

Minutes of the meeting of the Toscaireacht

Date 29 September 2008

Time 1pm

Venue No 12 Merrion Sq

Present

Anthony Cronin, Seórse Bodley, Mannix Flynn, Alice Hanratty, Samuel Walsh, Brian Maguire, Macdara Woods, Mary FitzGerald, Éibhlís Farrell.

In attendance

Toby Dennett (Registrar), Katie Lowry (International Arts and Artists Supports Officer)

Apologies

Apologies from Dermot Healy noted.

Election of Chair

Brian Maguire was elected to chair the meeting

Issue of Aosdá na and interpretive and performig artists

The Chair requested that each member give their opinion on the issue at hand.

Anthony Cronin presented a draft letter that he had composed and which he proposed be forwarded to the Arts Council. Sam Walsh presented a written document with observation on the issue for consideration.

After a lengthy discussion, during which many different views were expressed it was agreed to send the following letter to Mary Cloake as representing the views of the Toscaireacht.

The text of the letter read as follows

I have been asked by the Toscaireacht to give you a summary of its conclusions at the special meeting on September 29th.

We would like to express once again our pleasure at the fact that the Arts Council has decided to institute an analogous body to Aosdá na for artists whose mé tier is performance of various kinds. We will give any assistance we can in the actual institution of such a body and the drawing up of its rules and regulations. We believe however that our role in these matters should be an advisory one and that direct participation on our part would, for a number of reasons be inadvisable.

What could be especially deleterious to both bodies would be for Aosdá na to have any role or function in relation to membership on a case by case basis. We feel that even the use of the name Aosdá na would be wrong in several respects and could lead to many confusions.

However, the Toscaireacht would like to repeat the welcome extended to the idea of an analogous body by the General Assembly and would express the hope that the new body would be equal but independent in all respects to Aosdá na. We also hope and expect that there will be fraternal interaction between the two bodies of a celebratory or formal kind.

With regards to the working party, which some members had already expressed interest in it was agreed that as the document distributed requesting volunteers for the working group was sent without the permission of the Toscaireacht then the Toscaireacht were not responsible for those that responded.

The Toscaireacht asked that the Registrar and Arts Council Officer leave the room so as the Toscaireacht could have the opportunity to continue their discussions in private.

The Registrar and Officer left the room.

ENDS