



Network 46 Réseau

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Letter from the President

The 32nd conference of the ISSR took place in Turku/Åbo, Finland from 27-30 June of this past year. Once again, it proved to be a great success and there are a number of people who deserve to be specially thanked for their instrumental role in this result. First and foremost we must thank the members of the local organizing committee, with Tuomas Martikainen as chair and Marcus Moberg – our new webmaster! – as secretary. Together they did a simply outstanding job to make the conference one of the very best organized and pleasant experiences in the society's history. The theme of this year's conference was *Religious Community: Religious Continuities and Mutations in Late Modernity*. Participation in the conference was excellent, with a great many sessions addressing the theme in varied, important, and imaginative ways that showed the vibrancy and complexity of our discipline very well. Attendance at this year's conference was also very good, the last count arriving at around 450 registered participants, the second highest in the Society's history.

The Society operates to a great extent through the volunteer efforts of its members. Therefore it is always important to thank especially those who have finished their mandates in various positions and those who have just begun to make their contributions. With regard to the former, I want to thank Giuseppe Giordan who completed his mandate in the very demanding position of Secretary General during the Turku conference. Giuseppe's work in that position was nothing short of outstanding and he has not been easy to replace. Happily, however, Siniša Zrinščak, with long experience on Council and chair of the local organizing committee for our conference in Zagreb a few years ago has stepped forward to take on the responsibility and I wish to take this opportunity to thank him for doing so and to welcome him!

Siniša's is not the only new mandate. At the second meeting in Turku, Council welcomed four new Council members, David Voas, representing

the UK, Pierre Bréchon, representing France, Cristina Gutiérrez Zúñiga, representing Mexico, and Helena Vilaça, representing the Iberian countries.

During the period between now and the 2015 conference, we will be electing Council representatives for a number of countries/regions, including for Eastern Europe, the Benelux countries, Japan & East Asia, and Switzerland. In these positions, the incumbent is eligible to be re-elected. In five other Council positions, however, we will be seeking nominations for entirely new members since the incumbents in these cases will have served for the maximum of two four-year terms. These positions include those for Canada, Italy, Northern Europe, Australasia, the USA, and Central Europe. Please start thinking about who might be nominated for these positions as well as for that of vice-president.

Normally, the Society at its General Assembly during the biannual conference decides on the venue for the next conference, in the present case for the conference of 2015. Unfortunately, due to circumstances well beyond our control, we were not able to put forward a venue at the time of the Turku General Assembly, and therefore the Assembly gave Council the mandate to make this decision at its February 2014 meeting in Zagreb. We hope to have two proposals before Council at that time. On that occasion, Council will not only pick the venue, it will also finalize the theme of the 2015 conference and begin to organize the program. Please, expect the call for thematic session proposals in early spring 2014 and also start making plans now to participate and attend what should be another highlight in the life of our society.

A final announcement: the ISSR's legal status has now finally been regularized and finalized. We are now legally and officially an International Non-Profit Organization located in Belgium. Among other consequences, this finalization of legal status will allow us now to operate normally financially – something not entirely possibly during the transition. Accordingly, Council will discuss and likely proceed with further enhancements to the Society's website (for instance perhaps adding a member's area and facilities for submitting proposals for conferences and for registering at that conference when the time comes). It will also finally launch the application procedures for use of

the Society's Enhancement Fund, the latter made possible by the very positive financial situation that the ISSR now finds itself in. Stay tuned for further details in the next issue of Network next spring.

PETER BEYER, President

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Letter from the General Secretary

It is my great pleasure to greet you as the new General Secretary of our society. Being elected to such an important position, I do feel an honour, but moreover, a huge responsibility. Both feelings – honour and responsibility – stem from my earlier experience with the ISSR. My memory goes back to the 1993 Budapest ISSR conference when I participated for the first time as a PhD scholar and was overwhelmed by research topics, theories and methodology, which all went beyond my knowledge about the science of religion in those days and which stimulated me greatly to proceed with my study. I have participated in all ISSR conferences since then, with only two exemptions connected with limited financial possibilities to travel abroad. However, my deepest understanding of the society is related to the 2005 ISSR conference which took place in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, the city in which I live and work. Being president of the Local Committee, I had a great pleasure to work with Karel Dobbelaere, the then ISSR General Secretary, and Enzo Pace, the then President. Having in mind the GS obligations, my more intensive cooperation was with Karel Dobbelaere who was always very friendly, very helpful, but very precise in saying what needs to be done. I do think those are the days when I learned what the position means and afterwards I had a chance to observe how Giuseppe Giordan, to whom I owe thanks for helping me with so many necessary details, continued performing the position with great commitment.

I am aware that the ISSR needs to appreciate the past, but it also needs to accommodate to the changing social and religious fields and, more importantly, to serve its members. In this regard, we are witnessing some small but important changes from the regulation of its formal status by way of registration as an international non-profit organization in Belgium, to expansion of some of its

activities to the benefit of its members (such as the establishment of the ISSR International Workshop Fund, the ISSR Best Article Award and the like, details of which will be published soon). I will do my best to facilitate this transition and to continue with all the activities that have proved that the ISSR is the most important scholarly organization in the world when it comes to the sociology of religion, with a full capacity to engage in a dialogue with other sciences of religion. Therefore, and at the

same time, we will maintain connections with all other scholarly organizations, as we benefit a lot from these connections.

Finally, let me turn your attention to practical details about how to reach the GS office. I am also happy to inform you that Branko Ančić a young Croatian scholar in the field of sociology of religion, is helping me as an ISSR administrative secretary.

SINIŠA ZRINŠČAK, General Secretary

Officers and Council Members (2013-2015)

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Peter Beyer

Vice President: Jörg Stolz

General Secretary: Siniša Zrinščak

Treasurer: Olivier Servais

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorary President: Karel Dobbelaere

Past-President: Jean-Paul Willaime

Irene Becci (Switzerland)

Pierre Bréchon (France)

Gary Bouma (Australasia and Southeast Asia)

Roberto Cipriani (Italy)

Pauline Côté (Canada)

Cristina Gutierrez Zuñiga (Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean)

Matthias Koenig (Germany)

Roberto Motta (Brazil and South America)

Kati Niemela (Nordic Countries)

Yoshihide Sakurai (East Asia and Japan)

Jim Spickard (USA)

Fatma Sündal (Eastern Europe)

Helena Vilaça (Iberic Peninsula)

David Voas (United Kingdom)

Anne-Marie Vuilleminot (Benelux)

(sede vacante) (Central Europe)

EX-OFFICIO

Adam Possamai (Australia) RC 22 ISA

Chair of the Local Committee

Secretary of the Local Committee

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

President: Véronique Altglas (United Kingdom)

Elisabeth Arweck (United Kingdom)

Pauline Côté (Canada)

Jörg Stolz (Switzerland)

Roberto Motta (South America)

AUDITORS FOR THE ACCOUNTS

Pierre Brechon (France)

Franco Garelli (Italy)

Reserve: Victor Roudometof (Cyprus)

Practical Information

PETER BEYER, President

Department of Classics and Religious Studies

Arts Hall, Room 102

70 Laurier Avenue East

Ottawa ON Canada

K1N 6N5

e-mail: pbeyer@uottawa.ca

SINIŠA ZRINŠČAK, General Secretary

University of Zagreb

Faculty of Law

Trg maršala Tita 3

10000 Zagreb, Croatia

e-mail: general_secretary@sizr-issr.org

OLIVIER SERVAIS, Treasurer

IACS-LAAP

1/1 Place Montesquieu

B1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

Belgium/Belgique

e-mail: olivier.servais@uclouvain.be

BRANKO ANČIĆ, Administrative Secretary

Institute for Social Research in Zagreb

Amruševa 8/III

10000 Zagreb, Croatia

e-mail: administration@sizr-issr.org

MARCUS MOBERG, Webmaster

Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland

e-mail: webmaster@sizr-issr.org

SISR / ISSR web | We invite you to check regularly the SISR / ISSR web-site which contains important information, including two Blogs, with a list of conferences, calls-for papers, films about religions, etc.

Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISSR

Turku-Åbo (Finland), Friday June 28th, 2013

1) WELCOME

Peter Beyer, President of the ISSR, opens the General Assembly at 6:30 pm and welcomes the 96 members present.

2) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The proposed agenda is unanimously adopted.

3) MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN AIX-EN-PROVENCE

The Minutes of the previous General Assembly, which took place in Aix-en-Provence (see Network 41) are unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

4) REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE

Tuomas Martikainen, President of the Local Committee, presents his report.

Background

The number of Finnish researchers working in the field of sociology of religion has gradually grown, but not all have been linked to international research networks, including the ISSR. We wanted to raise the profile of Finnish research in the field and provide opportunities for junior scholars to network in the field. In 2010, the Department of Comparative Religion at Åbo Akademi University received a major grant for a Centre of Excellency in Research funded by the university's foundation. The Post-Secular Culture and a Changing Religious Landscape in Finland Project (PCCR, 2010–2014) provided the basic infrastructure and financial means to start considerations for arranging the ISSR conference in Finland.

We started to gather a group of interested people in spring 2011 before the Aix-en-Provence conference, where we submitted our proposal that was also accepted. As sociology of religion is a minor specialization in Finland, we wanted to include all relevant partners in planning in order to guarantee wide national participation and involvement. In the end, six university departments, two research institutes and one project became part of planning committee. They were comparative religion and sociology in Åbo Akademi University; comparative religion and sociology in the University of Turku; comparative religion and church sociology in the University of Helsinki; The Church Research Institute; the Donner Institute and the PCCR project. The chief responsibility as well as the greatest financial burden was with the PCCR project. Co-operation with the involved institutions has worked nicely.

Planning

Until the end of May 2013, the local committee has met eleven times. In the meeting of January 2013, also two ISSR representatives participated. Since the beginning of 2013, a conference secretary (Karoliina Dahl) has been engaged in the work. The initial phase of planning was concerned about the premises, hotel reservations, funding applications and the like. Closer to the conference, more practical consideration on conference folders etc. have become more topical. Currently we are making final reservations and plans to be executed at the event

In addition to the local committee, up to 25 students and other associates will be helping during the conference. These individuals were recruited from the participating departments and institutions, as well as from a specially designed sociology of religion course in the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University.

In general, planning has progressed smoothly, the only major problem has been the chair's (Tuomas Martikainen) too many work obligations, but he has now more effectively distributed his

responsibilities. Plans have also with the exception of funding progressed as planned.

The conference application was in the first place made possible through the involvement of the PCCR Project, as well as the strong support of the Donner Institute and the Church Research Institute. These three organisations provided the seed funding, but additional funding was needed due to the relatively high infrastructure costs (interpretation and related equipment alone cost more 15,000 EUR). We were not as successful with our funding applications as presumed, so we have needed to save on several smaller and larger expenses. We will be able to provide a full overview of the financial side once we receive the final number of participants next week.

Considerations regarding future conferences

- The current distribution of costs between the ISSR and the local committee is problematic. The more there are participants the more the local organisers have costs and the more the ISSR gains. This creates a demanding financial risk for the local organisers, because the number of participants is always known at a rather late date. The financial structure in arranging the conference could be changed so that the conference fee goes in total, or in significant part, to the local organisers.
- Arranging pre- and post-conference tours could be finished, because there is marginal interest of these. Instead, interested people could be directed to local tourist offices.

Conference organizers

- Department of Comparative Religion, Åbo Akademi University
- Post-Secular Culture and a Changing Religious Landscape in Finland: Åbo Akademi University Centre of Excellence in Research 2010-2014
- Department of Comparative Religion, University of Turku
- Department of Sociology, Åbo Akademi University
- Department of Sociology, University of Turku

- The Donner Institute for Research in Religious and Cultural History
- The Church Research Institute

Local organizing committee

- Tuomas Martikainen, University of Helsinki, chair
- Marcus Moberg, Åbo Akademi University, Secretary
- Tiina Mahlamäki, University of Turku
- Jaana Kouri, University of Turku
- Andreas Häger, Åbo Akademi University
- Teemu Taira, University of Turku
- Ismo Kantola, University of Turku
- Lise Kanckos, Åbo Akademi University
- Ruth Illman, The Donner Institute
- Peter Nynäs, Åbo Akademi University
- Laura Wickström, Åbo Akademi University
- Kimmo Ketola, Church Research Institute
- Tuula Sakaranaho, University of Helsinki
- Sanna Lehtinen, University of Helsinki

The President expresses his appreciation for a well organised conference and proposes that the Local Committee and its Chair be congratulated for this achievement. The applause of the participants present in the General Assembly expresses their unanimous appreciation and their gratitude to the Local Committee and its Chair for their excellent work.

5) REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISSR

The President Peter Beyer presents his report.

As a society, we are doing very well, and this is thanks to all the members in attendance, to all the members that cannot be here with us, and to the many people who have worked so hard as officers of the society, as members of Council, on the various local committees, and in various capacities as assistants and members of other committees, often over many years. I am sure that our conference here in Turku will be as successful as the many previous ones that we have had, and that it will take its place in a continuing future series of conferences.

As a society, we are also currently in another of the many transitions that formal associations such as ours undergo periodically, and here I would like to signal some of the more recent important developments that affect the way we operate and go about our scholarly business. The first concerns the society's web site (www.sisr-issr.org). As most of you already know, the web site has over the last year or so been significantly upgraded in terms of its functionality, such that we now transact the bulk of matters pertaining to membership and conference registration through it; for the next conference, that will also be the case for conference organizing, submission of proposals and program development. In addition, the various matters having to do with attending the conference, such as travel and accommodation information, and the like, have also, as of this conference, been integrated into our website. In addition to the periodic newsletter, Network, the web site has also become the major way through which we communicate information to our members, and this facility will also be enhanced in the next year or so as we move to full Web 2.0 capacity which allows and promotes two-way communication. In brief, a much larger and increasing portion of the society's activity now takes place through the web, and this will likely be more and more the case as we move into the future.

A second important development, one that will be put before you all later in this Assembly because it is something that the membership as a whole must decide, concerns the legal status of the Society. Until now, the ISSR has not had been an official, legal entity, and this more informal status has worked well enough for us as long as we were very small and had an insignificant financial footprint. In large part because of our success over the last number of years in building up the membership and finances of the society, however, we have surpassed the point where this informal status is still sustainable: it means, for instance, that the members of Council, rather than the Society as such, are each and severally legally responsible for any debts or indemnities that the Society may incur. Given the size of our Society now, this is not a risk that we can honestly ask our Council members to take. As well, and at least as important, without formal and recognized legal status, in the current environment we incur the risk of being treated as illegitimate by governmental tax and surveillance authorities, especially as concerns our

financial existence. We, the Council, will therefore be asking for your approval for erecting and legally establishing the ISSR as an International Nonprofit Organization located in Belgium, which is our financial seat and where the legal framework is particularly convenient in that this formalization will not involve substantially changing any of our structures and ways of operating.

Finally, as the treasurer's report will shortly make clear, the ISSR is now on very solid financial footing. We are beyond the point where our operating revenues are healthy and we have in reserve monies that would allow us to face most difficult times that we may encounter in the future. Accordingly, over the past two years, Council has extensively debated what changes in our financial operations should take place in light of this happy circumstance. Above all, Council has tried to do so in a way that will maintain our solid position while also allowing the Society to pursue new directions in line with the mandate that it has always given itself to encourage and promote scholarship and communication in our subdiscipline as much as possible, not just internationally, but worldwide. In this light, we have moved substantially toward the creation of what will be called an Enhancement Fund, monies intended to promote and facilitate activities by the Society and its members beyond the biennial conference, activities, for instance, like workshops, regional meetings, summer schools, and the granting of awards. For practical reasons, we must await the regularization of our legal status before we can concretely move forward on this, but we have in the meantime foreseen procedures for the allocation of this fund and for the activities to be supported.

The report of the President was unanimously accepted.

6) REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary Giuseppe Giordan presents his report.

I agree with what the President has just said, that our society is going well indeed both for what concerns the membership and the participation in the conferences, and this notwithstanding the financial crisis that has resulted in cutting funds for Universities and scientific research.

I only wish to highlight a few changes that have affected our association in these last years, and this

to guarantee its capacity to adapt to the new times in continuity with its past.

The most evident change, as are going to be illustrated in the table concerning membership, is that the “reduced fee” members are more numerous than the regular ones: this is happening for the first time in the history of the ISSR.

The different categories entitled to get the “reduced fees” help us to understand how our association is changing: there are students, young researchers under the age of 35, retired members, and those coming from countries with weak currencies.

Therefore, on one side we have the generation of the founder fathers, and their immediate

successors, who are slowly retiring, while on the other side we have a relevant number of new scholars.

Besides, these young scholars come from countries which were not so relevantly present in our association: in this case I am referring especially to China, and to Asia in general. This aspect highlights more than ever that the vocation of the ISSR is to be an association that was born and based in Europe, but that is open to contributions of scholars from all over the world.

At this juncture we can examine the tables of ISSR members and participants in the Turku conference.

1. Members and Participants at the conferences

Members

Types of members	Number of members in the years						
	2001	2002-03	2004-05	2006-07	2008-09	2010-11	2012-13
Full Members	168	295	281	305	341	254	237
Members with a reduced fee	53	87	135	215	275	159	248
Total	221	382	416	520	616	432	485

Registered Participants at the conferences

Conferences	Registered Participants
Turin (2003)	299
Zagreb (2005)	286
Leipzig (2007)	438
Santiago de Compostela (2009)	520
Aix-en-Provence (2011)	420
Turku-Åbo (2013)	440 before the conference (included those who will pay in Turku)

We made pre-registration compulsory for the conference in Turku: this enabled us to be more precise with the actual organization of the conference and avoided the risk of having sessions cancelled at the very last moment. Considering the advantages brought in by this new procedure, I think it is important to maintain it for the future conferences.

2. Elections

Only 84 members voted.

The following candidates were elected:

- For a second mandate on the Council
- MOTTA Roberto (South America)

- KOENIG Matthias (Germany)

For a first mandate on the Council

- VILAÇA Helena (Iberia)
- BRECHON Pierre (France)
- VOAS David (United Kingdom)
- GUTIERREZ ZUÑIGA Cristina (Mexico)

Congratulations, Colleagues, and thank you for having accepted to take responsibility for the ISSR.

3. The organization of the 32st conference in Turku-Åbo

The organization of the Turku conference was facilitated by the excellent work of Tuomas Martikainen and his team. I don't think there were

any particular problems in the last months: even the coordination between the Local Committee, the ISSR organizing staff and the treasurer were excellent.

4. Grants

We have received 21 requests for financial assistance for this Conference, and we have offered 15 grants. The names of those who have received financial aid are: Alexander Agadjanian, Ana Raluca Bigu, Karina Berenice Barcenás Barajas, Cai Hua, Czarina Medina, Farra-Haddad Nour, Vazquez Vela Fernanda, Yaghoob Foroutan, Galo Luna Penna, John Kennedy Joseph, Lovemore Ndlovu, Oguntola-Laguda Danoye, Padma 'Thso, Stepan Ripka, Siti Tarwiyah.

Thanks

At the end of my remarks I would like to note that this conference is also the fruit of preparatory work done in collaboration with many people.

I would like to thank the President, Peter Beyer, the Vice-president Joerg Stolz and the Treasurer Olivier Servais with his staff, and the whole Council for their availability for collaboration these two years... and of these four years!

Let me thank also Jean-Paul Willaime, our Past-President, who was the President four years ago when I started my mandate, and Jean-Pierre Hiernaux, who was the treasurer during the first months of my mandate.

My sincere thanks to Karel Dobbelaere for having supported me with his advice and his friendship during these past four years.

Particular thanks to the Local Committee, Tuomas Martikainen, and his team, for how they have prepared the conference so well. It has been a true pleasure to work with them.

Many thanks also to Bérénice Goffin, Eliane Lallemand, and Carlo Nardella, who have managed the financial and administrative part of this meeting.

Finally there is a person who has given me fundamental help: the administrative secretary Chiara Trentin, without which I would not have been able to manage the hundreds of e-mails and the preparation of the program.

And thanks to all you, who in various ways, as

session organizers or as participants, have made the good success of this meeting possible.

The report of the General Secretary was unanimously accepted.

7) REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The Treasurer Olivier Servais presents his report.

1. Current Financial Management of the ISSR

From the Statutes of the ISSR:

The Treasurer

Art. 36

The Treasurer shall be responsible for preparing the Society's budget, reporting on its financial situation, and in conjunction with the General Secretary, managing its resources on a day-to-day basis. The signature of either the Treasurer or the General Secretary is sufficient to authorise valid financial transactions on the Society's behalf.

The Council shall

Art. 25 b) Supervise the management of the funds of the Association;

The General Assembly shall

Art 15

a) elect two auditors;

c) approve the accounts and the budget of the Association;

d) determine the amount and the periodicity of dues.

2. State of the Accounts as of June 2013

It should be noted that the statement of current financial situation (New Worth) does not include liabilities attendant upon the Turku conference. In addition, for the current biannual term, and in collaboration with the Turku team, we are including the cost of the Dinner and the Lunches in our accounts because registration fees paid included these amounts. This will increase our future expenses. The increase in our net worth between the end of 2011 and now is mainly due to the increases in the amounts in the current accounts, which, in turn, is due to the fact that we have received all our income (memberships &

registrations) but have yet to pay the majority of our expenses attendant upon the conference. The value of our investments also increased by about 4,000 Euros because of a (net) favorable market.

Statements of New Worth
Net Worth as of 31 December 2011;
end of last biennial period (in Euros):

Current Account (DEXIA)	14,925.53
Savings Account (DEXIA)	91,777.59
Investments (per statement from Dexia)	
DEXIA DYNAMIX GLOBAL CAP (book value 16-05-2006, 3/1)	22,959.85
Investments (per last statement from Delen, Jan. 2012)	
Current account	883.18
HERMES UNIVERSAL FIXED INCOME A CAP - 735 units	118,696.00
Total Assets	249,242.15

Net Worth as of 18 June 2013 (in Euros):

BANK ACCOUNTS:	
Cash	66.95
Current Account (DE-LEN)	883.18
Savings Account (Belfius)	88,274.68
Paypal	2,176.86
Current Account (Belfius)	73,461.85
TOTAL IN BANK ACCOUNTS:	164,863.52
INVESTMENTS:	
Securities with Belfius	24,202.55
Securities with DELEN	121,596.80
TOTAL INVESTMENTS:	145,799.35
TOTAL ASSETS:	310,662.87

3. Statement of Accounts 2008-2009 & 2010-2011

	Fiscal Year 2008-9	Fiscal Year 2010-11
REVENUES		
Interest, Gifts, and Investments	4,560.60	7,048.68
Membership Fees	68,691.97	62,793.04
Conference registrations	36,107.52	14,817.69
TOTAL REVENUES:	109,360.09	84,659.41
EXPENSES		
Council	3,158.60	9,116.63
Bank Fees	221.38	6,232.96 (384.18)
Credit Card fees	658.48	2,241.74
Social Compass	20,500.00	17,867.14
General Secretary/Treasurer	4,493.18	15,102.21
Website	5,259.00	429.55
Miscellaneous	1,278.83	1,347.72
Conference and Grants	18,603.19	16,042.06
TOTAL EXPENSES:	54,301.66	68,380.01
SURPLUS:	55,058.43	16,279.40

4. Budget 2014-2015

REVENUES		
Interest	4,000	4,000
Membership Fees	57,000	57,000
Registration Fees	29,000	25,375
Subventions/Gifts	5,000	5,000
TOTAL REVENUES	95,000	91,375
EXPENSES		
Council	3,500	3,500
Bank fees	300	300
Credit Card Fees	600	600
Social Compass	25,000	25,000
General Secretary & Treasurer	12,000	12,000
Web site	2,000	2,000
Miscellaneous	600	600
Conference	20,000	20,000
Grants	12,000	12,000
Long term Policy	19,000	15,375
TOTAL EXPENSES	95,000	91,375
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	0	0

5. Treasurer Priorities: current situation and future agenda

To recall, after the resignation of J. P. Hiernaux, I became the interim treasurer in late February 2011 and was been elected treasurer at the end of June 2011 in Aix en Provence. These first months were a transition period.

- Prepare a statement of accounts and a detailed statement of assets
 - > Done: All available financial data has been entered into computerized accounts and a provisional statement of accounts has been prepared. A final statement of accounts and assets has been produced for the last biennial period of Jean-Pierre Hiernaux's mandate as treasurer (2010-2011). As of the 2012-2013 biennial period, our accounts have been computerized using accounting software. We chose "Money Manager Ex" software because it is free, easy to use, multilingual and compatible with PC, Mac, or Linux.
- In collaboration with Jim Spickard, create a complete website with effective payment system
 - > Done (thanks to Jim's collaboration): The Website (www.sisr-issr.org) includes procedures, forms, and a system of payment (Paypal)
 - > To do: After the legalization of the ISSR, we need to update our Paypal and bank status.
- Establish legal status and clarify the tax situation of the association
 - > Done: Preparation of a complete report and summary. This report was discussed among Council members and it was decided that we should move to establish the society as an International Non Profit Organization in Belgium. Since then, I have managed the negotiations with the Belgian fiscal administration, the banks and the notary in order to be able to bring before the General Assembly a

legalization proposal.

- > To do: Put the new legal status before the General Assembly for adoption. Thereafter, with the Board of the ISSR, create the “new association”.
- Implement the financial strategy proposals adopted by Council
 - > Done: the partial completion of the transfer of the bank and legal responsibilities
 - > To do: After the completion of the legalization process, set up the bank transfers and open an account for the Enhancement Fund.
- Evaluate the performance and ethics of our banking institutions, and, if necessary, propose changes
 - > To do: This remains to be done after the completion of the legalization process
- Refrain from increasing membership fees beyond normal inflation
 - > Done: There has been no increase for 4 years.
- Increase the Grants of the association
 - > To do: After the completion of the legalization process, we will focus on EU subventions for research networking and on Belgian subventions for supporting the secretariat.
- Apply for subventions
 - > To do: After the legalization process we give priority to apply for European research networks funding and for Belgian funding for employment.

The report of the Treasurer was unanimously accepted.

8) REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

Pierre Bréchon and Franco Garelli reported the checks they have done of the Society's accounts to the General Assembly:

A few days ago, the auditors received the accounts of the ISSR from Olivier Servais, treasurer of the Society. Franco Garelli and I were able to examine them in advance of a meeting

this morning with the treasurer, during which we were able to ask him such questions as we wanted. We did not detect any anomalies in the accounts. Our examination of the accounts revealed that they were properly kept during the period under consideration. They demonstrate sound, honest, and prudent management, as well as expenditure restraint that the significant amount of volunteer work on the part of our members makes possible. The Council has done well to foresee new lines of expenditure since the accounts show a significant structural surplus. The new undertakings to generate new expenses have not yet been fully operationalized, and therefore the reserves have increased during the fiscal period under scrutiny. From €231,062.93 at the end of December, 2009, the reserves increased to €249,242.15 by the end of 2011. From June 2011 to June 2013, they increased from €255,296.64 to €310,662.87. Clearly, however, at this point in the fiscal year, all the expenses related to the Conference have not yet been paid and we will not have an accurate picture of the financial situation until the end of the 2013 calendar year.

The report of the Auditors was unanimously accepted.

9) REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jean-Paul Willaime, Chair of the Editorial Committee, presents his report:

In 2012, the Committee undertook the preparation of the 2012/2 issue of Social Compass dedicated to the plenary sessions of the 31st ISSR conference that took place in July 2011 in Aix-en-Provence on the theme of ‘Religion and Economy in a Global World’. A total of 6 presentations and 4 discussant reports were presented in the 3 plenary sessions of the conference. Therefore, the Editorial Committee expected submissions by 10 authors but received only 5 texts, thus half of the speeches that were presented in the plenary sessions. The Committee can only speculate on the reasons why some of the plenary session speakers did not submit their texts and did not offer any explanation. Thus, including the presidential address, a total of 6 texts were published (3 in English and 3 in French) in the 2012/2 issue.

The Committee met in Padova on 17 February, 2012 to prepare the 2013 Social Compass issue dedicated to the various presentations of the 31st conference in Aix-en-Provence. The Committee

received 16 texts, 11 in English and 5 in French. A total of 6 texts will be published, 3 in English and 3 in French, in the 2013/2 issue of Social Compass that is currently under press. These texts were reviewed by the Committee and two external reviewers. Since the Committee expected to receive more texts for review, it decided to look at some comparative data from 2006. Jim Beckford, who was then the chair of the Committee, had indicated in his report, following the 28th ISSR/SISR conference in Zagreb in 2005, that 31 texts had been submitted for review and possible publication in Social Compass. The Committee pondered on whether the decrease in text submissions to Social Compass by speakers in the ISSR/SISR conferences was because the Journal is now perhaps less appealing to researchers, in particular young researchers.

During its meeting in Padova in February 2012, the ISSR Council created a working group in charge of reviewing the relations between the ISSR/SISR and the Social Compass Editorial Board. This working group is chaired by Jörg Stolz and composed by Véronique Altglas, Matthias Koenig, Olivier Servais and Siniša Zrinščak. This is why the ISSR/SISR Social Compass Editorial Committee wanted to share its observations and reflections with the Social Compass Editorial Board during their meeting in Turku on 27 June, 2013.

With this report, I complete my mandate as President of the ISSR/SISR Social Compass Editorial Committee. In February 2012 and following my request to step down after the publication of the proceedings of the 31st ISSR/SISR conference in Aix-en-Provence, the ISSR/SISR Council accepted Véronique Altglas to take over the role of President of the Editorial Committee. It is thus under Véronique Altglas that the ISSR/SISR Social Compass Editorial Committee will continue its work and review text submissions for the publication of the proceedings of the Turku conference. I would like to convey my best wishes to Véronique Altglas and to warmly thank her, as well as, Elisabeth Arweck, Pauline Côté, Philippe Portier and Jörg Stolz, for their active participation and invaluable contributions to the work of the Committee. It has been a pleasure working with them and taking on this role for two years after my presidency of the ISSR/SISR in 2007-2011.

The report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee was unanimously accepted.

10) ISSR/SISR LEGAL STATUS

The Treasurer presents the new legal status that is unanimously approved by the Assembly. The ISSR becomes an International Non Profit Association.

11) THE 33RD ISSR CONFERENCE IN 2015

Proposals for the venue of the next conference will be discussed at the next Council meeting on Sunday June 30th at 6:30pm. This is due to circumstances beyond the Council's control.

Given these circumstances, the President proposes that the Council will decide the venue of the 33rd conference.

The General Assembly unanimously delegates the Council to decide the venue of the next ISSR/SISR Conference.

Proposals for the theme of this conference will be discussed at the next Council meeting in Zagreb.

12) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The President informed the members that Bob Dixon has proposed to organize the 2017 ISSR/SISR conference in Australia.

At the end of the meeting the President thanked Giuseppe Giordan for his work in the last four years and installed Siniša Zrinščak as General Secretary of the ISSR for the next four years.

The new General Secretary said just a few words of acceptance and all the members applauded very warmly.

At 7:45pm the meeting came to a close after the President had thanked all members present.

GIUSEPPE GIORDAN, Past General Secretary

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