

Korrespondenz Shackel

Zurich, August 31, 1964

Dr. B. Shackel
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Great Britain

My dear Brian,

Thank you very much for your letter of August 15 and for all the trouble you have gone to to find a solution for our IEA. I will send your proposal to all members and I think it will be discussed at the General Assembly in Dortmund.

Now, may I add my personal comments to your proposal:

I agree that an international union of national organisations would be the most efficient set-up for an international organisation. But there are two arguments against such an exclusive solution:

- 1) Many countries have no national organisation dealing with ergonomics (Denmark, Norway, Finland, Austria, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and others). Today only the French, Dutch and Italian national societies of ergonomics are associate members of the IEA. It is possible that the Research Society of Great Britain and the Human Factors Society of the USA will join us in the near future.
- 2) Some countries have national organisations where the field of ergonomics plays only a secondary part, e.g. as part of Occupational Medicine, of Production engineering or of Economics.

For these reasons I tried, with my proposal of statutes, a compromise giving to the national ergonomics societies the leadership of the IEA and to the individual members the possibility of advising and guiding to some extent our Association.

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8/31/64

Your argument that only an international union can associate with other international bodies is only partly right. Some of the international bodies do accept an international association whether it is a federation or not. Some others, like the International Labour Office, do not officially recognise any international organisation regardless whether it is a federation or not. In my opinion I do not think that the association with one of the international organisations you mentioned in your letter is of great importance.

I am now curious to see what our Committee and what the General Assembly will decide. Anyway, I thank you very much for your cooperation and for your interest in our IEA.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,

cc. Prof. S. Forssman, Stockholm