

Paris application

for the choice of the city for the 2005 ILGA-Europe conference

Paris has a team and the support of the major LGBT organizations in France, a good chance of obtaining local and national funding and support, a choice of two different conference sites, the contacts necessary to invite key speakers from France, the possibility of exciting social events, and the capacity for finding many volunteers.

Since 1979, the ILGA Europe conference has been organized in more than 20 different cities but never in Paris ; in 1992, the world conference was organized in Paris. Since then, the LGBT movement in France has become stronger and French society has changed quite a lot.

1 Our team

Our team of about 12 people formed an association (it is a non-profit organization under French law, « loi de 1901 ») named "Association pour l'accueil de la conférence de l'ILGA-Europe à Paris en 2005" (ILGA-Europe Paris 2005) on April 26th, 2003, with a board of 5, to begin :



- *Robert Simon* (G), president, is member of David et Jonathan, APGL, Homosexualités et Socialisme, L'Autre Cercle, has been involved with ILGA since 1992 and participated in two ILGA Europe conferences and one world conference;
- *Armand Hotimsky* (T), deputy-president, is co-president of Caritig and participated in several ILGA-Europe meetings, especially on transgender issues;
- *Christine Le Doaré* (L), treasurer, is the former president of SOS Homophobie;
- *René Lalement* (G), secretary, is president of the homosexual deportation memorial, former spokesperson of Inter-LGBT, now in charge of European affairs for its board, and has been the French delegate in the ILGA European national network;
- *Pierre Serne* (G), delegate of Inter-LGBT in the board, is the president of the LGBT group inside the Green party, and was the representative of the Green Party for the ILGA-Europe conference in Lisbon.

Several other persons contribute, coming from Globe (employees of an international organization), David et Jonathan, Act up Paris, Homosexualités et Socialisme, Caritig, Autre Cercle, Juristes Gais, Gay International Circle of Paris; *Isabelle Cruette*, former ILGA-Europe board member joined our team.

Web site : www.ilgaeuropeparis2005.org

2 Our funding strategy

We are planning to contact between 10 and 20 private companies (Air France, IBM, fashion companies, LGBT companies, companies where there is a LGBT group).

Social events to raise money can be : a party in 2004, another one in 2005 and possibly a concert during the conference with LGBT art groups (open to the public, it will raise some money).

We will have financial and material support from the City of Paris. We may ask the Senate or the Assemblée Nationale to give us a room for the opening ceremony. We will also ask for some financial support from the regional and national.

3 A nice place for the conference

We found two possible sites for the conference : the Jean Monnet center and an Ibis hotel. Both can offer a large number of bedrooms, a conference room for 200 persons several rooms for the workshops and the management of the conference and a cyberspace, and they welcome people in wheelchairs. Close to public transportation, they not very far from the center of Paris (3.4 and 3.9 km from Le Louvre).

The Jean Monnet center (www.fiap.asso.fr) has 200 bedrooms, 2 restaurants, a disco, a conference room for 200 persons and 16 meeting rooms. The bedrooms have between 1 and 6 beds. There are only 15 single bedrooms, but nice 2 or 3 star hotels nearby offer single rooms. There is space for exhibits. The price per

person (including breakfast) is between 22,50 and 51 €/night. Food is between 10,60 € a meal to 34 €. Located in the 13th arrondissement of Paris (south), it has been an European accomodation centre in the heart of Paris for the last 30 years.

Hotel Ibis has 700 bedrooms (double or single), 2 restaurants, a piano bar, a fitness center (with a swimming pool, a sauna and a hammam), a closed parking lot. The price of a single bedroom is 90 € (including breakfast). Lunch is 29 €. It is located in the 17th arrondissement of Paris (north west).

Individuals from Paris may also be willing to welcome some participants to the conference in their homes.

4 Potential speakers and pre-conference

Our role is to find speakers from France. We have the ability to invite : some ministers, the chairperson of the regional council, the mayor of Paris and some deputy mayors, French members of the European Parliament, the presidents of Amnesty International France, Ligue Française des Droits de l'Homme, International Federation of Human Rights (based in Paris), the leaders of workers unions and of the employers union, of family and parents associations, the chairman of the scientific committee of the Global Fund against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, who is also the director of the French research agency against AIDS, the representative of France at the UN conference on Women's rights in Beijing, a specialist of Human Rights issues at the UN level, famous artists and political leaders. We will try to have a message from Jacques Chirac, president of the French Republic.

We can propose different themes for a pre-conference, such as developping LGBT studies in Europe, fighting discrimination in the workplace, practising adoption by LGBT people, or preserving our history.

5 Potential social events

We will be able to organize : an opening ceremony (on Wednesday evening?) at the Town Hall, the Senate or the National Assembly, a cocktail at the Town Hall (on Saturday afternoon?) ; walking visits of gay Paris, of lesbian Paris, and a visit of Paris by bus; a common dinner on a river boat, at the second floor of the Eiffel Tower, or at La Coupole (a nice Art Déco room), and dinners in different gay and lesbian restaurants; a concert and a visit to an exhibit ; a party in some night clubs ; a visit to Versailles, after the conference (Sunday afternoon).

Most of these social events will be open to members of French LGBT associations who will not have the time (or the money) to participate in the conference but will be interested to meet LGBT people from other countries. This is an important issue for us, as our goal is to help French people discover ILGA and what LGBT associations in other European countries do.

6 Our volunteers

As our project is supported by Inter-LGBT (French umbrella organization with 63 member associations), by the Paris Gay and Lesbian Centre (CGL-Paris, 53 member associations), by the Alliance of LGBT Centres of France (10 regional centers), by SOS Homophobie, by the Syndicat National des Entreprises Gaies (SNEG) and other associations, it will be easy to find volunteers through them. CGL-Paris has a lot of permanent volunteers and Inter-LGBT has the ability to gather volunteers for special events (Pride March, forum). We will also try to involve student associations: it may be easier for them to be free during the day and they are more likely to speak foreign languages fluently. CGL-Paris and SNEG are presently the only LGBT associations which have paid staff ; if we need to hire somebody, they will do it for us (in exchange of money) ; they will also help for the logistics.

We hope that our friends from Glasgow and Budapest will help us determine the number of volunteers that are necessary and which skills they need, as well as give us some advice on how to organize their work.

Should ILGA-Europe members so decide, we will be proud to invite ILGA-Europe members to Paris, one of the most lesbian and gay-friendly capitals in the world, in a country which bridges northern and southern Europe and whose people cherish liberty and diversity.

Paris, September 21st, 2003