

A Short Report of the Seminar on The EU's Cultural Network– Iranians; EUCN-I. Bankeryd, Sweden, 28-31 July 2002

Wednesday, August 14, 2002

Background

In 1998 efforts were made by Iranska Kulturforsknings Center, IKFC (Iranian Cultural Research Centre) to create an umbrella organization for immigrant associations within the European Union (EU). This was carried out in 2000 in coordination with IKFC-Gothenburg and Integrationskommitte in Örebro region. In the summer of 2001, IKFC arranged a conference with 40 participants from 34 different associations from Sweden and other EU countries. Regulations for an umbrella organization were put forward after this conference.

Seminar, 28-31 July 2002

A seminar was held from 28-31 July in 2002 to determine the name of the umbrella organization, its goals, aims and future plans including an election for members of the board. This seminar offered the participants an opportunity to exchange experiences and develop new ideas and identify common needs and possibilities for the future. Fifty one participants from different associations belonging to various EU countries, including Great Britain, Netherlands, Germany, France, Norway, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain and Sweden attended the seminar.

- The inauguration of the seminar and welcoming of the participants was carried out by a representative from the Jönköping Commune, Mr. Lars Ingemansson.
- Ms. Inga-Britt Johansson spoke on the Folk High School's role within a democratic society. She is an example of the impact of the people's movement. She began as a housemaid and thereafter worked at Volvo and studied in ABF simultaneously to eventually become a member of the Swedish Parliament for 16 years. She was later chosen as the Swedish Representative in the European Union.
- Mr. Arne Hasselgren spoke on 100 years of Struggle of a democratic Sweden. After his doctorate in Physics and Engineering and being a Dean of a university, he came back to work with the ABF, since he was born to working class parents. To a question he answered that he had completed a full circle by coming back to workers' interests and issues.
- Mr. Reza Talebi, who in a short time, integrated himself and took on his shoulders various responsibilities in the ABF "Workers' Association in Sweden", spoke on Olof Palme International Centre.
- Mr. Peter Lundvall, (a representative of the Miljö Parti), spoke on the EU's Integration Policy, which the other participants found interesting.

Aims and Objectives the umbrella organization shall stand for:

The participants approved the name of the umbrella organization "EU's Cultural Network– Iranians, EUCN-I." They also approved the regulations and elected the members of the board and the working scout of EUCN-I. A representative from EUCN-I was also elected for the various EU countries.

They discussed and agreed on the following issues:

1. To strive for a continuous cooperation between associations at the EU level;
2. To promote understanding and solidarity between people;
3. To work as the main figure on the cultural arena and to counteract anti democratic forces;
4. To create understanding between different cultures within the EU through cultural functions;
5. To try to achieve better integration both for adults and the youth;
6. To struggle against racism, violence, narcotics and use of drugs;
7. To pursue different types of activities concerning women, children, human rights and equality of sex;
8. To organize joint seminars, exhibitions, group trips, study tours, camps etc.
9. To build a meeting point to spread knowledge around EU's rules and what they convey to these citizens with foreign background, support participation in activities directed towards immigrants, facilitate exchange of experience between different associations and revert with the associations'

Postadress: IKFC, Box 2125, 42402 Angered

Tfn/Fax: 031 43 47 51

Besöksadress: Hjällbo: Skolspåret 43,

Mobil: 0707 856649 (Davoud), 0707 80 49 88 (Abdi)

Eriksbo: Hjällbogärdet 4

ikfc@eucn.org

Angered: ABF-huset, Vån 3, Angered Centrum

www.eucn.org/ikfc

points of view back to the EU.

The seminar was financed by:

Örebro commune (10,000 SEK), ABF-Gothenbug (7,000 SEK), IKFC-Gothenbug (3,750 SEK) and participating associations (600 SEK/person).

Travel costs were paid by the participants themselves and some work done honorary.

The seminar was successfully concluded on 31st July at 4:00 pm.

List of the names of participants with their addresses and telephone numbers is attached.

We would like to whole-heartedly thank all the participants and particularly those who helped the seminar financially and actually for their goodwill and kind cooperation for making the seminar a big success.

With Best Regards,

Davoud Navaian
(Project Leader of the Seminar)

Mobil: 0046 707 85 66 49
E-mail: Navaian@telia.com
Tef/fax: 0046-31 434751
Post Address: Box 2125
424 02 Angered
SWEDEN