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To : all PTSTAs and TSTAs

From : PTSC

N° 20 – January 2005

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*The Professional Training and Standards Committee (PTSC) of EATA addresses all TSTAs and PTSTAs who are members of EATA. With the PTSC Telegram we want to inform you about new developments and decisions concerning training, exams, standards, regulations, etc.*

*The PTSC Telegram will appear at irregular dates, whenever important decisions have been made by the EATA Council or ITAA committees. You may choose to collect the Telegrams for your personal memory. On top of the first page you will find the number and date of publication.*

*Please be aware that the PTSC Telegram is not an alternative to the EATA Newsletter or ITAA Script, but offers specific information which you sometimes may also find in the other papers.*

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January 2005

In this edition of the Telegram, PTSC would like to bring you up to date on the new decisions and information that have emerged from the meetings of PTSC and COC over the last few months. Mostly they are simply clarifications of the details in the new handbook as well as recent developments in ongoing discussions.

### **Change to the Chair of COC**

Firstly it is with much love and appreciation that, on behalf of PTSC and COC, I offer thanks to Isabelle Crespelle for her work as Chair of COC; her term of office has come to an end. Isabelle has brought so much to the role: her long history with and knowledge of EATA which has been invaluable, and also her personal qualities of clarity of assessment and focus, a deep sense of social justice and commitment to equality, dedication to EATA and - especially - generosity, warmth and humour. I am happy to say that she is staying on as a member of COC and also PTSC.

The new Chair of COC is Marco Mazzetti from Italy. Marco has been a valuable member of COC for a long time and we are very pleased that he is bringing his many skill to the role of Chair.

### **TEW News**

- We are delighted that Annika Bjork, with her wonderful combination of organisational brilliance and relaxed flexibility, remains the TEW co-ordinator, but in future with a small team of experienced TSTAs who will share the work-load with her. Mathias Sell has already agreed to be part of the team.

### **General Clarifications**

- The first time an official 101 is offered by a PTSTA (normally within 3 years of signing the TSTA contract), it should be supervised live and endorsed by a TSTA (see 12.4.2). New PTSTAs should send Marianne Rauter (EATA Secretary) evidence that they have been supervised. They should also send such evidence to the secretary of their national organisation. The evidence does not need to be on the instructor form (12.4.2), but could be a copy of the TSTA's feedback.
- If a sponsor changes their field of specialisation (for example from Psychotherapy to Organisational) he/she may continue to hold (and renew) the contracts of current trainees in the old field by automatic Exception. However, no new contracts may be signed in the old field without going through the normal Exception processes.
- TSTA requirements: PTSC confirms that the supervision hours requirement is for half of the 50 hours (each for training and supervision) to be 'live' (in other words the supervisor is present as the work is carried out). However, PTSC recognises that in some places it is hard to arrange live supervision and agrees that some of these live hours may be via video in exceptional circumstances (to be negotiated with the trainer). The following clarifications are made:
  - a) In some situations – such as in the organisational field - the supervising TSTA may be in a teaching or co-teaching situation.
  - b) The hours of the supervised 101 can be counted in the live hours

- c) At least half of the supervised hours should be with a TSTA in the relevant field (the others can be from other fields if approved by the sponsor)
- d) Some of the live hours should be with the sponsor (the amount to be negotiated with the sponsor)

- It has been agreed to raise the fee for an **Expansion** to 120 euros as the previous fee of 67 did not even cover the assessors' cost let alone administration, post etc.

### **Examination News**

- Dave Spenceley (dave@ta-psychotherapy.co.uk) is the new supervising examiner and is already proving himself to be efficient and enthusiastic.
- Cathy McQuaid (cathy@counsellingcornwall.co.uk) is the new English Language Exam Co-ordinator and Brigitte Menrad-Killet (ITAS-Stuttgart@gmx.de) the new German Language Exam co-ordinator
- PTSC wishes to formally thank Melanie Lewin (previous supervising examiner), Lis Heath (retiring English Lang Co-ordinator) and Gudrun Hennig (retiring German language co-ordinator) for their work and dedication in these roles which has been of immense importance to both examiners and examinees..
- It is highly recommended that at least one member of the CTA or TSTA board be of the candidate's field. If this is not possible, the candidate has the right to withdraw from the exam without forfeiting the exam fee.
- Discussion relating to the marking of CTA written exams. As you probably know, there has been much discussion and disquiet about the lack of clarity for markers of CTA written exams. Jim Davis was asked to lead a working party (in Britain where much work had been done on the subject) to look into the issue and make suggestions. They put forward a proposal based on the same criteria as the oral exams. A pan-European working party then took the criteria to their own countries for discussion. The proposal was the subject of a piece of research by IRPIR in Italy who came up with some very useful and revealing data. While the criteria is found to be much improved, the change to ten scores instead of four

means that the variations are multiplied. This led in fact to a greater inconsistency in the marking than previously occurred. The working party (including Jim Davis, Cinzia Messina and Georg Pelz) agreed to analyse the results in order to find and amend any of the items that might be responsible for the wide variation. Also, the group would write a clear description of the criteria for examiners, and guidelines for marking. A later piece of research (involving markers world-wide) will then be undertaken.

- Discussion re TSTA exams: The whole of the TA world has been involved in discussing the issue of the TSTA examinations and whether they are the best way of assessing competence at that level. A working party is currently looking at ways of offering an alternative qualification linked to the PTSTA route. Up-dates and ongoing debates on this topic can be found in the EATA News and in the Script. Please contribute your thoughts.
- Hurrah! COC agreed to find a way of rewarding examiners for their dedication and hard work by offering a good 'Examiners' Dinner' the night before the exams and also lunch on the day of exams. This decision will be tested in the coming year to make sure that it is financially possible. It was already instigated at the exams in Summer and Autumn and was very successful.

#### **Corrections to the Handbook:**

- 11.5 and 11.6 *Applying for the TSTA Examination*. This section says that the forms should be sent to the language co-ordinator. In fact, **these need to be sent to the Supervising Examiner.**
- There are new forms for Applying to take the TSTA examinations as well as confirmation letters.

(These corrections can be found in the Handbook on the web-site)

#### **Trainers Meetings**

Future trainers meetings to be organised by PTSC and the EATA Executive will be:

- A half day on Wednesday July 6<sup>th</sup> from 9.00 to 1.00 in Edinburgh.
- Two days residential (combined with exams) on 6/7 July 2006 in Santiago, Spain.

**Contacting EATA:**

Please note that the New EATA telephone number is: 0049 7531 955190 5-7.00

We wish you all a very happy and rich 2005 and look forward to being together in Edinburgh this summer for the world conference. I hope you have already responded to Dave Spenceley's call for examiners. We have lots of candidates, including a waiting list, and we really need everyone's support.

See you then...

Charlotte Sills and PTSC