



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES SOCIÉTÉS DE PHILOSOPHIE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES

www.Fisp.org

MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Athens, Aug 10th, 2013

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.

PRÉSENTS / PRESENTS

BUREAU DE LA FISP / FISP BOARD

Dermot MORAN
William L. MCBRIDE

Président / President
Ancien Président / Past President

COMITÉ DIRECTEUR / STEERING COMMITTEE

Gholamreza AAVANI
Günter ABEL
Joseph C.A. AGBAKOBA
Anat BILETZKI
Tanella BONI
Tomás CALVO-MARTÍNEZ
Oswaldo CHATEAUBRIAND
Betül ÇOTUKSÖKEN
Marcelo DASCAL
Didier DELEULE
Enrique DUSSEL
Noriko HASHIMOTO
Ivan KALTCHIEV
Wolfgang KALTENBACHER
Heisook KIM
Mislav KUKOC
Ernest LEPORE

Wenchao LI
PHAM VAN DUC
Riccardo POZZO
Mogobe RAMOSE
Jacob Dahl RENDTORFF
Ken-ichi SASAKI
Suwanna SATHA-ANAND
Luca Maria SCARANTINO
David SCHRADER
Gerhard SEEL
Marietta STEPANYANTS
William SWEET
TU Weiming
Gabriel VARGAS LOZANO
Lourdes VELÁZQUEZ
Stelios VIRVIDAKIS

PROCURATIONS DE VOTE / PROXIES :

Thalía FUNG RIVERÓN pour / to VELÁZQUEZ

PRÉSIDENT HONORAIRE / HONORARY PRESIDENT

Evandro AGAZZI	Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 1988-1993
Ioanna KUÇURADI	Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 1998-2003
Peter KEMP	Président Honoraire / Hon. President, 2003-2008

SECRÉTARIAT / SECRETARIAT

Emiliya IVANOVA Secrétaire administrative / Administrative Secretary

EXCUSÉS / EXCUSED

Souleymane B. DIAGNE	CD Member
Vassilis KARASMANIS	CD Member
César LORENZANO	CD Member
Sigridur THORGEIRSDOTTIR	CD Member
Dikun XIE	CD Member
Guido KUENG	Trésorier / Treasurer

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1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the new President of FISP, Prof. Dermot MORAN. He welcomed all CD members and congratulated them on their elections or, respectively, re-elections as members of the CD. He also expressed his gratitude to all FISP societies representatives for the confidence they placed in him with his election as President of FISP.

President MORAN wanted to pay a public tribute to his predecessor, Prof. MCBRIDE, for his indefectible commitment to the work of FISP. The whole CD endorsed these words, and paid a unanimous tribute to Prof. MCBRIDE.

In his introductory words, President MORAN assured the CD members that he would continue to respect the bilingual tradition (French/English) in FISP's official correspondence. On behalf of FISP he addressed his thanks to the Greek organizers of the WCP 2013, and especially to the Chair of the HOC, Prof. Boudouris, stressing the excellent organization of the Congress and the excellent job achieved by the local team under very difficult economical conditions. "We were very satisfied with the results of this work and with the manner in which the WCP 2013 was organized", Prof. MORAN said. Thanking also the members of the Programme Committee of the Congress, he underlined their tireless work in the preparation of the programme and congratulated them on the successful results in this respect. Prof. MORAN expressed special thanks to all the section chairs for their assistance in the selection of papers and their actual chairing of the Congress's sessions.

Then he opened the floor for CD members to introduce themselves. After their presentations, Prof. MORAN recalled that there was no previously prepared agenda for the first meeting of the new CD, but that some issues had to be discussed. In particular, urgent decisions included nominating the Vice-presidents, Secretary-general, and Treasurer; resetting the composition and chairpersonships of the Consultative Committees; planning the date and venue of the next CD meeting(s); and starting the preparation of the WCP 2018.

2. Nominations of the Vice-Presidents and Secretary-General.

Prof. MORAN thanked the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Marietta STEPANIANTS, Herta NAGL-DOCEKAL and Betül ÇOTUKSÖKEN, for their extremely efficient work during the period of their service.

According to FISP rules, three new Vice-Presidents had to be « elected by the Steering Committee from among members who have already served on the Steering Committee for at least three years ». President MORAN nominated to this effect Profs Tanella BONI, Ken-ichi SASAKI and Lourdes VELÁZQUEZ. He added that a vote had to be taken in order to establish a formal order among the Vice-Presidents, and explained that CD members could also express other preferences if they so wished.

As a result of the vote, the new Vice-Presidents were elected in the following order:

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| 1. Tanella BONI | 31 votes |
| 2. Ken-ichi SASAKI | 25 votes |
| 3. Lourdes VELÁZQUEZ | 24 votes |

The following CD members also obtained one or more votes:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Günter ABEL | 2 votes |
| Tomás CALVO-MARTÍNEZ | 1 vote |
| William SWEET | 1 vote |
| Gabriel VARGAS-LOZANO | 1 vote |

President MORAN nominated Prof. Luca Maria Scarantino for a new term as Secretary-general.

The proposal was approved unanimously by the CD.

3. Nomination of the Treasurer.

Prof. Guido KUENG was re-nominated as Treasurer of FISP.

Arguing in a favor of this nomination, Prof. SEEL emphasized the excellent job accomplished by Prof. Kueng during all the years of his service for FISP. He expressed the perception, commonly shared by all the members of the auditing commission, of the excellent manner in which the accounts of FISP have been maintained during the previous period. “I would be happy to propose Prof. Kueng to continue his wonderful job on this post with all the conviction of my heart”, he said. He also nominated as a member of the next account auditing commission Prof. Daniel SCHULTHESS from Switzerland.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL added more arguments in support of this nomination. “Prof. Kueng – he explained for the benefit of newly elected CD members – is not just a Treasurer who does an excellent job: he also represents a sort of historical memory of the organization. His contribution to the smooth functioning of FISP goes far beyond the mere financial duties, and he is of a precious help in maintaining relations with the member associations. In all sort of matters, his advices are always very helpful”, he stressed.

Honorary President Prof. AGAZZI expressed similar appreciation. “Prof. Kueng’s work is extremely correct and careful”, he said, supporting both the nomination of Prof. Kueng for Treasurer of FISP and that of Prof. Schulthess as a member of the account auditing commission.

The CD endorsed unanimously the re-election of Prof. KUENG as Treasurer of FISP and appointed Prof. SCHULTHESS as comptroller on the auditing commission.

As a result, the new Board (Bureau) of FISP was constituted as follows:

President	Dermot MORAN
Vice-Presidents	Tanella BONI Ken-ichi SASAKI Lourdes VELÁZQUEZ
Secretary-general	Luca Maria SCARANTINO
Treasurer	Guido KUENG
Past President	William L. MCBRIDE

4. WCP 2018.

The meeting continued with a discussion on the venue of the next WCP. President MORAN informed the CD that, according to the World Congress Regulations, the vote of the General Assembly for holding the WCP 2018 in Peking had to be followed up by the CD. He asked whether any CD member had any reason to oppose this decision, and opened the discussion on the topic.

Prof. MORAN and other CD members also brought to the attention of the CD the reaction of the Brazilian representative, Prof. Jean-Yves BÉZIAU, concerning the presentation of the two WCP bids at the GA. In a message sent to the new President of FISP and to CD members, Prof. BÉZIAU expressed his disappointment at the manner how the debate had been conducted, and requested to void the GA vote and to reconsider the GA decision.

Prof. MORAN expressed his feeling that both proposals had been equally and fairly discussed at the GA. He noted that the Brazilian proposal was welcomed by the Board and by the CD and recalled that the representatives of Brazil and China had had the possibility to argue in favor of their proposals at the GA as they preferred. China's proposal had met more support in the subsequent debate at the GA, but the Brazilian proposal continues to be on the table, he said, expressing his hope that the WCP 2023 might be held in Brazil.

Prof. TU expressed his personal satisfaction with the vote of the GA and provided some additional information on this subject. He also announced that the Department of Philosophy at Peking University, along with the Institute of philosophy of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, is willing to host the next CD meeting in Beijing in Spring 2014. "We are ready to discuss the convenient dates for this meeting", he specified.

Prof. KUKOC observed that "Prof. Tu Weiming made an excellent presentation of China's proposal. It was visible to everybody that a very serious job had been done beforehand." He estimated that "the presentation of Beijing's candidacy can be considered as a model of how such a great event as the WCP should be prepared", and added that in his opinion the Brazilian candidacy had not shown the same level of preparation.

Prof. SCHRADER noted, for his part, that "the Brazilian presentation was focused more on touristic attractions while the Chinese one was clearly focused on the academic issues and also on the security of financing of the WCP which is very important." He also drew attention to the importance of the quality of the relations between FISP and the local organizing committees, referring in particular to the possibility of a further proposal from Brazil – if any.

Prof. AAVANI observed that "in the project prepared by China there are many

distinguished institutions involved, such as Peking University, the Academy of Social sciences, Taiwan Academy, etc.” He expressed his personal impression that the philosophical life in China is very active and that the Chinese academic community is characterized by an openness to philosophical dialogue. He agreed with the opinion that the Brazilian proposal had not been as thoroughly prepared as the Chinese one.

Some CD members noted that the Brazilian proposal came on a very late stage. Others observed that this proposal had been presented by a small institution which does not have many relations with the other philosophical institutions in Brazil. Secretary-general SCARANTINO observed, to this effect, that since the Brazilian Academy of Philosophy is accepted as a member of FISP, it has the right to present a proposal. He also recalled that the Board had agreed to present the Brazilian proposal to the Assembly. In terms of FISP membership, he noted, it was important to give a positive response to an initiative coming from Brazil, a country where FISP had experienced problems in the last decades. Hopefully, he concluded, this bid will push Brazilian philosophers to be more involved into FISP than it has been the case in the previous years.

Prof. CHATEAUBRIAND noted that “in Brazil there is an institution called National Association of Postgraduate programmes which integrates all graduate programs in the country and organizes biennial meetings with over 2 000 philosophers; there are also over a hundred groups or societies, affiliated with the National Council of Research, which participate in this Congress.” He supported the idea of holding a WCP in Brazil, and emphasized that a future proposal should involve significant academic societies in Brazil.

Arguing also in favor of this idea, Prof. DASCAL observed that philosophy in Brazil is progressing a lot, and that a WCP held in the country will contribute to the development of this process and its recognition in the world. “The possibility of holding the WCP in Brazil should be kept for the future”, he stressed, expressing his hope that a better prepared bid would be submitted to FISP.

Honorary President AGAZZI suggested that FISP should encourage the holding of an Interim international Congress, which could show the capacities of the country to organize a WCP. The suggestion was supported by Prof. CHATEAUBRIAND, who pointed out that there are persons and groups in Latin America who are experienced in the organization of international conferences and are able to organize an important international philosophical event in Brazil.

“Brazil is a very dynamic place where there are many groups doing philosophy”, remarked Prof. TU. He suggested that FISP take the initiative of searching for more representative groups willing to organize a future WCP in Brazil, observing also that it is a responsibility of the FISP to cultivate the process of the Congress’s preparation. Secretary-general SCARANTINO agreed with his proposal.

Prof. MCBRIDE, Past President of FISP, expressed, for his part, his conviction that FISP can have enough proposals for holding the WCP 2023 and should not worry about the future in this respect. However, a commonly shared opinion among CD members was that a more mature proposal for the organization of a WCP in Brazil would be warmly welcomed by the CD.

President MORAN committed himself to take into consideration all the remarks made by CD members in his answer to the Brazilian representative’s complaint.

Since the CD found no reason to vary the indication of the General Assembly of FISP about the venue of the next WCP, as indicated by the World Congress Regulations, it validated unanimously the decision to hold the WCP 2018 in Beijing, China.

The discussion turned then to the possible dates for the WCP 2018.

“Normally the WCP is held in August, but it could be eventually possible to do it at the end of July”, Prof. MORAN said. Prof. TU answered that the Chinese organizers are ready to keep the tradition, but that August in Beijing is very hot. He proposed as alternative dates the end of June or early July, stressing that the Chinese organizing Committee is open to any suggestions. “Early July might be problematic as the academic year may not be over yet in European universities”, observed President MORAN. He suggested leaving this issue for the next CD meeting, to be prepared through talks with the local organizing committee.

Prof. MORAN raised the issue of the theme of the Congress, its organizing and Programme committees, and other working arrangements. The SECRETARY-GENERAL explained what the procedure in this respect. As for the theme of the Congress, in particular, he would invite proposals from FISP member societies. These proposals, along with other ones coming from within the CD and from the local organizers, would be considered at the next CD meeting, where a final decision about the theme and the dates of the Congress shall be made. He also recalled that a Memorandum of Agreement shall be signed between FISP (President and Secretary-general) and the local organizers. This Memorandum should be concluded before the next CD meeting, in order to start the preparation of the Congress in due time.

5. Next CD meeting(s).

Following his invitation to hold the next CD meeting in Beijing in Spring 2014, Prof. TU specified that the meeting, to be held in Beijing, could also be held in conjunction with a symposium held in Shanghai in honor of Prof. McLean, and hosted by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. His idea is to involve as many Chinese institutions as possible in this partnership with FISP that would lead to the WCP 2018.

The invitation of Peking University was supported by the majority of the CD members. They esteemed that a CD meeting in Beijing would be a good start for the preparation of the next World Congress. However, some CD members expressed their concerns regarding the travel expenses that it involved.

Prof. MCBRIDE recalled that there was a pending invitation for a CD meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. The invitation of Maltepe University was intended for 2012, said Prof. KUÇURADI, when the CD finally met in Benin. Although they would be happy to host a CD meeting, a new budget should be secured with the University. At the end, Prof. MORAN encouraged the new CD members to make proposals for future CD meeting places.

[The CD decided to accept the invitation of Peking University to hold the next CD meeting in Beijing in Spring, 2014.](#)

6. Constitution of the Programme Committee of the WCP 2018.

President MORAN then returned to one of the main issues to be discussed at the next CD meeting, the appointment of the Programme Committee.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL recalled the rules governing the constitution of the PC: 5 members should be chosen from inside the CD and 5 others proposed by the local organizing Committee; the Chairperson of the PC would also be chosen from within the CD. Traditionally, he added, the Chairperson of the PC is proposed to the CD by the President of FISP in agreement with the Secretary-general: the reason for it is that there should be a

mutual trust in order for the Committee to work in the smoothest way. The President and Secretary-general usually would prospect among CD members until the next CD meeting in order to propose a well-balanced chairpersonship of the Committee. The President of FISP would also suggest names for PC members, Prof. SCARANTINO explained, although further proposals would also come from the CD itself, and a vote would take place at the 2014 meeting.

“If the CD shall elect 5 members of the PC, I think that we should nominate at least 10 names”, observed Prof. KUÇURADI. Prof. AGAZZI supported this remark with the argument that every position should have an alternative. Prof. SCARANTINO stressed that nominations for PC members are open, so that 10 or more names may be proposed during the CD meeting.

Prof. TU pointed out that there is no Indian representative in the CD. “It would not be normal to work in the next five years without a representative of China’s major partner in Asia”, he observed, and suggested looking for ways to integrate an Indian representative into the PC. Honorary President Prof. KUÇURADI drew attention to the possibility of involving external members in the work of FISP Committees. “We can include someone from India as a chair of a Committee”, she suggested. Arguing in favor of this proposal, Prof. VIRVIDAKIS – Chair of the Committee for Human Rights – expressed his willingness to give up the post to someone who is more experienced. “This might be a way to involve an Indian delegate in the work of the CD”, he said, mentioning Prof. CHANDEL as a possible Chair for the Committee for Human Rights.

7. FISP Consultative Committees.

The meeting continued with the composition of Consultative Committees, and appointment of their Chairpersons. The SECRETARY-GENERAL presented the list of Committees and their current composition to the CD.

7.1. Committee for General Policy.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL recalled that he had taken the Chairpersonship of this Committee *ex officio* after the previous Chair, Prof. Evans, passed away. The reason why he had assumed the Chairpersonship of the Committee was that there was an urgency to establish a new set of World Congress Regulations, a task that Prof. Evans had started but could not bring to conclusion. Prof. SCARANTINO expressed his wish to handle the Committee over to another CD member, although he would be happy to continue as a member of it. The subsequent discussion was related to the issues of the structure of the Committee and amelioration of its future work. Prof. SCHRADER volunteered to take over the Chairpersonship of the Committee, and was seconded by other CD members. Prof. DASCAL expressed the wish of becoming a member of this Committee.

Prof. SCHRADER was therefore appointed by the CD as Chair of the Committee for General Policy.

7.2. Committee on Intercultural Research in Philosophy.

The Chair of the Committee, Prof. SWEET, presented briefly the main goals of the work of the Committee on Intercultural Research in Philosophy. He expressed his agreement to continue chairing it, and invited other CD members to join it.

It was agreed that Prof. SWEET will continue as Chair of the Committee on Intercultural Research in Philosophy.

7.3. Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy.

The Chair of the Committee, Prof. POZZO, gave a brief report of the main activities of the Committee during the five past years and presented his vision for the future work of the Committee. He noted the introduction of the Spanish language as official language of the IPO. He placed special stress on the importance of the Committee's work in safeguarding the place of philosophy in the national educational systems against the attempts of suppressing it as a discipline in the secondary schools. He explained with regret that his new academic commitment in Italy were becoming too heavy for him to continue chairing this Committee as effectively. He recommended that the next Chair of the Committee would continue the work in the same direction and undertake initiatives at the international scale, and proposed Prof. VARGAS LOZANO as his successor as Chair of the Committee.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL thanked Prof. POZZO for his outstanding work, and seconded the nomination of Prof. VARGAS LOZANO, who had been committed for many years in defense of the presence of philosophy in the Mexican and regional educational system. Prof. SCARANTINO recalled that in 2009 Prof. Vargas had been invited to present his commitment to a public defense of philosophy at a Unesco Regional meeting on Teaching of Philosophy, and drew attention to the necessity for the Committee to act beyond the academic scope.

Prof. AGAZZI proposed the nomination of Prof. Thalía FUNG as Chair of the Committee. Arguing in favor of this nomination, he stressed her experience in teaching philosophy and her prominent role in the higher education system in Cuba. As a Spanish speaking person, she can be very useful in the IPO's work, which is one of the tasks of the Committee, he noted in addition.

As a result of a brief discussion, Prof. VARGAS LOZANO was appointed by the CD as Chair of the Committee on the Teaching of Philosophy.

7.4. Committee on Bioethics and the Ethics of the Sciences.

The Chair of the Committee, Prof. SCHRADER, expressed his willingness to pass the duty to another CD member. He suggested as possible successors Prof. Kukoc and Prof. Rendtorff. Prof. KUKOC seconded the nomination of Prof. Rendtorff.

Prof. RENDTORFF was appointed by the CD as Chair of the Committee on Bioethics and the Ethics of the Sciences.

7.5. Committee on Philosophical Encounters and International Cooperation.

The nomination for a new Chair of this Committee were hindered because of the absence of its previous Chair, Prof. KÜLE, who had come to the end of her term of office as a CD member. Prof. KUKOC expressed his willingness to continue this duty, if Prof. Küle agrees upon it. It was recalled, to this effect, that FISP rules allow non-CD members to be members and to chair FISP Consultative Committees.

The CD decided to appoint Prof. KUKOC as Chair of the Committee on Philosophical Encounters and International Cooperation, pending consultation with its previous Chair Prof. Küle.

7.6. Committee on Aesthetics.

Presenting briefly the main activities of the Committee, Prof. SEEL explained that the

Committee was originally co-chaired by Prof. SASAKI and by himself. He agreed to continue in this task.

The CD agreed that Prof. SEEL will continue as Chair of the Committee on Aesthetics.

7.7. Committee on History of Philosophy.

As a member of this Committee, Prof. SCHRADER acquainted the CD members with the nomination for the Chairpersonship that had been made by the former Chair of the Committee, Prof. POSER. "He encouraged us to consider Prof. Wenchao LI as his successor", he said, recommending to the Bureau the endorsement of this nomination.

Prof. LI was therefore appointed by the CD as Chair of the Committee on History of Philosophy.

7.8. Committee on Human Rights.

Prof. VIRVIDAKIS observed that the Committee had suffered some discontinuation in its activities. He suggested the election of a more experienced person to chair the committee. In particular, Prof. Myrto DRAGONA MONACHOU, former chair of the Committee on Human Rights, and Prof. Bhuvan CHANDEL, were mentioned to that effect.

Upon recommendation of President Moran, it was agreed that Prof. Virvidakis, as outgoing Chair of the Committee, would write to Professor Chandel asking her if she would be willing to take up the chair.

7.9. Proposal for a new Committee on Gender issues.

The SECRETARY-GENERAL invited to consider the possibility of establishing a new Consultative Committee on gender issues in philosophy. He suggested that CD members working on such issues might consider preparing a proposal for the next CD meeting in China.

8. Varia.

Prof. STEPANIANTS recalled the GA's decision to support the Russian Academy of Sciences protest against a new organization of Academies in Russia. She asked for the endorsement of the CD.

The CD approved the decision of the GA to support the Russian Academy of Sciences, and asked the President and Secretary-general to follow up on this matter in conjunction with Prof. Stepaniants¹.

Prof. KUKOC proposed to include in the agenda of the next CD meeting a balance of the functioning of the WCP.

President MORAN invited volunteers for the IPO 2014, to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania.

Prof. DUSSEL informed the CD about a new Unesco initiative on "South-South" philosophical dialogue (including China, the Arabic and Islamic world, Africa and Latin America). "We project to publish a volume of classical philosophical texts of these different

¹ On Aug 22nd, 2013, the "Statement from the XXIII World Congress of Philosophy in Athens (4-10 August 2013) regarding the Proposed Reform of the Russian Academy of Sciences" was sent by the President and Secretary-General to the President of the Russian Federation, to the Chairman of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, to the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and to the Director of the Institute of Philosophy.

traditions in English, Arabic and Spanish,” he said, inviting a possible participation of FISP in the initiative. The SECRETARY-GENERAL reminded that FISP was aware of this programme, that it was launched in 2011, that Unesco had chosen to not associate FISP to it, and that a formal protest to this effect had been addressed jointly by FISP and CIPSH to the Director-general of Unesco in January 2013. He expressed the wish that things would change in the future.

At the end of the meeting, President MORAN congratulated once again the Greek hosts for the wonderful work they had done organizing the WCP 2013 despite a very difficult economic crisis. He addressed his special thanks and appreciation to the outgoing President Prof. MCBRIDE, emphasizing his extraordinary work related to the protection of philosophy and promotion of its role in the world.

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

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