



Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus

Association Loi 1901, Etablissement d'Utilité publique

Correspondance : *La petite Bruyère, F-03430 - Tortezaïs*

Siège : c/o Yves Lenoir, 58, rue Bobillot, 75013 Paris

Report of the Ordinary General Meeting of *Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus* (Children of Chernobyl Belarus)(15/11/2019 from 14h to 19h)

at the *Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme*, 38 rue Saint-Sabin in Paris

The Ordinary General Meeting began at 2:15 p.m. after registration of the persons present and counting of the persons represented:

present: 19 persons,

represented: 20 persons,

out of a total of 353 members who have paid their dues. There is no quorum required for an Ordinary General Meeting. The conditions for a regular OGM are therefore met.

It should be noted that the Board of Directors is not complete. Two of its members, Jean-Claude and Maryse Mary, were unable to attend due to unavoidable circumstances. A message was read at the beginning of the meeting assuring that Jean-Claude's candidacy for the position of Treasurer to replace Françoise Tailhan, who had resigned, was maintained.

The President's report:

- draws attention to the health problems in the contaminated areas of Belarus and proposes that Alexey Nesterenko should work with his local partners to collect data on therapeutic abortions and births of children with congenital malformations as a prerequisite for an action plan for young women who are pregnant or at risk of becoming pregnant.

- highlights the growing difficulty that ETB faces in raising enough funds to meet the association's financial commitments to Belrad. A downward trend to be reversed.

- regrets that ETB and the three associations mentioned below account for around 80% of Belrad's revenues. This situation is unhealthy. The Institute's German, American, Italian and other partners should significantly increase their support, beyond symbolic and/or irregular contributions.

- insists, in view of the significant increase in the cost of living in Belarus, on increasing the amount paid contractually to the Institute by €2,000 per month.

- recalls the essential support, amounting to 15 to 25% of the annual transfers to Belrad, of the three associations - *Les Enfants de Chernobyl* (Alsace), *Les Enfants de Chernobyl ASBL* (Belgium) and *Soigner les Enfants de Chernobyl* (Switzerland).

The President's report was adopted unanimously.

The increase in monthly payments to Belrad, granted with the provisional budget for the year 2020, is not approved unanimously, however, due to two refusals to vote.

Adoption of the report implies the intensification and diversification of the association's activities, beyond the thirty or so events in which it has been involved for more than half a dozen years. An urgent appeal to our members to this effect will appear in the next newsletter.

Financial report of the Treasurer:

At the beginning of November, the accounts of Children of Chernobyl Belarus were audited and approved by the chartered accountant Jean-Bernard Coeuret, whose report is brought to the attention of the meeting.

The Treasurer, Françoise Tailhan, presents the new methodology for accounting using an online database made available on the website "*mon-asso-facile.com*". The data transfer will be completed within a short period of time. This new methodology will ensure that updating of accounts is done safely in real time for each transaction.

The report recalls the many problems encountered during the last financial year, in particular the toughening of the procedure for controlling transfers from France to Belarus.

The report was voted unanimously with thanks from all for the work accomplished during the year.

Jean-Claude MARY, the only candidate for ETB's Treasury to replace Françoise TAILHAN, who is leaving office, is unanimously elected. The association's new correspondence address is therefore as follows:

ETB, c/o Jean-Claude MARY, La Petite Bruyère, 03430 TORTEZAIS, France.

Belrad Activity Report by Alexey Nesterenko:

Alexey Nesterenko presented his report in the form of a commented slide show.

From 1 September 2018 to 31 May 2019, Belrad's mobile teams operated in the contaminated territories of Mogilev, Brest, Gomel and Minsk from Monday to Friday without interruption. The district of Brest, while appearing not to be very contaminated, presents, in reality, children's contamination levels among the highest on average in the country. This is due to the low potassium content of the soil which means that plants easily absorb radionuclides.

14,341 children were measured; the highest contamination figures were found in Bragin (198 Bq/kg) and Stolin (411.8 Bq/Kg). 1,397 children benefited from a *Vitapect* cure. The mobile laboratory made 249 food measurements. The slide show presented by Alexey Nesterenko can be consulted in the OGM 2019 section of the association's website.

The average Cs137 contamination of children has decreased but a significant proportion is in the range of 20 - 100 Bq/kg. This confirms the need to continue the entire programme: education, training in food radioactivity measurement, campaigns to measure body contamination and distribution of *Vitapect* when necessary. The situation in schools where children do not receive free clean food provided by the state is the most worrying because, in general, it is cheaper for their parents to have them go home for lunch.

After almost thirty years of existence, Belrad can note with satisfaction that the culture of radiological protection is transmitted from parents to children in families whose parents were "at the Belrad school" in their childhood, during the 1990s.

Measurements of contamination of forest products confirm the persistence of a very elevated proportion of mushroom and berry samples exceeding legal marketing limits. These two categories represent an important part of food in rural areas.

Alexey Nesterenko informed the meeting of the impact of the Belarusian government's natalist policy: in order to halt a worrying demographic decline, large families are heavily subsidised, which encourages the poorest families, usually living in the countryside, to have many children. It is in the countryside, among poor families, however, that the use of forest products is most frequent. This natalist policy makes the radiological protection of pregnant women and women of childbearing age more urgent than ever.

Pause

Other matters:

- Yves Lenoir presents the project designed with Alexey Nesterenko to celebrate in 2020 the 30th anniversary of the founding of Belrad in October 1990 by Vassily Nesterenko. Alexey Nesterenko will study the feasibility of a two-day meeting at the Nadezhda Rehabilitation Centre located 80 km north of Minsk. It will involve as many people and organisations as possible who have collaborated with Belrad and/or benefitted from its activities. The most favourable period, which is chosen *a priori*, is the holiday period at the beginning of November. ETB and Belrad share the challenge to make this endeavour succeed.

- Belrad plans to gradually replace, one per year, the four WBCs (Whole Body Counter – anthropogammametric chairs used to measure the radioactive load of children) that remain in service. Of the eight acquired by the Institute in the mid-1990s, three are still functioning normally, but the fourth is of some concern. This means that it is urgent to find a solution quickly. After studying the very small market for this type of equipment, it appears that only one manufacturer, Ukrainian, offers a WBC that meets Belrad's needs. It remains to negotiate a lighter weight for the equipment and the conditions for acquiring a first machine.

Once the decision has been taken, ETB will have about seven months to raise the funds, outside the framework of the provisional budget already voted. After discussion, it is decided to finance the purchase of this first machine (about €27,000) and its official approval (about €7,000) through a crowdfunding operation. Mona Hugot is in charge of setting up this operation. The most complete possible list of potential subscribers should be drawn up.

- After discussion and exchange of ideas on their form and content, the assembly approves the manufacture of a thousand oval stickers by the company Print24. Michel Hugot will be in charge of the design. It is intended to offer the stickers as a bonus for the purchase of books, brochures, DVDs and CDs. Recipients can place them on their vehicles and, if they receive several, encourage acquaintances to do likewise.

