texts from the server. Remote working makes it easier to recruit staff, because the working hours are more flexible. A drawback is the communication issues that may arise when it comes to controlling the consistency of solutions chosen by different editors.

5 The Korean National Assembly and its Stenographic Department - Ms Mi Kyung Cho

Ms Cho, reporter, gave an overview of the current situation at the Korean National Assembly and explained the working method of its Stenographic Department. Reports of the proceedings of the Assembly are verbatim. The Stenographic Department has a total staff of 125. Of them 82 are steno-graphers, who take care of not only the reports of the plenary sittings, but the reports of 16 standing committees with subcommittees as well as a large number of special committees. It often occurs that several commit-tees sit at the same time, which causes a heavy workload for reporters.

Ms Cho is a shorthand writer, but the majority of reporters use computer-assisted stenotype machines.

6 Present situation and future of IPRS - Ms Lida Horlings

Ms Schwarz-van Poppel prefaced the final agenda item by saying that it was the ambition of IPRS to become a more professional and active organization. In her opinion there was a need for more active steering of the activities of IPRS. At the meeting of the Intersteno Board the previous Saturday she had submitted a proposal that included the creation of an IPRS steering committee, chaired by Lida Horlings.

Ms Horlings owns an agency for conference reporting. She introduced the other members of the steering committee to the audience: Ms Patti Calabro, Ms Marlene Rijkse, Mr D'Arcy McPherson and Mr Fabrizio Verruso. The steering committee will welcome ideas about the future of IPRS from all delegates.

Ms Horlings listed what she believed should be the priorities for the steering committee. First, it was important better to know who the IPRS members were. Therefore, a member database will be built in the short-term. Secondly, IPRS needed a separate, up-to-date website in English with information about activities as well as follow-up information. Thirdly,

IPRS has to look into ways of stimulating the interchange of knowledge and information between members. Fourthly, IPRS must get a clearer idea of the kinds of activities on which to focus. Should IPRS concentrate on technological options, or were there other topics that deserved attention, such as the recruitment of reporters and the requirements for the reporting profession? Fifthly, IPRS needed more volunteers to effectively administer the organization and get things done. Finally, it was necessary to define the membership and the financial structure of IPRS in relation to the membership and membership fee of Intersteno. If IPRS is to expand its activities it will need the financial means to do so. For the time being, the Board of Intersteno had granted IPRS an annual budget of €1000. Ms. Horlings enquired whether a fee of, for instance, €30 per year for the IPRS membership would be acceptable.

Mr Fausto Ramondelli, the newly elected president of the board of Intersteno, opposed the proposal to turn IPRS into a traditional association with members. In his opinion, IPRS should remain as a forum operating on no other basis than the shared interest of those participating. Apart from that, Mr Ramondelli agreed with many of Ms Horlings' observations. He made a few additional suggestions. First, he stressed the importance of an exchange programme that would allow colleagues from parliaments in developing countries to become acquainted with best practices in established parliamentary reporting offices. Secondly, he suggested that IPRS should organize another half-day conference in addition to the two sessions of the Paris IPRS conference, entirely devoted to parliamentary themes. Thirdly, IPRS should conduct a survey by questionnaire about the way in which parliamentary reporting offices organize their services, as a follow-up to the 1993 enquiry. The information that became available in this way might result in defining a few best practices. Finally, Mr Ramondelli proposed the organisation of workshops on specific topics. This idea was first suggested at the 2010 IPRS Meeting in Budapest.

Ms Schwarz-van Poppel announced that the next IPRS Meeting would be held on the occasion of the Intersteno Council Meeting. This will be in October or November 2012. She expressed the wish to see many of the delegates there again.

Our new President

Dottor Fausto Ramondelli, reporter at the Italian Senate, was elected President of Intersteno during the Assembly in Paris, following proposals submitted by many countries on request of the Board.

He is well known in the Intersteno family since he has been involved in significant activities since 1985, beginning as competitor using the Michela steno machine. He won second place in the top category at the Congress in Sophia and achieved the same result in Istanbul in 1993 with a speed over 420 syllables for the last of the 10 minutes.

Younger people may not be fully acquainted with his qualities, so we

summarise below his curriculum vitae in Intersteno.

Participated actively in the policies of the Federation, co-founding the Intersteno Parliamentary Reporters' Section in 1993 and elaborating the new Statute in 2003.
He served as President (2001-2003) and Vice President (2003-2005).

Member of the Italian Academy "Giuseppe Aliprandi", he taught the shorthand method "Michela" and published several press articles and a book on professional matters. Recently he has investigated the field of distance reporting, subtitling and other newer advanced services.

President's speech after his election in Paris

Dear friends of Intersteno, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for entrusting to me, as President of Intersteno, responsibility for this fine organisation.

Let me thank Gian Paolo Trivulzio, who is my friend and life teacher, and other members of the Board for their hard work that has sustained and enhanced our Federation. Today Intersteno is an efficient organization, open to all technologies and techniques of communication processing, open to many cultures, rich in various experiences, and involving the interests and activities of experts, professionals, teachers and above all young and motivated people.

Let me thank the Secretary General, Danny Devriendt, who represents the continuity of Intersteno and bears the main burden of a prudent and effective administration. Together with the Vice President and the Coordinator of the Scientific Committee he has given Intersteno a newer and professional shape.

Also I want to thank Jacqueline Bertin Mahieux and Jean Charles Le Masson for organizing in a perfect manner the 48th Congress In Paris which has now come to its conclusion.

Although I feel the whole responsibility of my role, I think that the main task for a President of a modern association like ours is coordinating a group of active people to lead and promote their activities. Therefore I will ask for the support of all of you who want to help, bring ideas and good will.

Intersteno is an "evergreen community". Thus it must always face newer and more ambitious challenges.

First, we must gain a more visible position on the international scene: we provide competencies and experiences, and we want to put such wealth at the disposal of the international community of education, labour and research.

We also want to get closer to distant countries and people. We have extended our horizons over new areas and upcoming technologies: we have met new friends and cultures and we have become richer. In such direction the IPRS, the Intersteno section devoted to the parliamentary reporters, led by Rian Schwartz van Poppel, has brought great results by involving professionals coming from various countries. More friends, young friends, have known Intersteno through the internet competition: we have contacted thousands of students and teachers, who are the promise of the future of Intersteno.

On the other side we must improve and, if necessary, rebuild our relationship with old friends in Europe and in South America. One of the most fascinating challenges is to integrate the culture of far eastern countries like China, Korea and Japan into Intersteno. Their ideographic characters are a unique opportunity for broadening our knowledge into new fields.

I express the wish that the Intersteno Congress to be organized in Ghent in Belgium will be as successful as the present one. In a few years we will reach our 50th Congress: 50 Congresses when we have met people, ideas, technologies, cultures and experiences; 50 Congresses which have greatly contributed to the progress of communication processing and of our community.

We are proud of this;, we want Intersteno to forge ahead and successfully achieve all of its goals.

Thank you again and long live Intersteno!!!

Fausto Ramondelli

Approval of complete name of our Federation.

The assembly, following the suggestion of the Board and the Council, approved the adding of 'communication' to the name of the Federation.

Therefore the complete definition of our Federation is:

International Federation for Information and Communication Processing - Intersteno

and its relevant translations in German and French are

Internationaler Verband für Informations- und Kommunikationsverarbeitung - Intersteno

Fédération internationale pour le traitement de l'information et de la communication - Intersteno

Nominations approved during the meetings in Paris 2011

Elections of the coordinator of the Scientific Committee

The council thanks Dr. Boris Neubauer for his work as coordinator of the Scientific Committee during the past years. **Mr. Jean-Charles Le Masson** (France) is elected as the new coordinator of the scientific committee 2011-2013.

Nominations for the members of the Board 2011-2013

The council accepted the proposal of the board and proposed to the General Assembly:

- Dr. Fausto Ramondelli as President
- Mr. Jaroslav Zaviačič as Vice President
- Mr. Mark Golden as Vice President
- Mr. Danny Devriendt as Secretary-Treasurer

- Ms. Rian Schwarz-van Poppel as IPRS-coordinator

The council proposes to change the constitution in articles 7, 8.3a, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3 and 14.4, changing one vice-president into two vice-presidents.

The proposals were accepted by the Assembly, which voted by secret ballot.

Education Committee

An International Steno Education Essay Collection, with contributions of 11 countries is published and distributed by the Chinese group.

Mr. Simon Sun, proposed by the Chinese delegation, is elected as new coordinator of the education committee.

Associated members - Nominations

The Assembly accepts the following new associated members:

- Marten Walsh Cherer LTD (UK - dianatennyson@btinternet.com)
- Sténofac Inc. Canada (Canada - carmelle_rochon@yahoo.com)
- Asociacion Española de Estenotipistas (Spain - galguerapaz@hotmail.com)
- Ms. Linda Drake (USA - linda.drake@nvra.org)
- Ms. Teri Gaudet (USA - teri_gaudet@hotmail.com)
- Conny McKarty Kuhl, San Rafael (USA - sheemack@aol.com)
- Krista Burgeson, Chicago (USA - Krista_Burgeson@ilnd.uscourts.gov)
- Kimberly Turnage, Benbestorf, ConVotex (Germany - kimberly.turnage4@googlemail.com)
- Neeson & Associates Court Reporting and Captioning Inc., Toronto, (Canada - kim_neeson@neesoncourtreporting.com)
- Patalya Roh, Hansard Department Colombo (Sri Lanka - rohana_u@parliament.lk)

Past President

The General Assembly decided to confer upon **Mr. Gian Paolo Trivulzio** the title of Past President of INTERSTENO, for his activity in the last four years, thus respecting his wish not to be named Honorary President.

Intersteno Council members 2011-2013

Some changes in the appointments were announced. The whole list is available at www.intersteno.org - members.

Next events

The events listed here, have been announced in good time by their organisers. If you wish to have your event in our next issue, please send the information at least one month before our issue. The next issue will be released in October 2011.

8 October 2011	Stolze Schrey Steno Championships, including summary reporting competition - Bad Wildungen (DE) - http://www.bz-treysa.de/
16 October 2011	Council Meeting of 'Accademia Aliprandi-Rodriguez' - Firenze (IT) info at www.accademia-aliprandi.it
3-4 November 2011	ZAV Convention - Hodonin (CZ) Info at www.zav.cz
3-6 November 2011	Meeting of the Verband der Parlaments- und Verhandlungsstenografen e.V. - Kiel (DE) - https://www.parlamentsstenografen.de

Our next destination: Ghent. They are waiting for us!

Ghent is the English translation of Gent (in Dutch, since it is in the Flemish part of Belgium), while the French wording is Gand.

Irrespective of how you prefer to name and pronounce it, this historical and modern town will be the venue of our Congress in 2013 as decided by the INTERSTENO General Assembly in Paris on Friday 15th July 2011. The Congress 2013 will run from **13th to 19th July 2013.**

First **tentative** congress information can already be found on the congress website **www.intersteno2013.org**.

The main venue for the 49th INTERSTENO congress will be the **Artevelde University College Ghent, campus Kantienberg**, situated in the heart of the student area, close to the Sint-Pietersplein. Fifteen minutes of walking brings you to the historic city centre of Ghent.

More information on Ghent can be found at www.visitgent.be. You can also join on Facebook (www.facebook.com/Gent2013) and Twitter (@Gent2013). Belgium awaits you in 2013!

The French organisers (on the right of the picture) handed over the Intersteno flag to their Belgian colleagues. One important person is missing in the photo: are you able to discover who he is?

The Turkish Minister of Education meets competitors and teachers who attended the Paris Congress

The Minister of Education Ömer Dinçer, has indicated that the use of smart boards in schools and the delivery of tablet computers to students will start in the second half of 2011-2012. In addition, studies are ongoing to use "F Keyboard" in tablet computers

Minister Dinçer has welcomed the Turkish National Team which won 15 medals in the World Internet and World Computer Keyboarding Championships which took place on 10-15 July 2011 in Paris. Seçkin Köse, Intersteno Council Member and Turkish representative, Vice President of Scientific Works, Communication and Supporting Developments, Activities Association, asked the minister to support the competitions. Mr.Köse stated that typing with 10 fingers was the recommended system in Turkey and that pupils in elementary schools should be trained with "F Keyboard". Mr. Köse added that it was very important that all the institutes offered "F Keyboard" training.

Minister Dinçer stated that Turkey would initiate an important project called "Fatih Project" to enable the use of modern technology in schools in the second half of next year. One part of this project is smart boards. Minister Dinçer said : "We will not use boards with projectors. The screens will be wide screens (65 inch), and computer embedded. Therefore, we will see a touch screen computer as the board. There will also be broadband internet connection enabling us reach various educational resources from all over the world.

The second step of the project is the tablet computer. As you know there is a keyboard in the tablet computers. We have an ongoing study into the

use of "F Keyboard" in the tablet computers. This will create important opportunities. There are around 16 million 800 thousand students in Turkey, and if all these students succeed in using "F Keyboard", we believe the rest of the society will also comply."

Minister Dinçer, congratulated each student who won prizes in the competition and gave MP3 players as gifts.

Ihsan Yener

What's new?

The information herewith is based upon reliable information gathered from various sources but it is not intended as advertising of products, services or producers.

Brunhilde Pomsel, 100 years old, the chief secretary of Joseph Goebbels, head of the Nazi propaganda department.

Since the end of World War II, Brunhilde Pomsel, now 100, has refused all requests for interviews and offers to publish her memoirs. After five months of negotiations she has given a single interview to Bild, Germany's biggest newspaper, in which she describes her four years as the chief secretary of the man closest to Hitler.

She worked as a typist at the propaganda ministry, and its radio station, and was the fastest of the typists. It was an order to be transferred to work for Goebbels, an order that could not be refused.

She took down every word that Goebbels uttered, both his private correspondence and his official orders, Frau Pomsel was employed by Goebbels from 1942 until the end of the war in May 1945. But while his propaganda presented himself to the German people as a jovial fellow Nazi, she remembers him as a cold and distant monster.

As chief secretary, Frau Pomsel had access to top-secret papers which showed how badly the war was going for Germany.

At the end of the war, she was arrested and jailed for five years by the Soviets.

Touch typing on iPad more easy with iKeyboard

Inventor Cliff Thier thinks the iPad is perfect except for one thing: its touch screen is not suitable for touch-typing. That's why he invented iKeyboard.

This simple overlay to an iPad's touch screen lets users feel where the keys are, minimizes mistakes, and lets touch typists take advantage of tactile feedback, as they do when they're typing on a conventional keyboard.

The iKeyboard is at the moment (September 2011) still a project, whereby backers pledge a dollar or more and if there are enough investors and money production will begin. (4000 dollars are needed)

The Book Tomorrow: The Future of the Written Word - Second UNESCO World Forum on Culture and Cultural Industries - Monza (Italy) 6,8 June 2011

UNESCO and the Italian Government in collaboration with the Regione Lombardia, which has provided financial support, organized FOCUS 2011 as announced in the previous issue of our e-news letter 47. Discussions took place mainly about e-books and the relevant aspects linked to the e-book economy, Copyright in the Digital Era and the Digital Library. Texts of the speeches released on this occasion as well as video with short presentations by each speaker (with subtitles in English) are available at this link:

http://focus2011.org/it/
We invite you to read these texts in order to have a view of what is going on in this crucial matter which is changing our way of communicating and teaching.

I take the liberty of reproducing below the last part of the speech of **Janet I. Murray, professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology**. In my opinion these words give a sense of the attitude we must have toward these 'new' ways of communication.

It is now clear that books will not disappear with the advent of digital genres – they will receive ever wider distribution and broader availability as they are instantiated in networked bits as well as in ink on paper. But bringing traditional books into digital form makes us aware of how much more we want from them than the paper-based versions can offer. We want them to be more portable, annotatable, searchable, and more linked

to the world of all the media artifacts they reference: to films, databases, maps, and to the afterthoughts of their authors and the citations of others. The future of books will likely involve the development of new, more dynamic formats and genres that will satisfy the desires awakened by seeing them as part of the digital domain. This will be disturbing to those who fetishise the traditional form of the book, but it will preserve and expand the core function of books – to create a focus for sustained shared attention that deepens our understanding of the world and of one another.

gpt

Exploring new avenues and new contexts: live subtitling and other respeaking applications for (media) accessibility - Antwerp - Friday 21 October 2011

This event was announced in our last issue. We release now the full intensive program of speeches, which will surely be of interest to many people in our community.

Registration and additional information at http://www.respeaking-symposium-antwerp.be/index.php. Carlo Eugeni, who is a member of our Education Committee, is also a member of the Scientific Committee of this event.

- **Alison Attenborough,** RedBee Media:
  "Red Bee Media's use of voice recognition technologies in subtitling"
- **Carlo Aliprandi**, SyNTHEMA Srl:
  "Introducing SpeechTitle2.0, a Respeaking Asset Management System for collaborative live SubTitling"
- **Héctor Delgado**, Óscar Lopes, Estella Oncins, Pilar Orero, Javier Serrano, Jordi Carrabina- CAIAC Research Centre, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona:
  "For an integrated production, delivery and reception of accessible systems over smart telephone applications"
- **Jan Craenen**, independent researcher:
  "Live subtitling of foreign language television programmes: A qualitative analysis of a pilot project"
- **Erik De Snerck**, Vlaamse Radio en Televisie:
  "Manipulating the live subtitling delay"
- **Margot Mieskes**, European Media Laboratory GmnH & Juan Martínez, SWISS TXT:
  "A web-based editor for audio-titling using synthetic speech"
- **Clea Tavella & Federico Spoletti**, SUB-TI:
  "Respeaking: from practice to practice through theory and training"
- **Carlo Eugeni,** University of Macerata:
  "Subtitling RAI programmes in real-time – from speaker-independent speech recognition to live editing"
- **Rita Geens**, University College Ghent & Ghent University:
  "How to train an Interpreter into a Respeaker?"
- **Andrew Lambourne**, SysMedia:
  "Zen and the art of respeaking"
- **Ales Prazak & Jan Trmal**, University of West Bohemia:
  "A Four-phase Re-speaker Training System"
- **Pablo Romero Fresco**, Roehampton University:
  "Respeaking Training Revisited"

- **Alessandro Tescari**, Pervoice:
  "Pervoice subtitling workstation: The new frontier of TV live subtitling"
- **Luuk Van Waes,** University of Antwerp, **Mariëlle Leijten**, University of Antwerp/FWO (Fund scientific research) & **Aline Remael**, Artesis University College:
  "Live subtitling with speech recognition: Causes and consequences of revisions in the production process"
- **Mike Wald**, University of Southampton:
  " Collaborative Correction of Speech Recognition Captioning Errors of Lecture Recordings"
- **Tom Wootton**, Independent Media Support:
  "The Ivory Tower and the Market Place: The commercial and pedagogical requirements of subtitling quality assessment"

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International Federation for Information and Communication Processing
Internationaler Verband für Informations- und Kommunikationsverarbeitung
Fédération internationale pour le traitement de l'information et de la
communication