



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE PHILOSOPHIE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES

www.fisp.org

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Porto-Novo, Oct 18, 2012

MINUTES

These minutes are not and will not be official until formally approved by the Steering Committee of FISP. We are including them here for the benefit of our member societies, with the reservation that they are tentative and could be altered.

Ce procès-verbal ne sera pas officiel avant d'être approuvé par le Comité Directeur lors de la prochaine réunion de ce dernier. Il est diffusé sous cette réserve et reste susceptible d'être modifié.

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Marietta STEPANYANTS
Luca M. SCARANTINO
Peter KEMP

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Vice-président / Vice-President
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Maija KÜLE

Ilkka NIINILUOTO
Hans POSER
Jacob Dahl RENDTORFF
Ken-ichi SASAKI
David SCHRADER
Stelios VIRVIDAKIS

PROCURATIONS DE VOTE / PROXIES :

Herta NAGL-DOCEKAL	pour / to
Tomás CALVO-MARTÍNEZ	pour / to
Günter ABEL	pour / to
Didier DELEULE	pour / to
Betül ÇOTUKSÖKEN	pour / to

MCBRIDE
SCARANTINO
POSER
MCBRIDE
CHANDEL

Samuel LEE	pour / to	KEMP
Ernest LEPORE	pour / to	SCHRADER
Dermot MORAN	pour / to	SCARANTINO
Riccardo POZZO	pour / to	SCHRADER
Basilio ROJO-RUIZ	pour / to	SCARANTINO
Hyung Chul KIM	pour / to	SCARANTINO
Gerhard SEEL	pour / to	VIRVIDAKIS
William SWEET	pour / to	KEMP
TRAN VAN DOAN	pour / to	POSER
Lourdes VELAZQUEZ	pour / to	KUÇURADI

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Ioanna KUÇURADI Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 1998-2003

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Emiliya IVANOVA Secrétaire administrative / Administrative Secretary

EXCUSÉS / EXCUSED

Gholamreza AAVANI	CD Member
Bhuvan CHANDEL	CD Member
Marcelo DASCAL	CD Member
DIKUN Xie	CD Member
Ivan KALTCHEV	CD Member
PHAM VAN DUC	CD Member
Warayuth SRIWARAKUEL	CD Member
TU Weiming	CD Member
Guido KUENG	Trésorier / Treasurer
Evandro AGAZZI	Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 1988-1993

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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the President of FISP Prof. W. MCBRIDE, who first thanked Prof. HOUNTONDJI, member of the Steering Committee, for hosting and organizing the CD meeting in Benin. Then he presented the agenda along with the main issues to be discussed.

The meeting began with the verification of proxies. The Secretary-General, Dr. Luca Maria SCARANTINO, acquainted the CD with the proxies (as shown above) that persons who were not able to attend the meeting gave to the present CD members. He noted that some members had excused themselves for their non-attendance at the meeting but did not inform him about their proxies. Other absent members had given their proxies to him but, as he has a right to only two proxies, he could not represent them in an eventual vote. Other members, who were given proxies, had to renounce at the last minute and were not in condition to use their proxies.

The President of FISP, Prof. McBride, observed that even though some proxies do not allow voting, they have their significance to the extent to which they permit absent CD

members to be represented in the discussion. It was therefore agreed to maintain the list of proxies as shown above, with the clause that votes will only allow using up to two proxies per CD member.

2. Approval of the Minutes from the CD meeting in Cres, Croatia (Sept. 21-22, 2011)

The meeting continued with discussion of the Minutes from the CD meeting held in Cres, Croatia on Sept. 21-22, 2011.

No comments, no corrections and no objections were made to the Minutes.

The minutes from the meeting of the CD in Cres, Croatia, September, 21-22, 2011 were approved unanimously.

3. Report of the President of FISP.

Following approval of the agenda the meeting continued with the report of the President (given in English).

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE FISP CD

Porto-Novo, Benin, Oct 18, 2012

This will be my last report until the eve of the next World Congress next August in Athens. That is only nine and one-half months from now, or a little less than .033% of the time that will by then have elapsed since the death of Socrates. (You see, I have been trying to follow the instructions of Socrates' disciple, Plato, by becoming engaged with mathematics.) There is so much that could still be done, and so little time remaining in which to do it – or so I feel.

Of course the figures of Socrates and Plato have loomed larger than usual in our consciousness by virtue of the fact that the Athens World Congress has become increasingly imminent. Almost every Steering Committee member is committed to co-chairing one section (in one case two sections) of contributed papers, and in at least a few cases the contributions have begun slowly to arrive, and a number of you are involved in other aspects of World Congress preparation as well. I thank you so much for all of this! Special thanks must be given to Stelios Virvidakis, who in effect serves as the principal liaison between us and the Hellenic Organizing Committee; to the Chair of the former Programme Committee and the present Executive Committee, Prof. Dermot Moran, who has made an outstanding contribution especially by organizing a large and very impressive collection of Invited Sessions, work that has required a large amount of correspondence; and to Dr. Luca Scarantino, who, among other things, has been keeping track particularly of Member Society Sessions, has edited the French version of the Second Circular, and has also visited both with our Greek colleagues and with the agency in Athens that is in charge of the non-academic side of the Congress, AFEA, over the course of recent months.

As you well know, there has been a sense of uncertainty about the Congress in the minds of many people, including many potential participants, because of the Greek economic crisis above all. Although, to be sure, unexpected impediments may still arise, as is the case with any projected human endeavor, it has always seemed strange to me that some people would believe that economic hard times might cause the Greeks to prefer outsiders not to come to their country, when, quite apart from considerations of hospitality and of national pride, simple economics would suggest just the opposite reaction. In any event, planning for the World Congress is now in its advanced stages, and registrations are trickling in despite the fact that the early deadline for submissions and for lowest-priced registrations has been postponed by several months. Personally, I should add, I am happy with that decision.

I am also very happy with the decision that we made at our meeting last year in Croatia, which I supported but about which I felt some ambivalence at the time, to visit Athens in January if our Greek colleagues agreed to this. They did, a number of us did visit, our Greek colleagues extended far greater hospitality than we had expected, and I think that this meeting was quite successful in achieving the twin aims of lending support to our Greek colleagues during an especially difficult time and of further pursuing World Congress planning. I am grateful to everyone who was able to make that trip.

Prior to it and subsequent to our meetings in Croatia, I made several other trips on which I acted as a representative of FISP. First there was the XVI (biennial) meeting of our member society, the Asociación Filosófica de México, which Luca Scarantino also attended; it was held in Toluca, and hundreds of Mexican philosophers and a few others were there. Then there was a conference of the Institute of the Mind Humanities of Won Kwang University in Seoul; that trip also enabled me to meet with our FISP CD colleague, Samuel Lee, as well as with Seon-Wook Kim, who was so deeply involved in the Seoul World Congress and the person mainly responsible for facilitating the publication of its Proceedings, and with the individual who for a time was Secretary General of the Korean Organizing Committee, Eunsu Cho. There was the Hangzhou Life and Development International Conference in China, an annual meeting that I plan to attend again this year, two weeks from now. And there was the annual meeting of another of our member societies, the Sociedad Argentina de Filosofía, which I attended in late November in Córdoba. Unfortunately, I was unable to accept an invitation to attend the inaugural ceremony of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Aristotle Studies, of which the professor who presented the case to the General Assembly at the Seoul World Congress for holding the next World Congress in Athens, Demetra Sfendoni-Mentzou, is President, but I did send a formal message of congratulations that was read there.

Since January until now there have been no conferences at which I have represented FISP, except for sending a greeting in August to "Gandhirama 2012," which was held in New Delhi under the auspices of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, a FISP member society, and which I very much wish that I had been able to attend in person, but recently Herta Nagl-Docekal represented us at the annual conference of the Slovakian Philosophical Society, which is also one of our member societies. There was, however, the annual International Philosophy Olympiad, which we sponsor, and which as usual was held in May, this year in the city of Oslo. The two CD members who shared membership on the IPO Steering Committee with me for this meeting were Gerhard Seel and, for the first time, Riccardo Pozzo. Also for the first time the UNESCO representative, as provided for by the rules of the IPO, was John Crowley. The final award ceremony was held in the auditorium of the University of Oslo in which the Norwegian part of the Nobel ceremony is also held, and a European television network filmed some of the highlights. It was a great success, due above all to the very hard work of Thor Grødal and his colleagues.

In the area of publications, the most important single development this year, come to fruition only very recently, has been the publication in print form of the papers from the plenary sessions, symposia, and endowed lectures from the Seoul World Congress, together with Peter Kemp's opening address, "Power of the Word." It comes to over 400 pages. It is entitled *Selected Papers from the XXII World Congress of Philosophy* and constitutes a special supplement to the *Journal of Philosophical Research*, which is published by the Philosophy Documentation Center in the United States. My special thanks go to George Leaman, the Director of this Center, who engineered this arrangement and has also been extremely successful in putting proceedings of past World Congresses on line. I appreciate Peter Kemp's ongoing commitment to seeing this through despite all the obstacles, and I wish especially to thank, among our Korean colleagues, Seon-Wook Kim, who devoted untold numbers of hours to this project.

In other matters with which we have been involved, some success was also achieved, but only to a limited extent, so that *la lotta continua*, by our Mexican colleagues Gabriel Vargas-

Lozano, Paulette Dieterlen, and others, to reverse a prior governmental decision to eliminate the teaching of philosophy from Mexican secondary education. In Hungary, I have been informed on good authority that the effort to prosecute judicially five philosophers with distinguished careers has been dropped; we strongly protested that effort when it first came to light. Far less successful, in a matter that certainly concerns us but in which we have very little room to act as an organization, has been the evolution, or something closer to devolution, of UNESCO over the past year. I arranged for a brief meeting with the Secretary General, Irina Bokova, in January on my way to Athens, a meeting at which I invited her to the World Congress in 2013 and clarified the dates of it, about which she had been misinformed. Since then I have had no direct contact with UNESCO except for my work in Oslo with John Crowley, with whom I had had a longer meeting in Paris. I know that our colleague Samuel Lee is about to attend a meeting of UNESCO commissioners in Paris, and that my own Purdue philosophy colleague Leonard Harris has been named a member of the U.S. Commission for UNESCO. But of course it is this same country of which both he and I are citizens, the United States, that has wrought some – not all, but a sizable amount – of the havoc that has visited that organization over the last year or more, having withdrawn its funding because of displeasure over the admission of Palestine as a participating member. No one with whom I have discussed this matter considers this to be a good thing, but who are we? In any event, Luca Scarantino, who has been far more closely involved with UNESCO than any of the rest of us, will, I am sure, refer to it in his report, and then it is one of our agenda items for today.

As I am sure you all know, Dr. Scarantino has sent out an announcement, in accordance with our statutes, to officials of all our member societies soliciting nominations for the elections of the President and Steering Committee members for the five years beginning next August, and so we have begun a process of moving on. As important as the World Congresses are, and as hopeful as I am about the likely success of the next one despite all of the obstacles that its planning has encountered, I have never, at least since I became involved in what is called, on our website, “the work of FISP,” thought of these Congresses as our single principal *telos*. Rather, as I see it, they are just a part of an ongoing effort to maintain and strengthen a global philosophical community that tries to reflect a certain ideal of humanity which many other forces in the world tend either to disregard or even to wish to trample underfoot. I hope that this vision will prevail and, indeed, prosper in the coming years.

3.1. Reactions and comments on the report of the President.

The report of the President provoked questions, reactions and suggestions.

The Secretary-general, Dr. SCARANTINO, asked where can be found the proceedings of former World Congresses now available online. He considered that the possibility of online access to them will be very helpful to scholars, as these proceedings are, so far, only available as hard copy reprints (viz., the Kraus reprints series).

Prof. Ioanna KUÇURADI, former President of FISP, explained that a number of FISP works were already published between 1993 and 2003 but that now FISP hopes to republish them with the help of the *Philosophy Documentation Center*. Prof. MCBRIDE noted, on his side, that this is a very good idea, and he affirmed the great competences of the Director of the *Philosophy Documentation Center*, George Leaman, as well as his strong involvement in the work of FISP. He recalled the support of George Leaman for the publication of the WCP’s *Proceedings* and thanked him, on behalf of the FISP, for this. Dr. SCARANTINO supported the initiative of the republication of FISP works by the *Philosophy Documentation Center*. He suggested also their publication on line with the aim of their better distribution.

There being no further questions or reactions, the report of the President was approved.

4. Report of the Secretary-general

What follows is the text of the report presented to the CD by the Secretary-General of Fisp.

I think that the particular location where this meeting is being held needs some introductory words. As it has been recalled in the last days, during the Conferences held at the National Library of Benin, this is the first CD meeting held in Africa, or in any case the first one in many years, and it takes place on the last year of Paulin J. Hountondji's term as CD member. Despite the diverse difficulties that some of us had to undergo in order to be here, and that prevented several of our colleagues to be with us, it is my conviction that holding this meeting in Porto-Novo is of a particular importance in view of the intercultural, scholarly mission of Fisp. We have insisted, in the last years, on the importance of opening the international network of scholarly cooperation that Fisp represents. Being physically present in regions whose scholars may experience difficulties to travel abroad seems to me to be part of this task. Not just because of our direct contribution to Conferences such as the ones we just attended, but also because it is partly thanks to the presence of our CD here that Paulin Hountondji was able to gather so many African scholars coming from different countries of the continent – both francophone and Anglophone. Fisp plays in this case an attracting effect that should not be underestimated.

On the other hand, we were able to listen to discussions on diverse philosophical topics from the point of view of scholars trained and working in different African countries: it is my feeling that, no matter what judgment each of us may carry of these debates, it is an enriching experience that could not take place in any other place. I would like to thank Paulin Hountondji not just for inviting the CD, but for giving all of us the opportunity to have this unique human and scholarly experience. I am sure that most of us are going back with a whole new set of contacts and of scholarly ties with African colleagues.

Finally, I would like to recall that this year's meeting, initially planned for Turkey, was made possible thanks to an agreement between Paulin Hountondji and our Turkish colleagues Ioanna Kuçuradi and Betül Çotuksöken. Let me thank Ioanna, and through her Betül, for their kind generosity.

If I took a few minutes to focus on the meaning of our presence here, it is also because my report will be unusually short. I will essentially focus on three items: the World Congress, our relations to UNESCO, and some other matters of interest for Fisp.

Athens World Congress. I confess a moderate optimism about the Congress. Since our last meeting, in Cres, where several of us expressed very serious worries about the ongoing preparation, things have taken a positive turn. A professional agency has been hired, and the five members of the executive committee (Moran, McBride, Boudouris, Dragona-Monachou, and myself) are in regular touch with them. Papers are being submitted on a regular basis, and equally regularly dispatched to the different section chairs. Over 500 papers have been received so far. The list of Invited sessions, coordinated by Dermot Moran, is impressive. I have myself received over thirty proposals for society sessions, and more are announced. The Second Circular has been posted several weeks ago, and contains all necessary information for potential participants. Some major features of the Congress, such as the Book exhibit, are being taken care by AFEA. Although some logistic information is still somewhat late, such as the list of hotels and other accommodation options, I have to mention that interaction between us and our Greek partners is permanent: consultation is regular, and most if not all of our suggestions receive a prompt feedback from the Greek side. It is my perception, one that I would like to share with you, that Prof. Boudouris and his team are doing a very good job. Please allow me to mention, too, the precious help provided on a regular basis, and sometimes in difficult conditions, by our colleague and former CD member Prof. Myrto Dragona-Monachou.

Despite this encouraging situation, some generic yet steady skepticism about the Congress seems to stem from the current economic situation of Greece, and perhaps of the Eurozone at large. Now, I would like to state that, while the situation is obviously difficult everywhere in Europe, we

have no evidence of any financial or other shortage that would put the Congress itself in danger: on the contrary, as I already mentioned, we have regular evidence that the scholarly and logistic preparation of the Congress is proceeding regularly. We should perhaps do our best to convey to our colleagues throughout the world the idea that press releases about an imminent collapse of Europe may not be as realistic as they claim to be.

Altogether, therefore, we can look to the next months with some confidence. At the same time, these same months will need an increasingly close cooperation with our hosts, as the final steps of the preparation of a World Congress usually do. This will perhaps have to include extra-scholarly initiatives, such as the possibility for our Greek hosts, and possibly for us too, to insist with the Greek national authorities in order to implement all security measures that would guarantee a safe stay in Athens to our colleagues from all over the world.

UNESCO and Cipsh. I must confess some fatigue in dealing with UNESCO policy. Let me put it this way: funds for Cipsh and Diogenes were reduced to zero this year, thus creating some trouble to Cipsh network (subventions to our activities are no more to be expected) as well as to our journal. At the same time, my feeling is that there is a decreasing interest for philosophy (and, more widely) for the humanities at UNESCO, whose activities in the social and human sciences are essentially focusing on applied social sciences. I am sure that UNESCO officials would be able to find some document proving the contrary: no later than yesterday, I received a "concept note" concerning UNESCO World Day of Philosophy for this year. Interestingly, this note, whose existence I was not aware of, was sent to our IPO colleagues in response to the announcement of a Baltic Sea Essay Competition Event sent out by Juha Savolainen. To my knowledge, neither Fisp nor Cipsh have ever received it, and in any case they have never been consulted about it. I will be happy to forward it to you, but I really have nothing to add. Either we take a strong, common step in defense of philosophy, e.g. through an open letter to the highest UNESCO instances, or any other initiative is likely to end into a mere waste of time.

New admissions and Athens Assembly. Let me shift now to our membership. As in our previous meetings, we observe a positive trend as for the requests of admission, increased perhaps by the fact that several societies are wishing to hold their session at the Congress. We shall examine seven applications: four of them seem to me unproblematic, two may need some discussion, and one seems to me to not fulfill the minimal conditions of admittance. We will examine them later on in detail.

The Congress will also be, as in our tradition, the setting for our General Assembly. As I suggested in a recent message sent to our constituencies, I believe that the Assembly should address the diverse scholarly concerns and interests of our societies. I will therefore do my best to include them in our upcoming agenda.

The Assembly will also reconstitute the Steering Committee of Fisp, and elect a new President. A call for nomination has been sent out, and a deadline established for June 30, 2013. So far, I have received one official proposal for a CD member, and several ones have been announced to me. Nomination of re-eligible members of the Steering Committee is in our agenda, and I am personally in favor of assuring such a continuity. Thirty-one of the current CD members are entitled to be re-elected : 16 of them have already expressed their agreement to continue, one, and perhaps two, are not wishing to continue, and I have received no information yet from the remaining 13 ones. I also received unofficial information of a first nomination for Presidency coming from one of our member societies, and am awaiting to receive the official communication.

Finally, our next meetings. We will meet in Athens next year, of course, and I received a tentative proposition for a meeting in 2014. We also have preliminary suggestions for the following years, and we can expect that new members may also wish to invite the CD in the years 2015-2017. In any case, it will be the task of the next CD to make choices about all this: so, while it would be fair to hand over to it an existing set of propositions, we should take care to not impose upon the decisions it shall take out of its own authority.

The other major file we have to process before and during our Assembly is the choice of the next WCP. So far, the only proposal that I have received was formulated by our colleague Tu Weiming, who is working with the Peking University to host the 2018 Congress in Beijing. I was invited to meet the Chinese officials last December, including the Vice-President of Peking University, and they officially informed me of their wish to present such bid – a wish that has been further confirmed in an email that Prof. Yansong Li sent to me last April. Of course, we cannot exclude other proposals that might reach us in the next months: but, so far, I have no notice of such possible bids.

Luca Maria Scarantino.

4.1. Reactions and comments on the report of the Secretary-general

The report of the Secretary-general elicited reactions which can be summarized in three main points:

1. Relations with UNESCO;
2. WCP in Athens, 2013;
3. Proposals for the WPC 2018.

Relations with UNESCO

The current policy of UNESCO regarding the place of philosophy and humanities in UNESCO's activities gave rise to a lively discussion.

The Vice-President of Fisp, Prof. M. STEPANYANTS, expressed her disapproval of the project of UNESCO to bring together the two separate sectors of social sciences and natural sciences. "The elimination of the sector of social sciences means that the quite limited budget for the social sciences that we have had until now, will become even more restricted. This is one more step to marginalize the social and human sciences, and philosophy in particular" she argued. The Russian Institute of Philosophy has objected to this proposal, sending a list of arguments to the Russian National Delegation to UNESCO. She expressed her opinion that despite this negative tendency in UNESCO's policy vis-à-vis philosophy and the humanities, FISP should find a way to continue to cooperate with it. "UNESCO could help in the realization of important humanities projects," she added, and gave as an example a recent UNESCO-supported project in Russia related to education and cultural dialogue.

Dr. SCARANTINO agreed with this suggestion, but expressed some doubts about the possibility of a productive future collaboration: his feeling is that the present administration does not care much about humanities. An example of this negligence of humanities is the policy of UNESCO with regard to cooperation with CIPSH. "In the official documents authorities responsible for humanities claim to want to increase their partnership with CIPSH", he noted, "but their real policy is all the opposite". Another example is the attitude shown by the functionaries to important philosophical dates such as the centennial anniversary of Paul Ricœur. Paul Ricœur's foundation in Paris, Dr. SCARANTINO said, wanted to organize a celebration of this with UNESCO and wrote about the project to the responsible authorities at UNESCO, but they barely answered. This lack of consideration for the humanities, and philosophy in particular, is manifested also in the fact that very often CIPSH is not consulted concerning events in the field organized by UNESCO, just as FISP was not consulted concerning the WPD.

Prof. KUÇURADI wondered what should be the strategy of FISP in this situation. She recalled that UNESCO is committed to its own "Strategy on Philosophy", and that it cannot simply discard it.

CD members agreed that FISP should undertake actions in defense of philosophy within UNESCO's priorities. Some of them proposed sending to UNESCO a declaration on behalf of FISP

in this respect. Dr. SCARANTINO supported the idea, suggesting that the declaration be signed by CD members and addressed to all national delegations in UNESCO. "Such an action could make sense if we extended it on a very large public scale", he argued.

Another point which called forth a quite long discussion was the participation of UNESCO in the celebration of the WPD. Answering the question of Prof. KUKOC as to what extent UNESCO is still engaged in the event, Dr. SCARANTINO explained that the tradition of celebrating the main WPD event in a different country each year is not respected any more. While local initiatives are still taking place in different countries thanks to the commitment of local scholars, no such thing as a major celebration of the Philosophy Day takes place anymore. The set of initiatives that are hosted in Paris represent only a pale remnant of what the Day used to be. It must be recalled that the cost of those major events was essentially covered by the inviting countries, so UNESCO's decision doesn't really depend on its financial crisis.

Many CD members expressed the opinion that FISP should undertake actions in order to reestablish the tradition of the WPD. Some of them proposed that the main WPD celebration might be taken over by FISP, who could implement it in partnership with UNESCO; others supported the idea of organizing the event in complete independence from UNESCO. "I have a feeling that it is a waste of time to continue to organize the WPD with UNESCO. We can organize it alone if some country would like to do it and could find financial support for that", suggested Prof. P. Kemp. "I know that this represents a huge work for our Bureau, but I think that it is the only possibility to save the tradition of the WPD", he argued.

Even though in favor of this proposal, Dr. SCARANTINO observed that the celebration of the WPD requires a quite significant investment in terms of effort and of human resources. Besides, the role that UNESCO played in the organization of the WPD consisted mainly in the prestige it still has in many countries, such that it helped finding local funds on a national or institutional level.

The President of FISP, Prof. MCBRIDE, also appreciated the proposal. "Up until now we have hoped that things might turn around, so in that case it would not make sense for us to organize something in competition with UNESCO", he said. He recalled, for his part, that the WPD was initiated by UNESCO at the instance of Prof. KUÇURADI, who launched the idea and who succeeded in persuading the UNESCO authorities of its merit. "But things have changed so much in the last couple of years; one turning point was the WPD planned to be held in Iran, from which UNESCO withdrew at the very last moment", he observed. "In fact, the last really serious WPD was in Moscow, which was just a couple of years ago but which seems ages ago in terms of where we are actually in this respect", he concluded. In his opinion it would be difficult to think about an independent WPD celebration in 2013, in view of the change of the Presidency, but if there are countries ready to host the WPD the idea could be generally supported. He shared with the CD his personal impression that the present authorities of UNESCO do not care very much about philosophy and philosophical events such as WPD, an impression he had after his brief conversations with the Director-General of UNESCO, Mrs Irina Bokova, and the person in charge of the social and human sciences, Mr John Crowley.

Prof. STEPANYANTS claimed that this negative attitude toward philosophy and the humanities is not, in her view, a policy of UNESCO itself but of some particular states. "To my surprise," she said, "the representatives of developed countries such as Great Britain, the US, the Scandinavian countries and others were against including philosophy among UNESCO priorities." On the other hand, "the representatives of the countries which supported philosophy could not articulate it in a persuasive way". She suggested that FISP come out with a document in defense of philosophy to be submitted to the National Commissions and UNESCO General Conference.

Arguing in a favor of this suggestion, Prof. KUÇURADI added that FISP should act

immediately in order to be able to present an official declaration to the next meeting of the Executive Board of UNESCO, scheduled for Spring 2013. "The declaration should not just be sent to the National Commissions and permanent delegates, it should also be followed up", she stressed. She suggested also that every CD member contact his or her National Commission for UNESCO, presenting the Declaration in order to fortify the defense of philosophy at the General Conference.

Regarding the celebration of the WPD, she observed that it would be better to take the decision on the subject later, namely after the reaction of UNESCO to this declaration. "As the aim is not just to have a WPD but to revive the tradition of the celebration of the WPD within UNESCO, we could first write to our societies, informing them about the situation, prepare in parallel a declaration to the UNESCO authorities, then wait a little and if there is no change in UNESCO policies, we can do all that we are discussing now, namely take over the WPD", she proposed.

Many other CD members agreed with the idea that FISP should try to reestablish the tradition of the WPD within UNESCO, playing at the same time an active role in its organization. "We can keep the name of UNESCO for the event," said Prof. RENDTORFF, "but I think that FISP should take the initiative for its organization, if we cannot count on UNESCO anymore." He fortified this position with the argument that there are, according to his own experience related to the WPD, countries which are very interested in hosting international manifestations such as WPD. "So we can keep the collaboration with UNESCO in the name of the prestige of the event, but FISP should take the initiative for WPD", he concluded, adding that FISP could continue to work with UNESCO also on the interdisciplinary projects. He gave as an example of such possibility a recent conference, organized by himself, on management and priorities to which he has invited UNESCO. "Maybe UNESCO prefers to give priority to some sciences but we can show them that we are ready to participate in this interdisciplinary work; we can prove the role of philosophy in these matters", he argued.

Other CD members joined their opinions to the generally supported position regarding the WPD. Prof. POSER pointed out that in the last years the WPD was organized by a member society of FISP: this was the case in Russia, for instance. "So, I think that it is quite normal that one of CD members looks for possible financing of the WPD and makes a proposal for its organization to the President. The President and Board could then inform UNESCO about the initiative and ask its patronage for the event", he suggested and expressed his belief that UNESCO would not reject collaboration with FISP.

"FISP is not only responsible for philosophy in the world, but has also the necessary means for mobilizing the world philosophical community in celebration of the WPD", added Prof. KÜLE. "It is sufficient to send a letter of reminder to our member societies, asking them to participate in the celebration of the WPD in order to have an event on a worldwide dimension", she stressed. She expressed her conviction that WPD can be organized in a particular country under the patronage of UNESCO and shared her experience of WPD's celebrations held for many years in Latvia.

Prof. NIINILUOTO suggested that the General Policy Committee might prepare practical guidelines concerning the organization of the WPD, to be discussed at the next CD meeting.

Discussion on the matter resulted in the unanimously endorsed decision that an official declaration in defense of the place of philosophy among UNESCO's priorities, as well as the tradition of celebration of the WPD should be prepared by a special committee. Approved and signed by the CD members, it would be sent to UNESCO authorities, National Commissions for UNESCO and member societies.

WCP Athens, 2013

Another part of the Secretary-general's report which gave rise to a discussion was the organization of the WCP in Athens, 2013. In his report Dr. SCARANTINO stressed that the organization of the WCP was going well, but that, regarding the general political situation in Greece, there are some points to which the Greek organizers should pay particular attention.

Prof. VIRVIDAKIS promised to convey all remarks of the CD members on the subject to the HOC. He shared, on his side, some ongoing problems that the HOC has addressed: the evaluation of papers received in some languages (mostly Russian and Chinese) without English, French or German abstracts, the interpretation of these languages at the Congress, the criteria concerning publication of accepted papers, etc.

As a possible way out of the situations in which chairs of sections receive papers in languages that they do not speak, Prof. MCBRIDE suggested collaboration with colleagues who are competent in those languages. Prof. STEPANIANTS proposed the establishment by the HOC of a small commission of 3 or 5 experts able to read abstracts in special languages.

Prof. M. KÜLE drew attention to the matter of translation of these languages at the Congress, stressing that it would not be useful to have entire sessions in one special language as it happened at the WCP in Seoul.

The translation of certain languages was actually one of the main concerns of the HOC conveyed by Prof. VIRVIDAKIS to the CD. He acquainted the CD members with the steps taken by the HOC in this direction: a request for help on the subject was addressed to the Chinese embassy in Athens, but the HOC is also considering the idea of requesting interpreters' assistance from the authorities in Beijing.

As a result of this discussion the CD members approved Dr. Scarantino's proposal that all recommendations on the organization of the WCP, 2013 should be sent in writing to the HOC.

Proposals for WCP 2018

The proposal coming from Peking University for holding the WCP 2018 there, mentioned in the Secretary-general's report, engendered some remarks.

Prof. KUÇURADI observed that this invitation cannot be considered as official if it is not supported by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. "The engagement of the CASS, and especially of the section of philosophy, in this event is very important", she noted.

Dr. SCARANTINO explained that, according to the assurances received from Prof. TU Weiming who transmitted the invitation, and to the feedback he also received from CASS officers, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences is ready to endorse this proposal.

All CD members agreed with Prof. KUÇURADI and Prof. MCBRIDE that this assurance should be made official in a written document. The Secretary-general added that an official support should also be provided by the Chinese government, and included in the final bid.

As a result of discussion CD members approved the suggestion that further actions in this direction should be undertaken in order for FISP Assembly and CD to decide about an invitation to hold the WCP 2018 in Beijing, China.

5. Report of the Treasurer.

In the absence of Prof. Kueng the report of the Treasurer was presented by the Secretary-general, Dr. SCARANTINO.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

for the Meeting of the Comité Directeur of FISP
on October 18, 2012, in Porto-Novo near Cotonou in Benin

Together with this report I submit to you:

- FISP & Fonds Congrès Mondiaux : AVOIR 26.09.2012 (see Annex) ;
- FISP Bilan 30.06.2012 (see Annex) ;
- FISP Recettes & Dépenses 01.07.2011 - 30.06.2012 (see Annex) ;
- FISP Etat des paiements des sociétés 26.09.2012 (see Annex).

A) As you can see, on September 26, 2012 the general assets of FISP (= FISP: AVOIR) amounted to 100'784 Swiss Francs (i.e. 83'279 Euros or 107'492 US-Dollars)¹.

- For the time being the financial situation is under control. In order to preserve the competitiveness of Swiss exports and tourism the Swiss Federal Bank has decided to prevent the Euro from falling below 1.20 Swiss Francs (at present the exchange rate is 1 Euro = 1.2102 Swiss Francs). The contributions of our societies are labeled in Euros, and most of our assets are being kept in Swiss Francs.

- A comparison with the general assets of last year on August 31, 2011 (as reported to the CD in Cres, Croatia) which amounted to 87'230 Swiss Francs shows that the situation is stable: at present our assets are higher than in 2011 - a plus of 13'554 Swiss Francs - but FISP will have to pay out the subsidies for the travel to Benin which will be quite expensive.

B) In addition to its general assets, FISP also has assets for endowed lectures at World Congresses (*Fonds Congrès mondiaux*) :

- The sum for the Maimonides Lecture is being kept in Fribourg. On September 26, 2012 it amounted to 11'625 Swiss Francs (i.e. 9'605 Euros or 12'398 US-Dollars). Last year (on August 31, 2011) it had amounted to 10'818 Swiss Francs; thus, here too, the situation is stable. But the small increase of 807 Swiss Francs during the past year means that we will not be able to finance much more than the travel costs of the lecturer in question.

- An additional sum (for the Ibn Rushd Lecture) is being kept by Prof. Ioanna Kuçuradi in Ankara. In June 2008 it had amounted to about 14'000 US-Dollars (I have not received any news about its actual amount).

- Furthermore the Kierkegaard Centre in Copenhagen pays for the Kierkegaard Lecturer.

- And starting next year the Korean Philosophical Association will pay for a new endowed lecture, the East-West Lecture.

C) I have also drawn up the table of the FISP income (*recettes*) and expenditures (*dépenses*) during the year 2011/2012 (in order to allow for comparison with past years, this table is labeled entirely in Swiss Francs, and the period runs from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012).

- In the past year the membership fees received from our member societies have amounted to 18'770 Swiss Francs. In the five years before the Seoul World Congress the average annual amount had been 19'040 Swiss Francs. Thus here too there is stability.

- The contributions to the Compensation Fund have been a meager 502 Swiss Francs. In these times of crisis the societies are not eager to make special donations. The donations came from the Japanese Federation of Philosophical Societies, the Association internationale des professeurs de philosophie, and the Council for Research in Values and Philosophy. Usually

¹ 1 EUR = 1.2102 CHF ; 1 USD = 0.9379 CHF (26.09.2012).

the American Philosophical Association also makes a donation, but this time they have paid their dues only in August 2012, so that their contribution does not figure in the accounts ending on June 30.

- The main expenditures of FISP are the partial subsidies for travel (*indemnités de voyage*: 4'140 Swiss Francs) and the cost of the secretariat (6'124 Swiss Francs). Together this has amounted to 10'264 Swiss Francs. The cost of the travel to Cres, Croatia has been especially low; because of this, but also because of an increase in value of the investment, the Bilan of June 30, 2012 shows a net gain of 9'708 Swiss Francs. But as I have already mentioned the present travel to Benin will be more costly, so that the next Bilan will no longer show such an increase.

On the whole, I always have to make sure that the main expenditures are roughly equal to the membership fees received from our member societies, so that the accounts are balanced. Notice that this overall balance can only be kept, because the President, the Secretary General, and the Treasurer do not get any subsidy for their work.

D) Enclosed herewith you also find the list of the member societies of FISP indicating their payment of dues (*État des paiements des sociétés*):

As of September 26, 2012 FISP has 121 Member Societies:

68 societies have paid their dues for 2012 or 2013.

33 societies have made their last payment for 2009, 2010, or 2011

17 societies have made their last payment for 2008 or even before the Seoul World Congress

3 societies that are new as members of FISP have not paid their dues.

- As you can see 68 societies are in good standing.

- For about 17 societies I may have to propose to the General Assembly of the World Congress in Athens that they be dropped from our list.

- About 36 societies may still pay up their dues; the year of the World Congress is usually an occasion to return to good standing, because societies that have not paid all their dues, do not have the right to vote at the General Assembly.

Guido Küng

The report was approved without comments or questions. CD members endorsed with general agreement the proposal that the issue of member societies which have not paid their fees for many years should be submitted for discussion to the General Assembly, 2013.

6. Report of the Chair of the WCP Executive Committee

The report of the chair of the WCP Executive Committee, Prof. Dermot MORAN, who was not able to attend the meeting, was presented by the Secretary-general, Dr. SCARANTINO. First, the President of FISP, Prof. MCBRIDE, shared with the CD members the generally optimistic vision of Prof. Moran regarding the way in which the organization of the WCP 2013 in Athens has been going on in spite of the difficult economic situation in Greece.

The report touched all subjects related to the organization of the WCP in Athens: current status of the invited sessions, society sessions and submitted papers, registrations, financial and accommodation issues, publications of the proceedings of the Congress, etc.

6.1. Invited sessions

"Prof. Moran has done an amazing job on the matter of invited sessions, summarizing all received proposals, sending them to every one of the section chairs and establishing a personal contact with all of the participants", the Secretary-general stated. He then acquainted the CD

with the current figures of received proposals for invited sessions (figures valid on Oct 10, 2012):

45 invited session proposals had been received up to that time and almost all of them were considered by the section chairs. The list of Invited Sessions accepted and approved by the Greek Organizing Committee is posted on the website of the WCP.

6.2. Society sessions

Up to this time the Executive Committee has received applications for society sessions from 22 societies: some have applied for one session and several of them for more than one session, Dr. SCARANTINO announced. He shared his conviction that it will be good to accept proposals for more than one session, if the Congress program allows that. Altogether, there are between 31 and 32 sessions scheduled at the moment, which means about 70 sessions together with the invited sessions. But more applications could be submitted in the months ahead, Dr. SCARANTINO indicated.

6.3. Submitted papers

The subject of submitted papers has been handled by the HOC, the Secretary-general noted. He informed the CD members that as of October, 10, 2012 the HOC had received 509 paper submissions, coming from 496 participants and 13 students. As a matter of comparison with Korea, he observed, on November, 1, 2007, Korean organizers had received 870 submissions. In his opinion the two figures could be considered as comparable in view of the fact that the number of submitted papers received by the Koreans organizers reflected the state of affairs nearly one month later.

6.4. Registrations

Dr. SCARANTINO informed the CD members about current registration figures:

As of October, 10, 2012 the Greek organizers have recorded 199 registrations coming from 37 different countries. Among the countries with most registrations are the following ones:

Russia	30
China	25
USA	25
Japan	10
India	12
Greece	12

The actual number of registrations is not very significant, but it can change considerably in February, the first deadline of registrations, the Secretary-general pointed out. The detailed breakdown of these registrations is joined to these Minutes.

Regarding the subject of registration, he reminded the CD members that they are also requested to pay the fees for registration, as well as their travel to Athens. Accompanying persons can benefit from the official hotel hospitality but they should also register at a reduced price. Only invited speakers for the plenary sessions, symposiums and endowed lectures are exempt from registration fees.

6.5. Accommodation

The accommodation for the period of the Congress will be provided by the HOC to all CD members and invited speakers. They will be hosted at the Divani Caravel Hotel, located near the University campus.

In the second circular already posted on the website of the Congress there is information concerning the accommodations of different categories of participants, including CD members, Dr. SCARANTINO recalled.

Prof. VIRVIDAKIS, member of the HOC, specified that the hotel where CD members and invited speakers will be hosted is situated within walking distance from the entrance of the University campus. However, as the University campus is quite large, the HOC is considering arranging a shuttle bus connecting the entrance of the campus and to the buildings where the sessions will take place. He gave also some practical information about restaurant possibilities: a number of cafeterias and students' restaurants will be put at the disposal of the participants who can benefit from special negotiated prices in the area of campus. Nice taverns located near to the campus can also be used for the purpose. The HOC is about to negotiating prices for WCP participants with some of the restaurants closest to the venue. It is possible that some student dorms be granted for staying to the participants at the Congress, Prof. VIRVIDAKIS said.

"All this practical information will be posted on the website", the Secretary-general noted, assuring CD members that the Greek organizers are doing their best in order to provide good conditions for work.

6.6. Publication of the proceedings of the Congress (including submitted papers)

One of the main points of discussion related to the WCP 2013 organization was the proceedings of the Congress.

A commonly shared concern of the CD members in this discussion was that of the *criteria* regarding the selection for publication of admitted papers. "Many papers can be accepted but not all of them published" observed Prof. NIINILUOTO, who raised the issue of FISP's strategy on the subject. The President, Prof. MCBRIDE, noted that the issue of publications concerns primarily the organizers. Nevertheless, FISP should have a strategy in this respect and the possibility to make recommendations, he said. As the scientific side of the WCP is the responsibility of the Executive Committee, the latter can work in conjunction with the HOC on the matter, Prof. MCBRIDE suggested.

In the discussion that followed the CD members agreed that the chairs of the sessions should have some *common criteria* concerning the recommendation for publication of submitted papers. While some members proposed as a possible criterion of recommendation the *originality* of contributions, others noted the importance of invited sessions and round tables and insisted on their being included in the publications. Some voices were raised also in defense of the idea that each accepted paper be accessible whether in a printed volume or on a CD rom, as was the case in Korea. "I think that every paper should be documented somewhere – on CD-Rom or elsewhere", stressed Prof. POSER, arguing that such documentation is important not only for the young people who participate for the first time in the Congress, but also for the people who might have difficulties attending the Congress and who might look for information on it later.

"The printed volumes from Korea included the opening address, endowed lectures, symposia and plenary sessions, Prof. MCBRIDE recalled, but all accepted papers went automatically to a CD-Rom." He expressed his opinion that this could be a possible solution of the problem, observing at the same time that FISP should have the right to make suggestions and revise the proceedings.

The CD members agreed that the issue of proceedings requires a common policy with the Greek organizers and acceptance of common criteria for recommendation for publication of the submitted papers.

Prof. KUÇURADI drew the attention of the CD members to the fact that very often the

selection of the papers for publishing depends on editors even though that is in the first instance the responsibility of the organizers. She supported the proposal of publishing not only the plenary sessions and symposia but also the invited sessions and round tables, underlining that the speakers in invited sessions should be alerted to this possibility.

The discussion resulted in the general agreement that at least the opening address, endowed lectures, plenary sessions, symposia, invited sessions and round tables should be included in the printed volumes of proceedings.

The selection for publication of submitted papers should be the object of a common policy with the Greek organizers. FISP could make recommendations to the HOC regarding the publications. The Executive Committee might work in conjunction with the HOC and revise the proceedings before or after the WCP 2013.

7. CD meetings for 2013

The discussion turned then to the matter of the next CD meetings, both of the current and of the newly elected Steering Committees.

“Congress starts on Sunday, official registration begins on Saturday evening”, Dr. SCARANTINO indicated. He suggested scheduling the next CD meeting on Saturday afternoon, the 3rd of August, 2013.

Prof. VIRVIDAKIS noted that the CD meeting could take place either in the Divani Caravel hotel or in the University. He promised to get the HOC to specify the venue and all other conditions for holding the meeting.

The CD members approved the proposal. The next CD meeting of the current Steering Committee will take place in Athens, Greece, on Saturday, the 3rd of August, 2013.

Scheduling the meeting of the newly elected CD raised some difficulties because of the still not completed program of the Congress and the lack of precise information about the commitments of the elected and re-elected members on it. Prof. MCBRIDE recalled that in Seoul this meeting was held on the last day of the Congress. The Secretary-general, Dr. SCARANTINO, remarked that attending a meeting on the last day of stay, i.e., Aug 11, might be impossible for some members. “As the General Assembly is scheduled for Friday, the 9th of August, the meeting of the new CD could be held on Saturday, the 10th, depending on the flexibility of the program”, Dr. Luca Scarantino suggested. He promised to check with the Greek organizers about the possibility of holding the meeting of the new CD on Saturday, the 10th of August.

The CD members decided to schedule *tentatively* the meeting of the new CD on Saturday, August 10, 2013. Confirmation of this decision and additional specifications are subject to further consultation with the HOC.

8. Proposals to host the next CD meetings

In the framework of the general discussion of the next CD meeting, the Secretary-general acquainted CD members with proposals for hosting the CD meetings after 2013 that he has received up to the present moment.

The possibility of a CD meeting to take place in Bangkok in 2014 was discussed by Dr. SCARANTINO with local colleagues. He understands that CD member Prof. Warayuth SRIWARAKUEL has been informally consulted about this option and is in favor of it. Dr. SCARANTINO will contact Prof. SRIWARAKUEL to assess the viability of this idea.

An official, still pending invitation for a CD meeting in Istanbul, Turkey was addressed to the Secretary-general by Prof. KUÇURADI. This meeting can be scheduled for 2015 or 2016, the

Secretary-general noted, adding that new invitations could be expected after the WCP, 2013 from members of the new CD.

Dr SCARANTINO added that, in any case, the decision about meetings for the incoming years shall be made by the new CD. So, all we are entitled to do by now is prepare a preliminary work that will be passed on to the new CD.

9. Invitation to the World Congress of Juche Ideas: follow-up

In accordance with the agenda, discussion continued on the matter of the invitation to the World Congress of Juche Ideas, considered at the CD meeting in Cres, Croatia.

The President of FISP, Prof. McBride, asked for feedback information from the CD members who had expressed their interest in participating in the event. Such information was not available because no one of the concerned CD members could attend the Congress: some because of other professional engagements, others because of the lack of follow-up information from North Korean authorities.

10. Re-eligibility of CD members

Special attention was paid to the issue of the next Steering Committee's constitution. The Secretary-general, Dr. SCARANTINO, recalled the general rules regarding the re-eligibility of members.

According to these rules, some CD members are coming to the end of their third term of office, and are therefore non re-eligible. These CD members are:

Prof. Bhuvan Chandel
Prof. Herta Nagl-Docekal
Prof. Paulin J. Hountondji
Prof. Maija Kõle
Prof. Ilkka Niiniluoto
Prof. Basilio Rojo-Ruiz

Other CD members, elected either in 2003 or in 2008, are re-eligible for a third or second term respectively. The Secretary-general is currently verifying with each one of them the wish to serve for another term, or, alternatively, the wish to not continue as CD member. The final list of re-eligible CD members who prefer to not continue will be communicated by the Secretary-general once this survey is concluded.

The re-eligible CD members elected in 2003 are:

Prof. Marietta Stepaniants
Prof. Tomás Calvo-Martinez
Prof. Betül Çotuksöken
Prof. Marcelo Dascal
Prof. Thalía Fung Riveron
Prof. Ivan Kaltchev
Prof. Dermot Moran
Prof. Hans Poser
Dr. Luca M. Scarantino
Prof. William Sweet
Prof. Tran van Doan

Re-eligible CD members elected in 2008 are:

Prof. Gholamreza Aavani
Prof. Günter Abel
Prof. Joseph C.A. Agbakoba
Prof. Tanella Boni
Prof. Didier Deleule
Prof. Hyung Chul Kim
Prof. Mislav Kukoc
Prof. Samuel Lee
Prof. Ernest Lepore
Prof. Pham Van Duc
Prof. Riccardo Pozzo
Prof. Jacob Dahl Rendtorff
Prof. Ken-ichi Sasaki
Prof. David Schrader
Prof. Gerhard Seel
Prof. Warayuth Sriwarakuel
Prof. Tu Weiming
Prof. Lourdes Velazquez
Prof. Stelios Virvidakis
Prof. Dikun Xie

The Secretary-general indicated that some of the re-eligible CD members have already given their agreement to continue; from others he is still waiting news.

The discussion turned to the strategy of nomination. The issue raised by the Secretary-general was whether the re-eligible CD members who do agree to continue should be nominated automatically or whether FISP should rely on other nominations. He expressed his personal predilection for the automatic nomination of the re-eligible CD members in order to assure the continuity of the CD's work.

The President, Prof. MCBRIDE, argued in a favor of the direct nomination of the re-eligible CD members wishing to continue, with the argument that this is a tradition of FISP. But other possibilities should also be open, he remarked.

"The alternative would be to ask the member societies whether they still support their representatives or would like to nominate others", observed Prof. NIINILUOTO. Some voices were raised in a favor of this suggestion. Most CD members agreed that societies should have the possibility to make their own substitute nominations.

Discussion resulted in the unanimously endorsed decision to respect FISP's tradition of automatic nomination of the re-eligible CD members, at the same time allowing member societies to nominate new representatives.

11. Membership applications

Seven membership applications were received by the Secretary-general between the CD meeting in Cres and the CD meeting in Benin. The Secretary-general presented briefly the profile of each of the societies applying for membership.

11.1. George Santayana Society

The George Santayana Society is an American philosophical society dedicated to George

Santayana's philosophy. It is typical philosophical thematic society, of a sort that is already familiar to the CD, the Secretary-general noted. It applied for the first time about 2 years ago but at that time it had no constitution or proper statutes. So, at the time the application was not approved. But now the problem is fixed, Dr. SCARANTINO said. He presented briefly the activities of the society, the Presidency and number of members.

The membership application of the George Santayana as a full member was approved.

11.2. International Society for Environmental Ethics.

The Secretary-general presented briefly the history of this society: when it was created, how many members it has, what are its main activities, its Presidency and board. This is a major thematic philosophical society, said Dr. SCARANTINO.

After a brief discussion of the thematic orientation of the society's activities in which Prof. SCHRADER assured CD members that it is a typically philosophical one, the application was accepted.

The International Society for Environmental Ethics was approved as a full member of FISP.

11.3. Association of Chinese Philosophers in America.

Dr. SCARANTINO made a brief presentation of the society: date of creation, its founders, the Presidency and board, number of members, meetings per year, main activities.

"The title of the society is Association of Chinese Philosophers in America, although it might be noticed that the list of members includes mainly philosophers who are not from China", he said. According the constitution of the society, he clarified, the membership in the Association is open to any person "who is a philosopher, lives in America and would like to be recognized as a Chinese philosopher in the broadest sense of the word Chinese".

The title of the society provoked some reactions: certain CD members asked to what extent the title means an association open only to Chinese philosophers, while others suggested that the title should be changed in order to represent better the international character of society.

Prof. MCBRIDE specified on this point that the title, in his opinion, means philosophers living in the USA who are interested in Chinese philosophy but not an association restricted to Chinese philosophers.

Discussion resulted in approval of the membership application of the Association of Chinese Philosophers in America as a full member.

11.4. International Association for Aesthetics

"That is the major association in aesthetics with a long tradition and constant activity", observed Dr. Scarantino, presenting the Association along with its date of creation, Presidency and board, and main activities. Prof. SASAKI confirmed the statement and completed the information concerning the activities of Association.

The Association was accepted as a full member of FISP.

11.5. International society for Buddhist Philosophy

Dr. SCARANTINO presented this society: date of foundation, aims, and activities. The application raised some concerns within the CD. Points discussed were related to the number of members (only 73: a number which does not meet the requirements), the philosophical orientation of the society's activities, its date of foundation, and the status of the society.

After a small discussion on these points, the application was tentatively rejected with the provision that there should be further investigation by the CD members, followed by a general consultation by the Secretary-general. The results of this consultation would be submitted electronically to the CD for further consideration².

11.6. Christian Philosophical Society in Congo Brazzaville

The application of the Christian Philosophical Society in Congo Brazzaville also raised questions. Most of them were related to the date of foundation of the society, its thematic orientation and the number of its members. Remarks made by CD members concerned mainly the congruence of the society's profile with the rules of acceptance.

Discussion resulted in the rejection of society, due to the fact that it is a too recently-established society which has not enough members.

11.7. Center for Positive Philosophy and Interdisciplinary Studies in Pehowa (India)

Dr. SCARANTINO presented this society according to the data included in the application: date of foundation (July 2010), aims, activities since 2010. The application included no constitution, and there is a lack of information about the number of members and fees. Various CD members expressed concern about the actual status of this Center, as it is not clear whether it is a society or not, nor whether it actually has a legal status.

After a brief discussion of the profile of the society and the fact that the information submitted was considered insufficient the application was tentatively rejected. Again, further investigation and consultation was requested, so that a final decision would be made by the CD³.

12. Spanish as an official language for IPO

The President, Prof. MCBRIDE, informed the CD about the previously adopted recommendation of FISP to add the Spanish language as the fourth official language in the IPO on a trial basis. According to the rules of the Olympiads, students must write an essay in a foreign language different from their native language, he reminded them.

The proposal that the Spanish language now be added permanently as an official language of the IPO was supported by CD members with the argument that many students in the USA and Canada, where there are large Spanish speaking communities, could benefit from this opportunity. Another argument in support of the proposal was that it will open more possibilities for all potential participants.

Informing CD members on the subject of the IPO, Prof. MCBRIDE added that IPO 2012 held in Oslo, Norway was very successful and that IPO 2013 will take place in Denmark.

CD members endorsed unanimously the proposal to add the Spanish language permanently as a fourth official language of the IPO.

13. Reports of the FISP committees

13.1. Committee for Philosophy and Intercultural Cooperation

The chair of the Committee for Philosophy and Intercultural Cooperation, Prof. KÜLE,

² As a result of this consultation, the application was finally rejected.

³ As a result of this consultation, the application was finally rejected.

presented briefly the activities accomplished by the committee during the period. The Committee has published three volumes with articles from different countries: mainly the USA, Russia and many European countries. "Now we are thinking about the possibility of unifying in one volume the articles that we have received from Asia, the USA, Russia, Europe and Africa and publishing them with the *Philosophy Documentation Center*", she noted, adding that in her opinion this will be an excellent edition. She specified in this respect that the Committee, chaired by her, has already received very good articles from all over the world, even from small not very developed countries and that she intended to continue to work in this direction.

Philosophical cooperation on the international level, she added, was promoted in Latvia. The Committee has organized in Riga a conference on *Science and Ethics* in which some CD members participated (H. Poser, P. Kemp, G. Abel, ex-CD members such as Hans Lenk, etc). The conference was the product of cooperation between two committees: the Committee for History of Philosophy and the Committee for Philosophy and Intercultural Cooperation, Prof. KÜLE said.

13.2. Committee for History of Philosophy

The chair of the Committee for History of Philosophy Prof. POSER informed the CD about the activity of the Committee in recent months. The Committee has organized, with the collaboration of Prof. Riccardo POZZO, a meeting on the history of philosophy in Rome. The proceedings of the meeting will be published in the near future, he informed.

An invited symposium with the title *Why history of philosophy* will be organized at the World Congress, 2013. All CD members interested in this topic are invited to participate it.

The Committee projects also a round table on the subject of the "Why and how of critical editions". The round table is intended to discuss the different scholarly approaches to the history of philosophy.

13.3. Committee on Teaching Philosophy.

"The FISP Committee on Teaching of Philosophy could not be convened during the 2012 FISP Steering Committee Meeting in Porto-Novo, Benin. It is adjourned to the 2013 FISP Steering Committee meeting in Athens", informed by correspondence the chair of the Committee, Prof. POZZO, who presented also its main activities after the CD meeting in Cres, Croatia.

Prof. POZZO was happy to report the encouraging development taken by the International Philosophy Olympiad, the 20th meeting of which was held in Oslo from May 16-20, 2012. IPO participating countries figures have increased substantially in the last years.

The governing bodies have worked effectively. The President of FISP and members of the Committee on Teaching Philosophy have been serving on the Steering Board of IPO together with a representative of UNESCO. To date the International Committee of IPO embraces representatives of thirty-seven countries. Great attention has been put into making sure the IPO endeavor is sustainable. Funding models have been tried, some of them successfully. The 2013 21st meeting of IPO shall be held in Odense under the auspices of the Danish National Committee. IPO is a unique opportunity for talented students to meet together, practice philosophy, and foster peace.

13.4. Committee on Bioethics and the Ethics of the Sciences

The chair of the Committee on Bioethics and the Ethics of the Sciences, Prof. David SCHRADER, acquainted the CD with the activities of the Committee during the year. The Committee has collected data from many national groups and intends to organize, on this basis, round tables at the WCP, 2013.

The Committee is in the process of organizing two Round Tables for the Athens Congress. One will be a fairly open-ended Round Table on Bioethics. It will include several members of the committee as well as, it is hoped, at least one philosopher from East Asia. The second will be a Round Table on Ethics and Nanotechnology. The second Round Table will be organized by Committee member Thomas Powers (University of Delaware).

13.5. Committee on Human Rights

The chair of the Committee, Prof. VIRVIDAKIS, informed the CD about his intention to suggest to the Committee members at their meeting in Athens a reorganization of the Committee. The orientation of its future activities will be also subject of discussions.

14. Varia

Prof. POSER expressed his thanks to the President and to all CD members stressing that he was happy to work for FISP, to participate in the discussions and to collaborate in the accomplishment of FISP's mission.

Closing the meeting, the President Prof. MCBRIDE once again thanked Prof. HOUNTONDI and his colleagues for having hosted the CD meeting of FISP in Benin.

There being no further business for the moment, the meeting adjourned.

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