

European Federation of National Institutions for Language



NEDERLANDSE TAALUNIE

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Dr. Linde van den Bosch
Secretary-General of the
Nederlandse Taalunie
Postbus 10595
2501 HN Den Haag
Nederland

Date: 15 May 2007

Re: Evaluation

Dear Dr. van den Bosch,

On behalf of the Executive Committee of EFNIL, I thank you very much for your letter of 17 April 2008 and the enclosed documents pertaining to the evaluation of the Nederlandse Taalunie's engagement in EFNIL. (I hope, it was not really meant to be an evaluation of EFNIL by the Taalunie, as the reference line of your letter suggests. A legitimate evaluation of an international organization such as EFNIL could not simply be initiated and carried out by just one of its member institutions; it would have to involve the decision-making body of EFNIL, and it would also need international participation.) We are glad to learn that the group of Dutch and Belgian experts commissioned by your Committee of Ministers came to an overall positive estimation of EFNIL, its activities, and, above all, the role of the Nederlandse Taalunie in these activities. We are very pleased with the recommendation of your commission and the Committee of Ministers to the Taalunie not to interrupt its valuable function and work as the secretariat of EFNIL. We are especially glad that you as the Secretary-General of the NTU take this recommendation to confirm the strong commitment of your institution to continue its collaboration with all the other partner organizations and to further contribute to the realization of the objectives of EFNIL. I can assure you that the other members of the Executive Committee and I highly appreciate this commitment.

Let me also thank you for passing on the answers that several of the EFNIL members gave to the list of questions that your commission asked them. From this, we get an additional impression of the convergent and sometimes varying expectations and attitudes of at least some of our members towards our organization and its goals.

The Executive Committee will use its next meetings to discuss in greater detail the suggestions of the commission for the future activities of EFNIL. Since some of these recommenda-

tions (i.e., focus on language use within the EU institutions, involvement of regional language institutions) touch on principle lines and goals of our organization, I will also convey them to the General Assembly of EFNIL. Concerning the recommendation to raise the profile of EFNIL by a better dissemination of its reports and findings, we will, of course, also need special efforts of the secretariat.

The General Assembly will also have to be asked to agree with the proposed financial compensation of the NTU for its work as secretariat of EFNIL. I consider this expectation of the Taalunie as just and fair. The suggested amount would doubtlessly cover only part of the labour costs for the secretarial activities. However, I am confident, you too will agree to the fact that work for a non-profit organization such as EFNIL can never be completely compensated and has to be considered at least in part as an investment in the mission of EFNIL and its individual member institutions. Otherwise, we would also have to pay other members of the executive committee for their share of EFNIL work. When we discussed this topic at the last committee meeting, I got the impression that other committee members are also positively inclined to your proposal. As the proposed amount and its purpose are not earmarked in the present budget of EFNIL, a final decision will have to wait until the General Assembly on November 14. Therefore, I confidently hope for your understanding that concerning this matter I can give you only this provisional answer. Concerning the financial aspects in general, the Executive Committee will continue its efforts to gain sufficient funding of EFNIL's projects and organizational costs, especially those of a permanent secretariat.

With my best wishes for a continued harmonious and fruitful co-operation

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Lidd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Gerhard Stickel
President of EFNIL