

## Agenda GM

### 1. Opening of General Meeting

Welcoming speeches by Catharina Fredriksson, mayor of Oxelösund and president of Douzelage  
Giving the opportunity to add points to the agenda  
Settle the agenda

### 2. Approval of the Bad Kötzting GM minutes

Approval of the minutes of GM in Bad Kötzting, 11-14 May 2017

### 3. Approval of the accounts 2017 (January - December 2017)

- Brief explication on financial status of Douzelage account by Harry Crombag, treasurer Douzelage Europe
- The Douzelage accounts are checked by two auditors: Shane Smyth and Marcus Ainley
- Statement by Shane Smyth on the Douzelage account of 2017
- Account approved by the meeting
- Granting discharge to the auditors
- Appointing new auditors and thanking Shane Smyth for his work

### 4. Annual Douzelage membership

- It is proposed to remain at € 350,- for the annual fee according to the decision taken in Sesimbra  
(The contribution of € 50,- for maintenance and transport of the simultaneous translation equipment is part of the annual fee according to the decision taken in the GM in Siret)

### 5. Future status Douzelage Sherborne after completed Brexit

Mrs. Jill Hogben, Mayor of Sherborne, will address the GM  
Outcome of main and mutual thoughts of towns concerning the topic will be given by the Presidency (annex 1)  
Room for discussion

### 6. (Social) Media and PR

- Douzelage website: [www.douzelage.eu](http://www.douzelage.eu) and 'members only section' - brief explanation by Alexander Luns
- Douzelage Facebook page and Facebook editors
- Douzelage Wikipedia page
- Douzelage Dropbox account (annex 2)
- (New) Douzelage Pin
- Youth Diploma - brief explanation by Mette Grith Sørensen

### 7. Past projects and activities within our towns

Past activities can be found on our website under 'Oxelösund'  
Two hard copies can be looked at during breaks of the GM

## Agenda GM

### 8. (Future) projects and activities within our towns

Youth project	Houffalize
Via Douzelage	Meerssen
Presentation new projects	Chojna
Young Musicians	Granville 2018 (Is it possible to have the winning town host the next one in 2020?)
New project 2019	Agros
Sky Race 2018	Bellagio
Douzelage Photo Contest	Presidency (Mette Grith Sørensen)
(New) Douzelage Banner	Presidency

### 9. Withdrawal Prienai (Lithuania) from Douzelage

(annex 3)

Voting procedure

### 10. New town in Lithuania: Rokiskis

(annex 4)

Presentation by Miha Jese and Mr. Antanas Vagonis, Mayor of Rokiskis

Voting procedure

### 11. Conference “Virtuous models of solidarity, inclusion and decentralised cooperation”, Rome

Presentation by Tibi Rotaru

### 12. Visit to the European Parliament in Brussels

Presentation by Mario Calleja

### 13. Reports of the GM workshops

Outcome and presentation by the workshop leaders of workshop A, B and C

### 14. Honorary vice presidents

Honorary and ceremonial status of vice presidents

(annex 5)

### 15. Program for further meetings

2019 Asikkala

2020 Skofja Loka

2021 Marsaskala

2022 Any volunteers?

(annex 6)

### 16. Presentation of Asikkala

Hosting the GM in 2019 and information on the theme

## Agenda GM

17. **Skofja Loka 2020**  
Setting a date for the GM in Skofja Loka
18. **Any Other Business**  
Time for questions and announcements
19. **Education Meeting report**
20. **Youth Meeting report**
21. **Questionnaire**  
Please fill in the attached questionnaire and hand it over to Femie, Secretary Presidency, thank you! (annex 7)
22. **Closing the General Meeting 2018**

## Annexes GM

### **Annex 1 Views of 23 Douzelage towns on Brexit and its consequences for Sherborne**

On the 27th of March a pdf with views on the above mentioned topic were sent to all Douzelage towns. The pdf contained 21 letters of our Douzelage towns. After that date, a letter from Altea and one from Siret were received as well.

**Please find the letters on pages 5 - 27**

### **Annex 2 Douzelage Dropbox Account**

It came to our attention that members have trouble viewing the photo's in the Dropbox Account. On this account photo's of last years GM are shown. The photo's of Bad Kötztzing will be deleted from the Dropbox page shortly after the GM in Oxelösund (this is due to limited capacity of the Dropbox account). Then photo's of the GM in Oxelösund will be uploaded.

The link to the Bad Kötztzing photo's: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/n52mtlo166s87wl/AAe69COVDMTy-TzANP42Glaa?dl=0>

### **Annex 3 Withdrawal Prienai (Lithuania) from Douzelage**

On the 18th of October the Secretariat has informed you that Prienai no longer wishes to be part of Douzelage. Their motivation letter was sent on the 23rd of October.

**Please find the letter on page 28**

### **Annex 4 New town in Lithuania: Rokiskis**

On the 4th of April the Secretariat informed you that we have found a possible new member in Lithuania. Delegates from Rokiskis will be present at our General Meeting in Oxelösund.

**Please find their letter of intent on page 29**

### **Annex 5 Honorary vice presidents**

During the last General Meeting in Bad Kötztzing (2017), the meeting agreed upon adding Mike Balfour and Mario Calleja to our list of honorary members of Douzelage.

We could like to state that an honorary vice president is a ceremonial status. It will differ from the honorary status of a president of Douzelage. A (former) president of Douzelage is treated like a delegate during GM's. This will not be the case for honorary vice presidents.

### **Annex 6 Statistics on who hosted when and where**

Two files are added to this agenda to show you which towns hosted GM's, what year and how many times.

**Pages 30 and 31**

### **Annex 7 Questionnaire**

We would be very happy if you fill in the attached questionnaire and give it to Femie, our secretary of Douzelage.

**Pages 32 and 33**



# Sherborne Town Council

The Manor House, Newland, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 3JL

Trevor Savage Town Clerk  
Telephone: 01935 812807  
E.mail: [t.savage@sherborne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:t.savage@sherborne-tc.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.sherborne-tc.gov.uk](http://www.sherborne-tc.gov.uk)

27 March 2018

Annie Kruytbosch  
President of Douzelage,

Dear Annie,

## **Douzelage – Brexit - Sherborne**

I'm writing to you ahead of the General Meeting due to take place in Oxelösund in May 2018 as I have been informed there will be a discussion as to the future involvement of Sherborne within the Douzelage family which will result in a formal vote being taken in Asikkala, Finland in 2019.

As I'm sure you are aware Sherborne has been involved in the Douzelage family since its formation in 1991 and on behalf of Sherborne Town Council I would like to confirm that we very much hope that this involvement will go on for many years and way beyond 2019.

I'm aware that soon after the Brexit vote occurred the Sherborne Douzelage Committee wrote to you confirming it's commitment to remain a full and active partner in Douzelage, to pay its annual subscription, to participate in a wide range of Douzelage projects and activities, attend General Meetings, respect the decisions of those meetings and that Sherborne would take its turn to host General Meetings. I have discussed these assurances with the Sherborne Douzelage Committee and I am confident that the Committee will deliver on all those points.

Sherborne Douzelage, the schools, young people and the residents of Sherborne that have engaged in the Douzelage family, over the years, know that this is a unique international network and vital to our community.

Annie, I and the Town Council want our relationship to continue. For me, the situation with Brexit means that there should be greater efforts to work together as a family, not less.

I and Sherborne Town Council very much hopes that the Douzelage family recognises the commitment Sherborne has made over the years and that the other members of Douzelage support Sherborne remaining part of the Douzelage family.

I look forward to meeting you in Oxelösund and confirm that I am more than happy to address the General meeting to put forward these views.

Warm wishes,



Councillor Jill Hogben  
Town Mayor 2017/18



Agros – Cyprus, 19 March 2018

**To:** Douzelage European Town Twinning

**Topic: “Brexit and its consequences for Sherborne”**

Dear Douzelage Members,

On Thursday 23 June, 2016 the UK has voted to leave the European Union. In 29 March 2017 it was the first time that the Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon was invoked from a country that wishes to exit the EU. The UK is scheduled to depart at 11pm UK time on Friday 29 March, 2019.

For us, for Douzelage Family, working together the last few years on the creation of European Identity, the promotion of European Citizenship, the support of European cooperation and solidarity we strongly believe that Sherborne has an active role and must continue to be a part of our Family. The enthusiasm and the commitment that Sherborne friends show from the early beginning of the Douzelage European Town Twinning confirm us that they must continue to be part of our family.

Following the Mission of Douzelage as formulated in the Charter of 1991 Agros Municipality strongly believes that Sherborne must not have any consequences related to the Brexit and continue as a member of Douzelage European Town Twinning.

Sincerely,

Municipality of Agros  
Agros, Cyprus

**Vicenta Perez** 

Gisteren 14:24

PV

Aan: Luns-Kruytbosch Annigje  
About Brexit and Sherborne

Dear Annigje,

The majority of the councillors of Altea think that the spirit of the Douzelage was and is to join people ...

But we are also worried in case the help of Europe could affect the meetings because have a country no European like member.

By what there is another question that arises us and is : if a member no European belongs to the Douzelage can others countries no European ask and request his entrance? In exchanges of students, professors ... Also it will affect? ; In exchanges inside Europe will not be the same, if they have to leave it ...

We do not want that Sherborne leave the Douzelage, so would not have wanted him to do so in Europe, but Brexit raises issues that it would have to be evaluated before doing a decision.

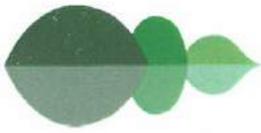
Regards



Ajuntament d'Altea

**VICENTA PÉREZ BARBER**  
REGIDORA D'EDUCACIÓ, IGUALTAT, CONTRACTACIÓ  
I NORMALITZACIÓ LINGÜÍSTICA

Excm. Ajuntament d'Altea  
Pl. José María Planelles  
03590 Altea  
Tel.: 965 841 300  
[vperez@altea.es](mailto:vperez@altea.es)



Dear President Annigje

Sherborne has been very active founder member of Douzelage-family.

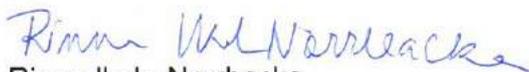
In Asikkala we believe, that it would be very disappointing to see Sherborne leaving Douzelage because of the Brexit.

Multi-year productive co-operation would be wasted if Sherborne could not stay in Douzelage.

In Asikkala we would be glad if Douzelage could make it possible for Sherborne to stay in Douzelage even after Brexit. The constitution of Douzelage has to be modified to make this possible.

Rights and duties for Sherborne as a member should be the same as before - as long as they do not interfere with EU-funding rules. In case of the latter their voting rights may be restricted.

With best regards



Rinna Ikola-Norrbacka

Mayor of Asikkala, Finland



# STADT BAD KÖTZTING

Kneippheilbad im Bayerischen Wald

Der Bürgermeister

STADT BAD KÖTZTING · POSTFACH 180 · 93438 BAD KÖTZTING

Ms Annigje Kruytbosch  
President of Douzelage

HERRENSTRASSE 5  
93444 BAD KÖTZTING  
TELEFON (09941) 60 21 11  
TELEFAX (09941) 60 21 12  
E-mail: markus.hofmann@bad-koetzing.de  
Internet: www.bad-koetzing.de

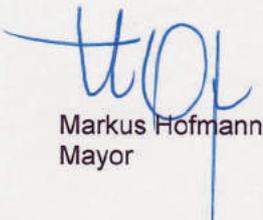
15. Januar 2018

## Douzelage - Sherborne and the Brexit

Dear Madam President, *Dear Annigje,*

Bad Kötzing's statement to the future of the Sherborne Douzelage after the Brexit reads as follows:

1. The Sherborne Douzelage Association has been an active member of the Douzelage from the beginning and is still willing to stay within the Douzelage. We respect this wish and would be glad if the Douzelage would make it possible that our friends from Sherborne could stay in the Douzelage in one way or the other. Moreover, the partnership of our Realschule with the Gryphon School in Sherborne, which was active for more than 20 years, will continue.
2. As it is not the town of Sherborne itself that is a member of the Douzelage but a committee of volunteers we could make it possible for the Sherborne Douzelage to stay within the organization even after a Brexit.
3. As they represent an English town we would like to know if the representatives of the town of Sherborne (mayor or town council) agree with the Sherborne Douzelage Committee to stay within the Douzelage.
4. The constitution of the Douzelage has to be adjusted. Nr. 3 of the constitution says that the Douzelage consists of towns from EU-countries. This has to be a formal decision in one of the next general meetings. Nr. 3 could change to 3a and there could be a Nr. 3 b in the constitution, e.g.: "Towns of former EU-member states or Committees can be members of the Douzelage if the other members agree by a formal majority / unanimous decision."
5. Rights and duties for the Sherborne Douzelage shall be the same as before as long as they do not interfere with EU-funding rules. In case of the latter their voting rights may be restricted.

  
Markus Hofmann  
Mayor

Prot. n. 6354

Bellagio, 20th March 2018

Ms Annigje Kruytbosch  
Douzelage President

Object: Sherborne and the Brexit.

Dear Presidente,

you ask us to give our opinion about Sherborne to stay or not, inside our fantastic community.

Bellagio have no doubt: Sherborne has been, is, and always will be the heart of Douzelage.

Sherborne has been one of the city that started everything, many years ago. In this years they show how to be, one of the most active community in our tween cities.

Their programs about the schools, have been always very interesting and very well organize. In Sherborne, all of us, have great friends.

Europe is not just a big country, but is also, a group of friends with different ideas but always ready to be united as friends and citizens.

Bellagio wants Sherborne inside Douzelage for ever.

Best regards,

Luca Leoni

President of Bellagio Douzelage Committee  
Councilor of Tourism



Dear President,

Ref: Sherborne/Brexit

As the nearest neighbours to Sherborne, Bundoran believes it would be very disappointing to see them leave the Douzelage – an organisation that they helped to establish and have played an important role in its growth and development since 1991 in Granville.

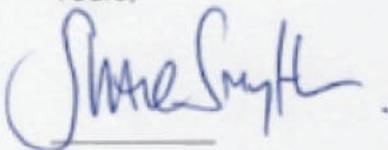
Their love of Europe and Douzelage is obvious and we don't believe they should be "punished" due to the actions of the UK electorate.

It is clear from their recent correspondence to you that their commitment to Douzelage remains as strong as ever in both participation and financial contribution and this is to be welcomed.

If new wording to the Douzelage constitution were to be suggested, perhaps the following could be considered:

"Membership of the organisation is restricted to one town from each of the member states and former member states of the European Union."

Yours,



Shane Smyth

On behalf of Douzelage Bundoran



STOWARZYSZENIE  
**DOUZELAGE**  
w Chojnie



Chojna, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

Dear Mrs President,

On behalf the Mayor of Chojna and myself I would like to inform you that we will express our opinion of Sherborne and Brexit during GM in Oxelosund.

Yours sincerely,  
J. Cezary Salamonczyk  
Chairman of Douzelage Association in Chojna

## GRANVILLE PARTENAIRE EUROPÉEN

Agros  
Altea  
Asikkala  
Bad Kötzing  
Bellagio  
Bundoran  
Chojna  
Granville  
Holstebro  
Houffalize  
Judenburg  
Köszeg  
Marsaskala  
Meerssen  
Niederanven  
Oxelösund  
Preveza  
Prienai  
Rovinj  
Sesimbra  
Sherborne  
Sigulda  
Siret  
Skofja Loka  
Susice  
Tryavna  
Türi  
Zvolen

Our view in the Granville Douzelage Committee is that we have always had very close ties to Sherborne, dating back to the first twinning association in 1982, and then from the origins of the Douzelage in 1991, with Granville and Sherborne being among its original members. There have always been many exchanges between our two towns, the only one in the Douzelage close to us geographically, making contacts easier and less onerous.

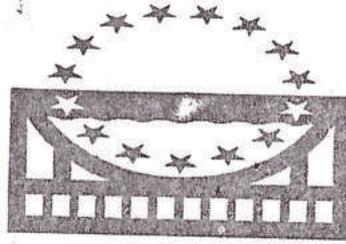
It would be a great pity if this were to come to an end as a result of a decision beyond the control of the Douzelage.

The members of the Sherborne Douzelage Committee are very active, taking part in and initiating many projects. Sherborne has provided the Douzelage at various times with a president and a vice-president, who were effective, hard-working and dedicated, and other members from Sherborne too numerous to mention have devoted much time and energy to Douzelage projects. They have more than proved their commitment to a united Europe and the European ideal. The Douzelage would be much poorer without them.

It will be all the more important should Brexit come about, that pro-European voices are heard and such views supported, to maintain ties between the UK and all the other European countries.

The members of the Granville Douzelage Association (Granville Partenaire Européen) led by their president Pascale Vallée wish to see Sherborne remain as a full member of the Douzelage.

# HOLSTEBRO



In Holstebro, we have discussed the question of the possible consequences of Brexit in relation to Douzelage memberships and we all agree, that we certainly wish to keep a close contact and cooperation with Sherborne.

Sherborne is one of the founding towns and we have had a long and valuable friendship between our towns, a friendship we sincerely wish to continue.

However, we also feel, that change has to be made, as the Douzelage, as an organization, IS EU. We are together in this unique organization, because we are all part of the EU.

When a country leaves EU, we feel that the Douzelage must react to this accordingly.

So how can we maintain the close relationship with our friends from Sherborne? We suggest that Sherborne continues to be a participating member of our organization. This means that Sherborne will continue to participate in meetings and projects, but Sherborne will not be able to vote, to be elected to or hold positions within the Douzelage organization. In this way, we honor the wish of the continuing participation and cooperation within the Douzelage, but we do not compromise the very foundation of the Douzelage, as an EU based organization.

If we do not make a change as a result of Brexit, the question must be asked whether we in future thereby opens up for memberships from non EU countries, ie Norway, Switzerland etc. And as a result hereof we must take into consideration, how EU will look upon future applications for funding.

I hope this clarifies the opinion of the Douzelage committee of Holstebro. Please contact me if you need further information.

Best regards

on behalf of the Douzelage Holstebro

Mrs. Jette Hingebjerg

Chairman of Douzelage Holstebro

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to be 'Jette Hingebjerg', written over the typed name.

## **Brexit**

### **From Houffalize to the Presidency of the Douzelage**

From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2017 Luc Nollomont and I met the 110 pupils (11 – 12 years old) of the elementary schools of Houffalize (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> schoolyears) and their teachers.

During 2 hours with each class and using the pedagogical brochure we informed them about the EU and the aims of the Douzelage.

We also informed them about the Brexit and asked them who they would decide about Sherborne remaining or leaving the Douzelage.

With good sense and unanimously - less one – they wished Sherborne to remain associated to the activities of the Douzelage.



Alphonse Henrard,  
Président



## **Brexit**

### **Note de Houffalize à l'attention de la présidence du Douzelage**

Du 13 au 17 mars 2017, en Compagnie de Luc Nollomont, nous avons eu le plaisir pour la 4<sup>ème</sup> fois de rencontrer les élèves de 5<sup>ème</sup> et 6<sup>ème</sup> primaires (+/- 110 élèves) et leurs professeurs.

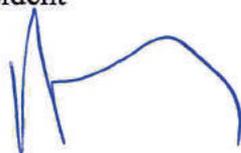
Durant 2 heures avec chaque classe, nous avons pu, à l'aide de la brochure pédagogique, faire un rappel sur l'Union Européenne et sur le fonctionnement du Douzelage.

Nous en avons profité pour que ces rencontres soient les plus proactifs possible et c'est ainsi que nous avons pu tester la position des jeunes (11-12 ans) sur le Brexit et en l'occurrence la position du Douzelage vis-à-vis de Sherborne.

Des réflexions très intéressantes ont été relevées à l'occasion de ces échanges, desquels il ressort une presque unanimité pour que Sherborne continue et poursuive leur travail au sein du Douzelage.



Alphonse Henrard,  
Président





# STADTGEMEINDE JUDENBURG

Tel: 03572 8141 0 – Fax: 03572 8141 22 – <http://www.judenburg.g.d> – [post@judenburg.g.d](mailto:post@judenburg.g.d)

Stadtgemeinde Judenburg – Hauptplatz – 8750 Judenburg

Douzelage

European Town Twinning

Datum: 22. 03. 2018  
Abteilung: ADirektion (Amtsleitung & Verwaltung)  
Bearbeitet: Mag. Eva Volkar  
Tel.: 03572/ 8141 276  
E-Mail: [evolkar@judenburg.g.d](mailto:evolkar@judenburg.g.d)  
Zahl: JU/ 1/ BS-DU-SV/ 1/ 1

Dear All,

As already discussed during our last meeting in Bad Kötzting, we would like to express our opinion once again in writing, namely that Sherborne must remain most certainly a member of the Douzelage towns.

Firstly, Sherborne has been among the founder and first hour supporters of the Douzelage idea. Therefore, to errinate Sherborne from the Douzelage circle would mean to errinate a great deal of knowledge, experience and dedication, which we all can rely on.

Secondly, the EU and the UK are presently discussing all kinds of special agreements. Thus, we are of the opinion that it should also be possible to negotiate such a special agreement for Douzelage/ Sherborne.

We sincerely hope that we will be able to meet our friends from Sherborne many more times together with all our other Douzelage companions.

Best wishes,

Eike Späner-Florin

Municipal Councillor

Head of the committee for matters regarding

EU, Twinning, Integrating and Public Participation

Seite 1 von 1

## Decision # 2017/09-05

Kőszeg Town Twinning Association on its General Meeting on September 5, 2017 the members discussed the situation of Brexit, particularly the Douzelage membership of Sherborne. The members had the chance to express their ideas, read and interpreted the text of the Douzelage Constitution, and finally decided as follows:

*Members of Kőszeg Town Twinning Association has the opinion that Sherborne should stay a full member of the Douzelage. They initiated its creation in 1991, with participation of 12 countries of the European Community - 2 years before the official creation of the European Union. They have been an active member town, organized several projects and took part in numerous projects lead by other partner countries - unlike some other partners, whose country is still EU member, but have not participated in any of the projects. To exclude Sherborne from the Douzelage is for us as killing our own father.*

*Consequently, we suggest adding an amendment to the constitution, or to change Article 3. as follows:*

### 3. PARTICIPATION

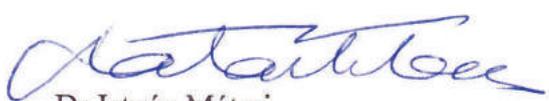
*(a) Membership of the organization is restricted to one town from each of the member states of the European Union.*

*(b) If the country of a member town decides to leave the European Union, the town – upon a written request addressed to the President – remains the full member of the Douzelage. The request should be signed by either the mayor of the town or by the head of the local Douzelage Committee representing the town.*

*The General Meeting authorizes the president to notify the President of the Douzelage about the decision of Kőszeg Town Twinning Association.:*

Kőszeg, January 15, 2018.

**KŐSZEGI TESTVÉRVÁROSI EGYESÜLET**  
9730 Kőszeg, Rajnis u. 9.  
**KŐSZEGI TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION**  
Adószáma: 18894927-1-18  
Számlasszáma: 11747051-20103617



Dr István Mátrai  
President of the Association



## **Kunsill Lokali Marsaskala**

228, Triq is-Salini, Marsaskala, Malta

Tel : 21637171, Fax : 21637744,

E-mail : [marsaskala.lc@gov.mt](mailto:marsaskala.lc@gov.mt)

---

20th February 2018

Dear President,

I trust that you are in the best of health.

With reference to your correspondence on the delicate subject concerning "Brexit" and obviously Douzelage member Sherbourne, please be informed that Marsaskala Local Council deliberated on this issue during a Council meeting held on Thursday 15th February 2018.

Following a lengthy discussion, Marsaskala Local Council is of the opinion that this issue should be discussed in its full entirety during the Annual General Meeting since there are several aspects which need to be addressed.

We therefore look forward to meet at Oxelosund Sweden and to contribute in a positive way on this issue.

Regards



**Josef Grech**  
*Executive Secretary*

Mayor  
**Mario Calleja**

Deputy Mayor  
**Desiree Attard**  
Councillors  
**John Baptist Camilleri**  
**Charlot Mifsud**  
**Charlot Cassar**  
**Elizabeth Cassar**  
**Lawrence Ciantar**  
**Daniel Spiteri**  
**Sandro Gatt**

Executive Secretary  
**Josef Grech**



**Presidency of Douzelage-Europe**

**Attn. Ms. Annigje Kruytbosch**

**Meerssen, 19-02-2018.**

Re: Position of Sherborne in the Douzelage after effective start of the Brexit.

The Meerssen Douzelage committee holds that Sherborne should remain part of The Douzelage. The Sherborne committee with its many members has been most active within Douzelage, as have others all across Europe; it is dedicated to the “Partenariat Européen”.

The Meerssen committee proposes to grant Sherborne a Membership of Merit of The Douzelage. Sherborne belongs to the Douzelage! Meerssen calls upon the Presidency to even the road, when and if required, towards a membership as mentioned before. The Presidency is requested to propose the conditions that should apply to such a membership.

We quote: ‘to promote and foster the spirit of Europe and to establish among others educational, economic, tourist, sporting and cultural links between the town for the mutual benefit of the inhabitants thereof’.

With many regards,

On behalf of the Douzelage Committee of Meerssen

Wil Schrijnemaekers (Chairman)

---

Vereniging “Meerssen in Europa” Douzelage

Markt 11, 6231 LR Meerssen [www.douzelagemeerssen.nl](http://www.douzelagemeerssen.nl) [info@douzelagemeerssen.nl](mailto:info@douzelagemeerssen.nl)



## Municipal executive committee

Catharina Fredriksson  
+46 155- 381 02  
+46 70 551 58 88  
[catharina.fredriksson@oxelosund.se](mailto:catharina.fredriksson@oxelosund.se)

## Douzelage Presidency, Secretariat

[secretariat.presidency@douzelagemeeerssen.nl](mailto:secretariat.presidency@douzelagemeeerssen.nl)

## Brexit and its consequences for Sherborne

With reference to your email February 14, 2018.

The Municipal executive committee has decided to make the following statement concerning Brexit and its consequences for Sherborne:

The municipality of Oxelösund supports the ambition of retaining Sherborne as a member of Douzelage. To make this possible, the municipality proposes that the Douzelage Constitution be revised by rewording the current limitation in Section 3:

*"Membership of the organization is restricted to one town from each of the member states of the European Union."*

As a new wording in section 3, the following is proposed:

*"Membership of the organization is restricted to one town from each of the European states"*

In addition to the opportunity that Sherborne can remain within Douzelage, this new wording may give an opening to the rest of Europe and opportunities for Douzelage to include new friends, such as Norway, Iceland and Switzerland.

Oxelösund March 12, 2018

Catharina Fredriksson  
Chair of the Executive Committee



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA REPUBBLICA DI CROAZIA  
ISTARSKA ŽUPANIJA REGIONE ISTRIANA

GRAD ROVINJ-ROVIGNO  CITTA' DI ROVINJ-ROVIGNO

Ured Gradskog vijeća i gradonačelnika  
Ufficio del Consiglio cittadino e del Sindaco  
City Council and Mayors' Office

To the kind attention of  
The Douzelage President  
Ms Annigje Kruytbosch

Rovinj-Rovigno, 15th January 2018

Dear The Douzelage President,

It is the opinion of the town of Rovinj-Rovigno that until 2019, Sherbone is a full member of The Douzelage (and founder) and should have all the regular rights and duties of each member. After that, it should remain as honour member and founder.

In the meantime the Presidency should start the procedure of Statute changes of our association, that foresees this possibility and defines the rights and duties of honour members.

Best regards,

For the city of Rovinj-Rovigno, in accordance with its Mayor

  
Maria Črnac Rocco, mag. pol. univ. spec. oecc  
Head of Office  
City Council and Mayors' Office  
City of Rovinj-Rovigno



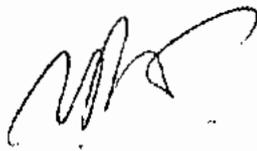
Dear Madam President,

There are many reasons why Sherborne's committee has been a vital member of Douzelage and its partnership is very valuable. We all have noticed how active Sherborne's committee has been regarding Douzelage- they have organized and come up with several ideas for projects, exchanges, a festival as well as other different activities which have been quite successful. This proves that Douzelage would only benefit working side by side with Sherborne, as it still does, even after Brexit as a loyal and honorable committee. The only obstacles that could prevent us from working together are political, constitutional and legal. If they were to be adjusted as a formal decision by gathering votes from other participating countries and these obstacles could disappear, Douzelage could continue working with Sherborne side by side.

I would like the General Delegates to understand our position and will be looking forward to discuss this matter in more detail during this years' Annual General Meeting.

Kind regards,

Sigulda district  
Coordinator for Douzelage



Valters Mačs

20.03.2018.



## PRIMĂRIA ORAȘULUI SIRET

Siret, str. 28 Noiembrie, nr1, jud Suceava, 725500  
Tel. 0230.280901 ; Fax 0230.280624

E-mail : primariasiret@siretromania.ro

3000  
30 03 2018

Dear Douzelage Presidency,

By entering Douzelage Siret, as the majority of Romanians, showed their strongly adhesion to the European concept and values. Among this is solidarity, democracy and cooperation. This is why were profoundly saddened by the Brexit news. But this fact cannot change all the years of very positive experiences and exchanges that we had with Sherborne and the whole UK.

Less as an NGO but more as local administrative authority we know very well that political decision can be unjust sometime but ones have to obey them. In the same time we cannot forget that without Sherborne, maybe there will be no Douzelage at all. We also saw profound involvement of Sherborne citizens and their pro active adhesion to the Douzelage initiatives.

This is why we believe the Sherborne should remain a Douzelage member even if that means to change actual Douzelage constitution. We think is part of Douzelage philosophy to keep cohesion strong regardless of political decision and, in the same time, once a country is part of the EU it means that that country already has the European acquis and that fact cannot be change.

We wish that Sherborne remains part of Douzelage and we are sure that they will remain Siret friends.

Adrian Popoiu

Siret Mayor



Viorel Haiura

President Siret Douzelage





OBČINA ŠKOFJA LOKA

Kabinet župana

Mestni trg 15, 4220 Škofja Loka ♦ T: 04 511 23 00 ♦ F: 04 511 23 01 ♦ E: [obcina@skofjaloka.si](mailto:obcina@skofjaloka.si) ♦ U: [www.skofjaloka.si](http://www.skofjaloka.si)

March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

## Statement of Škofja Loka Douzelage Committee about the status of Sherborne after Brexit

*Dear President of Douzelage, Ms Annigje Kruytbosch*

Škofja Loka Douzelage Committee gathered in their regular meeting on March 19th 2018 and discussed about the status of Sherborne, UK, after Brexit.

Our proposal for the GM in Sweden is that a new amendment to the Douzelage Constitution should be added, namely every city, a member of Douzelage network, could stay a fully empowered member even though the country exits EU.

If this is not possible, then we suggest that the Douzelage cities (especially the founders) which countries have exited EU, should remain our honourable members, i.e. with all the rights but the rights to vote.

Best regards,

Jernej Tavčar,  
President of Local Committee  
of Douzelage Škofja Loka





**MĚSTO SUŠICE**  
starosta města



náměstí Svobody 138  
342 01 Sušice

**Mrs Annigje Kruytbosch**

**President of Douzelage**

Sušice, 12 March 2018

Dear Mrs President,

According to your appeal concerning the position of the town of Sušice to the continuance of the town of Sherborne in Douzelage after the UK breaking up the membership in the EU (Brexit), we claim that the town of Susice supports the effort of Sherborne to remain the member of Douzelage in the future with reference to following circumstances:

- Citizens of Sherborne were fathers of the idea of partnership of European towns. The town of Sherborne was one of the charter members of Douzelage.
- Sherborne has been one of the most active members all along the existence of Douzelage. They take part in a lot of projects and organize a number of others, even without the financial support of the EU.
- We welcome the wish of Douzelage Sherborne to stay the member of Douzelage in the future. We support the idea that friendship between nations is a value which stands over politics.
- We agree with the addition in the constitution of Douzelage concerning the preservation of the membership of the towns the countries of which have left the EU under the condition that they express their wish in writing to the president of Douzelage and the other members of Douzelage will agree.

Your sincerely,

Bc. Petr Mottl  
Mayor of the town of Susice

[www.mestosusice.cz](http://www.mestosusice.cz)

tel.: +420 376 540 111 (*ústředna*)  
fax: +420 376 540 112  
tel.: +420 376 540 101 (*přímá linka*)  
e-mail: starosta@mususice.cz

IČO: 00 256 129

Bankovní spojení:  
Česká spořitelna, a. s.  
č. účtu 0005070462/0800



## MUNICIPALITY OF TRYAVNA

Outgoing. № 32 00-102/19.03.2018r.

**TO ANNIGJE LUNS-KRYTBOSCH  
PRESIDENT OF THE DOUZELAGE EUROPEAN TOWN-TWINNING ASSOCIATION  
MEERSSEN, THE NETHERLANDS**

Our view on the topic:

### **Brexit and it's consequences for Sherborne**

The Douzelage town twinning is something more than just an association. It's a strong community, which gives every member a huge amount of security, field for developing and lasting friendships. Owing to the latter mentioned possibilities, the representative towns have greater chances to prosper and win projects, that may be influent for keeping and preserving their historical and cultural inheritance.

Since Sherborne is one of the members, founders and has a huge part of developing the organization, we truly believe that it's absence will cause irreversible consequences. As we recall back in 2016, when the referendum in UK was held, there were representative polls, that gave us the clue we need, that some of the big economies (Germany, France, Italy, Spain) were with a strong line for the United Kingdom to remain a full member of the European Union. This means, that it's absence with cause serious damage not only to the EU economy, but to the leaver itself.

But we too believe, that emergency events (like this one with Brexit) taken after the subscription of the Douzelage constitution (and signing the Codicil of Charter) will cause serious juristic consequences and has to be considered on a higher level of a decision. So we fully support the suggested idea of our member town Kőszeg to add an amendment in the constitution and then to proceed with preserving our brother town – Sherborne. Also, any documents that have an obligate and important part about the participants should be modified recording to that. That's the base, on which the association is held and a non-EU member, participating actively and having a huge influence on it may cause some serious troubles and a lot of obstacles may occur.

Nevertheless, inevitably Sherborne as a representative town of United Kingdom **must stay within the borders of the Douzelage community, as it's vital for the association.**

With respect,

**DONCHO ZAHARIEV,**  
*Mayor of Tryavna municipality*



5350 Трявна, ул.Ангел Кънчев 21, тел: 06776 2310, факс: 06776 2149, e-mail: [obtryavna@unicsbg.net](mailto:obtryavna@unicsbg.net), [www.tryavna.bg](http://www.tryavna.bg)



MESTO ZVOLEN

Ms Annigje Kruytbosh

President of Douzelage

In Zvolen

14th March 2018

### **Douzelage – Sherborne and Brexit**

Dear Madam President,

Members of ZVOLEN Town Twinning Association has the opinion that Sherborne should stay a full member of the Douzelage. The town and its Douzelage commetee have played an important and a crucial role of Douzelage creation.

They have been an active member town ever since, organized several projects and took part in numerous projects lead by other partners.

Therefore we consider essential, that even after the Brexit Sherborne should remain a proper member of Douzelage and have all the duties and rights of a regular member.

On behalf of the city of Zvolen

Zuzana Lászlóová

MESTSKÝ ÚRAD  
P.O. BOX 59  
ZVOLEN  
PSČ 960 61

Mesto Zvolen  
Námestie slobody č. 22  
960 01 ZVOLEN

telefón:  
045/530 31 11

fax:  
045/533 14 28

web:  
[www.zvolen.sk](http://www.zvolen.sk)

bankové spojenie:  
VUB 19628-412, kód 0200  
IČO: 320 439



**PRIENŲ RAJONO SAVIVALDYBĖS MERAS**  
**PRIENAI DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY MAYOR**

Laisvės sq. 12, LT-59126 Prienai, tel. +370 319 61 100, fax +370 319 61 199, e-mail [meras@prienai.lt](mailto:meras@prienai.lt)

---

To Presidency of Douzelage

2017-10-19 No. (7.44.)-R3-2017/2-216

Dear Presidency of Douzelage,

Prienai is the member of Douzelage since 9 May 2008. In almost 10 years have changed Prienai district municipality priorities, financial opportunities, the vision of international cooperation and principals of participation in international projects.

Prienai district municipality mayor and municipality administration have made a decision to start the process of withdrawal from Douzelage.

The main reasons for this decision are:

1. Every year we have really limited financial possibilities to allocate funds for foreign affairs in the municipality budget, which would be sufficient not only to pay membership fee for Douzelage, but also to fully participate in GM and other activities. Moreover we have other foreign partners too.

2. There are any projects for Douzelage members, which would be fully paid. So there is always necessity to fund the participation extra.

3. The main projects are intended for students and teachers. Many of our schools and other educational institutions are very active in writing and participating in various international or EU projects, so they don't need the mediator for this.

4. In municipality have changed the vision of international cooperation. We think that the most productive cooperation is with the foreign partners that are near us (Poland, Latvia, Ukraine, Belarus and etc.). Also we give preferences for exchanges of employees of municipal institutions, exchanges of good practices in local governance, cultural exchanges (art collectives, craftsmen, communities), which with neighbor countries can be done more often and requires less expenses.

After receiving your official letter that you agree of Prienai withdrawal from Douzelage we will prepare a decision of Prienai municipality council on termination of the contract.

Yours sincerely,

The mayor of Prienai district municipality

Alvydas Vaicekauskas

Rokiskis 29 th March 2018

Mrs. Annigje Luns – Kruytbosch,  
President of Douzelage

The town of Rokiskis declares that it would like to join European Town Twinning Douzelage. The decision of joining the Douzelage was taken by the Rokiskis District Municipality Council of Rokiskis on 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, 2018.

We have reviewed the Constitution of the Douzelage and agree to comply with it as well as with Rules of Procedures and the decisions of General Meetings of the Douzelage.

Rokiskis District Municipality commits itself to paying its financial contribution to the Douzelage in accordance with Article 4, paragraph( e) of the Constitution.

Rokiskis District Municipality accepts that it will accommodate a General Meeting of the Douzelage within the cycle of host towns in its turn to be defined by the General Meetings.

Mayor of Rokiskis District Municipality



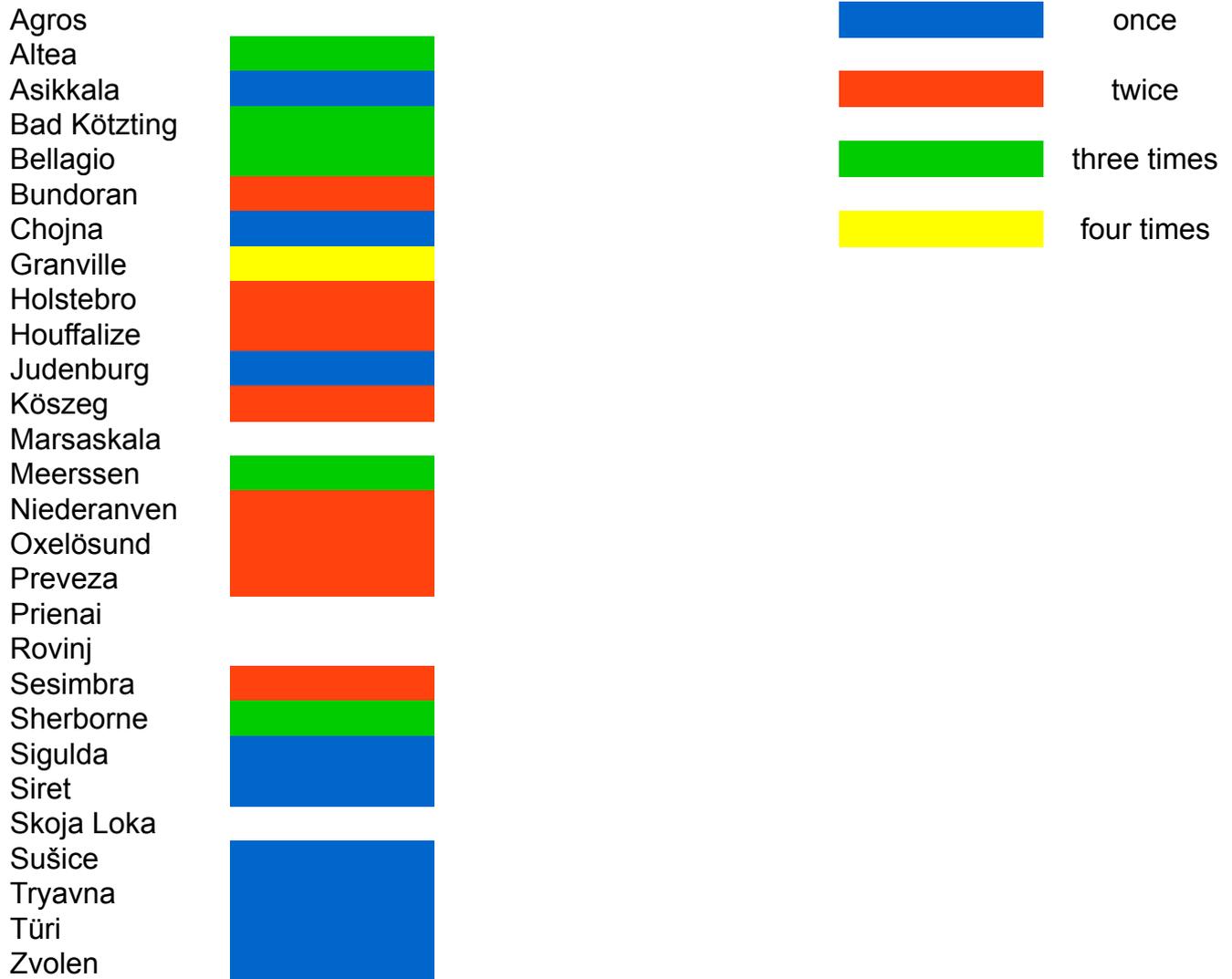
Mr. Antanas Vagonis

## Annex 6: GM's

GM		Town	Number	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>
2022		---					
2021		Marsaskala					
2020		Skofja Loka					
2019		Asikkala					
2018		Oxelosünd	43		Red		
2017		Bad Kötzing	42			Green	
2016		Tryavna	41	Blue			
2015		Siret	40	Blue			
2014		Sigulda	39	Blue			
2013		Bellagio	38			Green	
2012		Zvolen	37	Blue			
2011		Granville	36				Yellow
2010		Susice	35	Blue			
2009		Altea	34			Green	
2008	Spring	Chojna	33	Blue			
2008	Autumn	Türi	32	Blue			
2007	Spring	Köszeg	31		Red		
2006	Autumn	Sherborne	30			Green	
2006	Spring	Köszeg		Blue			
2006	Spring	Bellagio					
2005	Autumn	Meerssen	29			Green	
2005	Spring	Bundoran	28		Red		
2004	Autumn	Granville	27			Green	
2004	Spring	Judenburg	26	Blue			
2003	Autumn	Holstebro	25		Red		
2003	Spring	Sesimbra	24		Red		
2002	Autumn	Houffalize	23		Red		
2002	Spring	Oxelosünd	22	Blue			
2001	Autumn	Karkkila	21	Blue			
2001	Spring	Niederanven	20		Red		
2000	Autumn	Preveza	19		Red		
2000	Spring	Altea	18		Red		
1999	Autumn	Bad Kötzing	17		Red		
1999	Spring	Sherborne	16		Red		
1998	Autumn	Meerssen	15		Red		
1998	Spring	Bellagio	14		Red		
1997	Autumn	Granville	13		Red		
1997	Spring	Bundoran	12	Blue			
1996	Autumn	Holstebro	11	Blue			
1996	Spring	Sesimbra	10	Blue			
1995	Autumn	Houffalize	9	Blue			
1995	Spring	Niederanven	8	Blue			
1994	Autumn	Altea	7	Blue			
1994	Spring	Preveza	6	Blue			
1993	Autumn	---					
1993	Spring	Bad Kötzing	5	Blue			
1992	Autumn	Sherborne	4	Blue			
1992	Spring	Bellagio	3	Blue			
1991	Autumn	Meerssen	2	Blue			
1991	Spring	Granville	1	Blue			

project meeting  
cancelled

## Appendix 6: Towns



# Questionnaire about Douzelage GM

(Thank you Guntars Zvejnieks of Sigulda for the form)

Please, give us feedback about the conference in Oxelösund (Sweden). Also add some ideas, recommendations for next conferences. The information provided is totally confidential.

Your benefits from the meeting

Your suggestions for organising the meeting in general

Your suggestions for GM

Your suggestions for EM

Your suggestions for YM

Your suggestions for workshops

Some ideas and suggestions for organising next meetings

What did you like best about the meeting
What did you like least about the meeting
Other observations you would like to share

**Demographic information**

Your initials			
Town you represent			
How many (approximately) GM's did you attend (if possible, please indicate time period or town)			
Which meeting did you attend	GM	YM	EM
Your age			
Gender			
<b>THANK YOU!</b>			