

To the Search Committee

Dear colleagues,

I agree to stand as a candidate for International Secretary, and I thank the Centre(s) that proposed me.

The duties of the International Secretary are determined by the rules, and a candidate has not much to say about this, except to indicate the priorities of his mandate. Among these priorities he would like to underline the following:

International PEN needs to find its self-assurance in a context of well-defined responsibilities, in which the Secretary has no role of 'political' leadership (which is embodied by the chairman and the Board, commissioned by the Assembly of Delegates, and prepared strategically by the Centres and the Committees), but of organisational co-ordination in accordance with the rules and with the principle of subsidiarity rather than centralisation. To achieve this, PEN needs a person with legal and procedural experience.

International PEN needs to increase its financial means, keeping its political independence and moral integrity. For this goal PEN needs a cultural manager with experience of NGOs, non-profit societies and institutions useful to sponsor public events.

International PEN needs to strengthen its geo-linguistic balances and intercultural relations. A polyglot International Secretary, able to use every official language (and other ones) both outside and inside, could be an asset, probably also a guarantee for the minor Centres.

International PEN must develop its NGO dimension, without cancelling its original 'club' vocation. There are few realities born before the UN, even before the growth of League of Nations: among them we find our PEN. An International Secretary aware of these dialectics would be necessary to conserve for PEN a role of first rank, without it becoming a simple agency of UNESCO.

International PEN is very late to use new technologies, which could give it the structure of a network, cheaper and more up-to-date. For this goal PEN needs a full-time International Secretary who is available to stay for long periods in London if necessary.

According to my CV and my (professional and personal) circumstances, I think that it is possible to conclude that my profile is quite consistent with the necessary requirements.

Thanking you for your attention, with best regards.

Valerio Ari dit Giorgio Silfer  
13 June 2004