

EXCELLENT IBF CONFERENCE IN PARIS

About 30 participants attended the IBF conference and General Assembly in Paris on 6-7 June. Participants were particularly interested in the various talks and reports they heard and this was reflected by their many questions and the good atmosphere of the meeting. Jean-Marie Ozanne, a member of the French BA's board gave a very interesting talk on the history of bookselling in France. The specificities of state support available to French booksellers were highlighted by Jean-Guy Boin, Director of the Bureau International de l'Édition Française (BIEF) and Alain Grund, BIEF President who explained the role of his institution. Hentie Gericke, President of the South African B.A presented the book trade in his country and certainly made new friends in IBF! Mauro Rosi, from Unesco, was extremely keen to hear about the concrete problems booksellers have to face, such as competition from newspapers selling books (Belgium and Italy). Socrates Kabouropoulos, from the National Book Centre of Greece told the participants how pleased he was to take part in good discussions about bookselling. Publishing on demand was also of interest to participants, and Pascal Zimmer, from "Books on demand" made a very clear presentation. The meeting was hosted by the Centre National du Livre and Guillaume Husson from the Direction of books and reading, Ministry of Culture and Communication, introduced the meeting and welcomed the participants.