

AIB – Western European Region General Business Meeting

Catania, 14th December 2007

From 18.30 to 19.30hrs

Attendees:

		AIB Member	
		YES	NO
Danny Van Den Bulcke	University of Antwerp	X	
Peter Buckley	University of Leeds	X	
Torben Pedersen	Copenhagen Business School	X	
Ulf Andersson	Uppsala University	X	
John Dunning	University of Reading	X	
Klaus Macharzina	University of Hohenheim	X	
John Cantwell	Rutgers University	X	
Alain Verbeke	University of Calgary	X	
Gabriel Benito	BI Norwegian School of Management	X	
Rob Van Tulder	RSM Erasmus University	X	

The meeting was chaired by Torben Pedersen, the new Chapter Chair AIB-WER, assisted by the Secretary/Treasurer, Ulf Andersson.

The Chapter Chair regretted that so few members were attending the meeting and wondered if it was linked to the slot within the conference. He welcomed the attendees and invited them to fill in the list of attendance.

He asked if there were suggestions with regard to the agenda (which had been circulated via e-mail with the invitation to attend the meeting) and/or remarks about the minutes of the Fribourg meeting) which had been mailed to the participants beforehand).

As no suggestions or comments were made, both the agenda and the minutes of the Fribourg meeting were approved.

Agenda

1. Opening remarks (Torben Pedersen, Chapter Chair)
2. Report on the AIB Chapter Chair Meeting in Indianapolis - July 2007
3. Membership activities
4. Future AIB conferences
5. AOB (open floor)

1. Opening remarks

Without going into detail, the Chapter Chair reminded the attendees that there had been quite a hectic debate about the relationship between EIBA and AIB during the last few years. The issue had been solved last year by setting up a constitution and by electing two officers, i.e. a Chapter Chair and a Secretary/Treasurer.

Torben explained that as new officers they had set themselves the following two tasks:

1. Calm down the heated debate between the two associations;
2. Clarify the position of the two associations which are two different entities. EIBA is de facto organizing all relevant activities like annual conferences, PhD-tutorials and intellectual debate among IB-scholars in Europe. AIB is doing the same on a global scale. .

Next Torben mentioned the goals they had set themselves for the coming year:

1. Investigate the possibility of a common membership for AIB and EIBA;
2. Increase the visibility of AIB in EIBA and vice versa (e.g. by organizing an EIBA panel at the AIB conference and vice versa).

The first step in the direction of increasing the visibility would be to promote the forthcoming AIB conference in Milan to the EIBA. Danny Van Den Bulcke mentioned that EIBA in its recent Newsletter EIBA-zine had already done this by publishing a special invitation to its members, written by John Cantwell. Torben and Ulf asked if a separate promotion mailing could also be forwarded by the EIBA secretariat to its members. On behalf of the EIBA Board, Danny answered that the Secretariat would be pleased to do this. However, he hoped that the Chair and Secretary of AIB-WER would make sure that AIB would similarly announce the EIBA activities in a prominent way.

2. Report on the AIB Chapter Chair Meeting in Indianapolis - July 2007

The Chapter Chair briefly reported on the AIB Chapter Chair Meeting which took place in Indianapolis last July. He pointed out that there were many differences between the various AIB Chapters.

The main issue discussed during that meeting was related to funding. The AIB is willing to increase its support to the activities of the Chapters by allocating 5\$ per member.

It was recognized that the main motive of AIB for doing this was to recruit new members via the various Chapters. John Cantwell mentioned that AIB-UK had engaged in a special membership drive which had been very successful.

While he did not disagree with the objectives, Danny expressed a certain concern about focusing exclusively on the needs of AIB and its expansion plans. Other members expressed some doubt about the small amount (+/- 500\$) that was made available. Peter Buckley replied to this by referring to the AIB-UK where with such limited financial support the Secretariat had indeed been very successful.

The Chapter Chair closed the discussion by re-assuring the attendees that AIB WER should not be regarded as a threat to EIBA, but rather as a win-win opportunity for both organisations.

3. Membership activities

The Chapter Chair reported that the first initiative to increase the visibility of EIBA within AIB should be a special panel during the AIB Conference 2008 in Milan.

Danny mentioned that at the request of John Cantwell, Vice Chairman of AIB and Conference Chair in Milan, the EIBA Fellows had agreed to organize a panel on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the European Union. The topic of the panel addressing European Integration was suggested by John Cantwell.

4. Future conferences

The Chapter Chair announced that the locations of the forthcoming AIB conferences were:

2008	Milan
2009	San Diego

5. AOB

No other remarks or suggestions were made. Consequently, the meeting was adjourned.
