



Network 50 Réseau

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Letter from the President

In times such as these, when the whole world is still experiencing the impact of the Paris attacks by Islamist terrorists, there is very little need to argue in favor of a hard-headed sociology of religion. But the point is more general and need not be derived from violent action. Modern societies need first-rate knowledge about the multi-faceted relationships between the religious and the secular, the causes and effects of religious diversity, and the ways in which men and women of the twenty-first century (begin and cease to) believe and belong.

It seems to me that the ISSR is especially useful in this respect. The ISSR is extremely international and pluralistic in theory, method, and thematic outlook. Yet it is one big family in the quest for high standard social science on whatever is religious – whether visible or invisible, explicit or implicit, mainstream or minority.

Our past conference in Louvain-la-Neuve on 2-5 July 2015 was a great success. I would again like to thank Anne-Marie Vuilleminot and the local committee for organizing this wonderful conference, with an anthropological touch, on “Sensing the Religious”. As observed by many participants, the quality of the papers was exceptionally high, which is a very good sign for our organization.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate again the first winners of our newly established prizes. Jean-François Bauduin won the student paper award with “Le réseau raélien du monde physique à celui d’Internet : prosélytisme et encadrement des pratiques communautaires” published in the *Revue Electronique Réguler le Religieux* ; David Voas, Siobhan McAndrew and Ingrid Storm won the best paper award with “Modernisation and the Gender Gap in Religiosity: Evidence from Cross-national European Surveys”, published in 2013 in the *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*. These prizes were set up in order to further endeavors for scientific originality and excellence in our discipline.

We do encourage all our members to nominate papers for these prizes for the next conference in 2017.

A big thank you to Peter Beyer who has led our society for the past four years with his typical blend of great intelligence, pragmatism, and humor. Thank you very much to outgoing members of council: Jean-Paul Willaime (past president), Gary Bouma (Australia), Roberto Cipriani (Italy), Pauline Côté (Canada), Kati Niemela (Nordic Countries), and Yoshihide Sakurai (East Asia and Japan). We are very grateful for your service and friendship. And welcome to incoming members of council: Lori G. Beaman (Canada), Mary Jo Neitz (USA), Dinka Marinović Jerolimov (Central Europe), Mia Löwheim (Nordic countries), Giuseppe Giordan (Italy), and Anna Halafoff (Australia).

Another hint: Our organization seeks to encourage and partly fund the organization of smaller workshops in the sociology of religion. We therefore regularly invite submissions for workshops. The first such workshop winning such a competition was held in 2015 and entitled “Is Secularism Bad for Women? Women and religious change in contemporary Europe”, organized jointly by Kristin Aune from Great Britain, Mia Löwheim from Sweden, Terhi Utriainen from Finland, and Alberta Giorgi and Teresa Toldy, both from Portugal. Please watch for future invitations for submissions.

In our aim to live up to our name, that is, the *international* society for the society of religion, we have decided to hold our next conference *down under*: in Melbourne, Australia. Our Australian members and friends under the leadership of Bob Dixon will produce – I am sure – a terrific conference. We are aware that the trip is a long one for many of our members – but we are equally sure that it will be worth it and that at least occasionally we have to step out of Europe with our conferences (the last ones were in 1995 in Québec and 2001 in Mexico). So please already note the dates for 2017: 3-7 July in Melbourne.

JÖRG STOLZ, President of the ISSR

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ISSR Officers and Council Members (2015-2017)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Jörg Stolz
 Vice President: Inger Furseth
 General Secretary: Siniša Zrinščak
 Treasurer: Olivier Servais

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Honorary President: Karel Dobbelaere
 Past-President: Peter Beyer
 Lori G. Beaman (Canada)
 Irene Becci (Switzerland)
 Pierre Bréchon (France)
 Giuseppe Giordan (Italy)
 Ana Halafoff (Australasia)
 Cristina Gutierrez Zuñiga (Mexico)
 Matthias Koenig (Germany)
 Mia Löwheim (Nordic Countries)
 Dinka Marinović Jerolimov (Central Europe)
 Roberto Motta (South America)
 Mary Jo Neitz (USA)
 Yoshihide Sakurai (East Asia and Japan)
 Fatma Sündal (Eastern Europe)
 Helena Vilaça (Iberic Peninsula)
 David Voas (United Kingdom)
 (Sede vacante) (Benelux)

EX-OFFICIO

Bob Dixon, Chair of the Local Committee
 Secretary of the Local Committee, TBC
 Program Chair 2017, TBC

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Peter Beyer, President
 Irene Becci
 Inger Furseth
 Ana Halafoff
 Roberto Motta

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Practical Information

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Minutes of the General Assembly of the ISSR

Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, Friday 3 July 2015,
5.30 pm

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Acceptance of the Agenda
- 3) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous General Assembly (2013) – See Network 46
- 4) Report of the Chair of the Local Committee
- 5) Report of the President of the ISSR
- 6) Report of the General Secretary
- 7) Report of the Treasurer
- 8) Report of the Chair of the Editorial Committee
- 9) ISSR by-law for the election of council members
- 10) The 34th ISSR Conference in 2017
- 11) Any other business

1) WELCOME

Peter Beyer, President of the ISSR, opens the General Assembly at 5:30 pm and welcomes 68 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 Turku (see Network 46) are unanimously accepted by the General Assembly.

4) REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE LOCAL COMMITTEE

Anne-Marie Vuilleminot, President of the Local Committee, presents her report.

Background

The history. Last Conference in Belgium, has been organized in Leuven, the Old University of Louvain, in 1999. The number of Belgian researchers working in the field of sociology of religion has decreased in the last decades, but in the contrary the other disciplines (anthropology, history, philosophy, psychology, and law) in the same field increased. So we could observe a kind of diversification.

We started to gather a group of interested people in February 2014 just after the Louvain-la-Neuve conference was accepted by the Council in Zagreb.

Planning

Until the end of June 2015, the local committee has met 9 times. Since one year, two conference

secretaries (Eliane Lallemand and Berenice Goffin) have been engaged in the work. The initial phase of planning was concerned about the premises, hotel reservations, funding applications, graphic design, conference buildings, etc. Closer to the conference, more practical consideration on conference folders have become more topical.

In addition to the local committee, up to 25 PhD, Master students and other associates will be helping during the conference. These individuals were recruited from the participating centres.

In general, planning has progressed smoothly, the only major problem has been some delay in the reception of the program and, as usual in this type of tasks a lot of delays.

The conference application was in the first place made possible through the involvement of the Leclercq's Chair, FNRS, IACCHOS, PSAD, RSCS, Social Compass, Sage, Galler chocolates, Louvain-la-Neuve Museum, and the city of Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve. We were not as successful with our funding applications as presumed, mainly because austerity's policy. We will be able to provide a full overview of the financial side once we receive the final number of participants after the conference.

Considerations regarding future conferences

The number of steps and players in the setting up of the program is probably too large. We need to think about a more efficient process for such task to facilitate the coordination between the different managers of the program.

This conference was the first one with a restitution of all the fees to the organizer. Because the economic trend, and the concomitant decreasing of the public subvention, this decision was crucial in order to organize such Conference. It's a very important point for the future.

Number of participants at this conference: 443.

Total Budget

Participation Fees : 29,359 €

UCLouvain Subventions : 14250€ + 1,5 Full time secretary for 6 months + All the rooms and logistical material.

Others Subventions : 7600€ + gifts (map, chocolates, etc.)

Waiting some answers after the Conference (Loterie nationale, and Province of Walloon Brabant)

Conference organizers

LAAP-Laboratory for Prospective Anthropology

CISMOC-Center for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World

Local organizing committee

Anne-Marie Vuillemenot, LAAP, University of Louvain, Chair

Bérénice Goffin, secretary, LAAP, University of Louvain

Eliane Lallemand, secretary, IACCHOS, University of Louvain

Karel Dobbelaere, KU Leuven, honorary General Secretary of the ISSR

Liliane Voyé, University of Louvain, Former Chair of the SISR

Brigitte Maréchal, Chair of the CISMOC, University of Louvain

Olivier Servais, LAAP, University of Louvain, treasurer of the ISSR

Charlotte Bréda, LAAP, University of Louvain

Hélène Carmon, LAAP, FNRS

Laurie Daffe, LAAP, FNRS

Thibault Fontanari, LAAP, FNRS

Julie Hermesse, LAAP, FNRS

Jean-Frédéric de Hasque, LAAP, FNRS

Séverine Lagneaux, LAAP, FNRS

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 appreciation and their gratitude to the Local Committee and its Chair for their work.

5) REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISSR

The President Peter Beyer presents his report.

We continue to do well as a society as the

attendance at this conference and the quality of the program attests. It is the research analyses and thinking that we bring to the conference that is at the basis of its quality, what makes it worthwhile coming to these meetings every couple of years. Yet, as for past conferences, we have to thank in particular all those who have given their time and effort to mount this conference and make it possible, above all the members of the local organizing committee here in Louvain, led by Anne-Marie Vuillemenot. Special thanks also to Siniša Zrinščak, our General Secretary, Olivier Servais, our Treasurer, and Jasjit Singh, our Program Chair, who were chiefly responsible for various essential aspects of the organizing of this conference; and to quite a number of assistants and volunteers who have worked with all these officers to bring this excellent result about. I am sure that our conference here in Louvain 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 for past conferences, there are two or three aspects of the present one that are new and that I would like to signal as they affect the way we operate and go about our scholarly business. As all of you will have noticed, whether with satisfaction or chagrin, the organizing of the present conference has for the first time taken place almost entirely through electronic means, and above all through our web site (www.sisr-issr.org). A couple of years ago, the web site was significantly upgraded in terms of its functionality, such that already for the conference in 2013 in Turku, we transacted the bulk of matters pertaining to membership and conference registration through it. Matters having to do with attending the conference, such as travel and accommodation information, and the like, were also integrated into our website. This time around we added the entire proposal submission process, including session proposals and paper proposals. As is usual when such 'upgrades' are implemented, not everything ran as smoothly as we had hoped, but certainly well enough that, with some tweaking and adjustment the next time around, all this will become normal, routine, and, above all, make the entire organizing process easier and more efficient. This development will undoubtedly continue as we further upgrade our web site and its capacities in light of new possibilities and the inevitable changes that the cyber-world requires of us as we move into the future. While I am on the subject of the web

site, I want to thank in particular Jim Spickard for not only guiding us through the multi-year process of upgrading and enhancement to this point, but also for doing a lot of the design and technical implementation work for the web site itself.

Between the last conference in 2013 and this one, the society has also completed the process of transforming its legal status from an informal association to an official legal entity. We are now fully an International Non-Profit Organization (AISBL) under Belgian law, with a new constitution and all the characteristics that are now required to protect and enable our members and officers to carry out their responsibilities, and to allow us to continue to function financially and protect our assets. The transition to this new legal status does, however, still require some additional steps, one of which we are bringing before you today in the form of a proposal for a new by-law of the association. Our new constitution provides for the adoption of by-laws to address matters that are, for various legal and practical reasons, not already addressed in our new constitution. One of these concerns the election of officers and members of the ISSR Council. The proposed by-law that we bring before you today is in fact a proposal formally to incorporate into the new structures what we were already doing under the old structures, namely the procedures for nominating and electing executive and Council members. The by-law introduces no practical change, but only formalizes procedures that we have followed for years.

In light of the solid financial situation that the society has attained over the past number of years, the Society has successfully launched a couple of new initiatives that, while allowing us to maintain our solid financial position, 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 internationally. Accordingly, using the Enhancement Fund set up previously for this purpose, we held our first competition for helping to fund an international workshop on innovative research topics in the field to be held in 2015. The winner, already announced previously, was a workshop entitled, *Is Secularism Bad for Women? Women and religious change in contemporary Europe*, organized jointly by Kristin Aune from Great Britain, Mia Lövhelm from Sweden, Terhi Utriainen from Finland, and Alberta Giorgi and

Teresa Toldy, both from Portugal. This workshop in fact took place just before our conference here and I trust it was a great success.

Over the next year, we will be holding further competition for Enhancement fund activities and we encourage you all to consider making submissions once the details announcement is issued during the coming year.

This year we also successfully launched two new awards, namely the ISSR Student Paper Award for the best first published paper of graduate/doctoral students or early post-docs, and the ISSR Best Article Award for the journal article in the sociology of religion published in the 2-year period between ISSR conferences. We congratulate the first winner of the student paper, Jean-François Bauduin, whose article, *Tourisme de loisir, pèlerinage et prosélytisme : L'« Université du Bonheur » du mouvement raélien / Leisure Tourism, Pilgrimage, and Proselytism within the Raelian Happiness Academy* was presented earlier this afternoon in one of the thematic sessions. And we congratulate the first winners of the best article award, David Voas, Siobhan McAndrew and Ingrid Storm for their article, entitled “Modernisation and the Gender Gap in Religiosity: Evidence from Cross-national European Surveys”, published in 2013 in the *Kölner Zeitschrift für Soziologie und Sozialpsychologie*.

The President and Vice-President gave awards plaques to the winners.

The report of the President was unanimously accepted.

6) REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary Siniša Zrinščak presents his report.

I have to start my report with the acknowledgement of the fact that the workload of the GS has been significantly restructured as the responsibility for the program has been taken by the Program Chair and the President. This makes the life of the GS manageable though, I would say, the GS still has multiple tasks to perform, some of them more and some them less visible. These tasks can be summarized in: communication, coordination, and collaboration. I have been trying to perform them timely and to the best of my ability. Thus, 4 newsletters have been published

in last two years, but as underlined also in the President's report, electronic communication has been used more intensively in this period.

In relation to members, and according to situation from June 23, we have 498 members and 466 participants at the conference. These numbers are slightly changing as the conference is approaching, particularly in relation to participants, and will be revised accordingly. In comparison to the last two membership periods (2010-2011 and 2012-2013) the number of members went slightly up (432 and 485), though in late 2000s numbers were higher (520 in 2006-2007 and 616 in 2008-2009). In the context of the economic crisis and reduced funding, we can be satisfied with the current membership. Also, and having in mind last minutes cancellations due to several reasons, it can be concluded that the number of participants has been pretty much stable, as we had 420 participants in Aix-en-Provence, and 431 in Turku. Still, what has been already noticed in last periods has continued, namely a rising number of members / participants with reduced fee. Currently, we have 241 members with full membership and 257 with reduced fee (160 members with 75€ and 97 members with 54€). This ratio is almost identical to the last membership period. Among conference participants, 209 paid the full fee, 221 the reduced fee, 17 the fee for non-members, while 19 were exempt of paying the fee (keynote speakers or local organizers).

Election for new officers was held in late April 2015. Unfortunately, and despite several attempts, we did not succeed in having more candidates for one position, except for the position of Vice-President and for Canada. In addition, for the first time, we set up an online voting system. Though there were some minor problems, the system proved to be efficient and 118 members casted their votes.

The following candidates were elected:

Vice-President:

Inger Furseth

Council members – second mandate:

Irene Becci (Switzerland)

Anne-Marie Vuilleminot (Benelux)

Yoshihide Sakurai (East Asia and Japan)

Fatma Kocamemik Sündal (Eastern Europe)

Council members – first mandate:

Lori G. Beaman (Canada)

Mary Jo Nietz (USA)

Dinka Marinović Jerolimov (Central Europe)

Mia Lövheim (Nordic countries)

Giuseppe Giordan (Italy)

Anna Halafoff (Australasia)

As usual, the ISSR is providing financial assistance for attending conference. We got 13 requests, and 9 of them were selected for funding: Ekaterina Grishaeva, Fatemeh Gholamrezakashi, Fezzeh Gholamreza Kashi, Niayesh Ghorban Dolati, Edmond VII Mballa Elanga, Mortaza Shams Nonka Bogomilova, Yaghoob Foroutan, and Anna Ozgihanova. At the time of writing of this report it is still not sure whether all of them would participate at the conference due to the visa problems.

As said, the GS work is mainly about communication and collaboration. I have a pleasure to say that my communication with ISSR officers and the Local Committee was excellent. Still, I want to underline my particular thanks to four persons with whom my communication has been very intense and without whom I would not be able to perform my tasks: Peter Beyer, ISSR President, Bérénice Goffin, Treasurer's Assistant and member of the Local Committee, Marcus Moberg, our Webmaster, and Branko Ančić, Administrative Secretary.

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

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 authorize valid financial transactions on the Society's behalf.

The Council shall

Art 24 : The fiscal year ends on December 31 of each year.

At the end of each financial year, the Board of Directors (Council) shall draw up the accounts of the association for the past year. In the cases provided by law, it shall submit to one or more commissioners, that means, the control of the financial situation, the annual accounts of the Association and of the lawfulness of the law and the statutes of operations recorded in the annual accounts.

The Board of Directors (Council) is required to submit annual financial statements for the fiscal year and the budget for the coming financial year for approval by the Overall Governing Board (General Assembly) at its next meeting.

The General Assembly shall

Art 10 :

Are within the competence of the Overall Governing Board (General Assembly) approval of the accounts of the previous social exercise and the budget for the following term, established by the Overall Governing Board (General Assembly).

2. State of the Accounts as of June 2015

It should be noted that the statement of current financial situation (New Worth) does not include liabilities attendant upon the Louvain-la-Neuve conference. In addition, for the current biannual term, and in collaboration with the Louvain-la-Neuve team, we are including the cost of the Dinner and the Lunches in our accounts because registration process included these amounts in our system. 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.

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

BANK ACCOUNTS:	
Cash	5.00
Current Account (DELEN)	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

Net Worth as of June 2015 (in Euros):

BANK ACCOUNTS:	
Cash	5.00
Current Account (DELEN)	883.18
Savings Account (Belfius)	89,014.16
Paypal	2,966.17
Current Account (Belfius)	93,161.28
TOTAL IN BANK ACCOUNTS:	189,029.79
INVESTMENTS:	
Securities with Belfius	27,023.35
Securities with DELEN	121,277.60
TOTAL INVESTMENTS:	149,300.95
TOTAL ASSETS:	338,330.74

3. Statement of Accounts 2010-2011 & 2012-2013

REVENUES	Fiscal Year 2010-11	Fiscal Year 2012-13
Interest, Gifts, and Investments	7,048.68	1,957.82
Membership Fee	62,793.04	71,719.37*
Conference registrations	14,817.69	21,106.00*
TOTAL REVENUES:	84,659.41	94,825.37
EXPENSES		
Council	9,116.63	3,578.2
Bank Fees	6,232.96 (384.18)	168.92
Credit Card fees/Paypal/Ogone	2,241.74	1,253.01
Social Compass	17,867.14	11,748.62
General Secretary/Treasure	15,102.21	12,781.86
Website	429.55	589.54
Miscellaneous	1,347.72	7,818.46
Conference and Grants	16,042.06	56,483.71
TOTAL EXPENSES:	68,380.01	94,422.32
SURPLUS	16,279.40	403.05

*The split between these 2 lines have been made on the basis of a 4.4 / 1 repartition, based on the last biennial term. From 2014-2015, these two lines are all the time separate in our payment system.

4. Budget 2016-2017

REVENUES	Budget 2014-15	Budget 2016-17
Interest, Gifts, and Investments	4,000	2,000
Membership Fee	57,000	50,000
Conference registrations	25,375	18,000
Subventions/Gifts	5,000	5,000
TOTAL REVENUES:	91,375	75,000
EXPENSES		
Council	3,500	3,500
Bank Fees	300	300
Credit Card fees	600	600
Social Compass	25,000	15,000
General Secretary/Treasure	12,000	18,000
Website	2,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	600	600
Conference	20,000	18,000
Grants and Prizes	12,000	15,000
Subvention to regional activities (Long term Policy)	15,375	12,000
TOTAL EXPENSES:	91,375	86,000
SURPLUS	0.00	-11,000

5. Treasurer Priorities: current situation and future agenda

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. 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.
- > To do: We schedule to switch to Winbooks in 2016 in order to facilitate the remote control.

Refrain from increasing membership fees beyond normal inflation

- > Done: There has been no increase for 6 years. It won't change in the next 2 years.

In collaboration with Jim Spickard, manage a complete online effective payment system

- > Done (thanks to Jim's collaboration): Upgrade of the Website (www.sisr-issr.org) includes up to date procedures, forms, and a system of payment (Paypal). After the legalization of the ISSR, we updated our Paypal and bank status.
- > In progress: Due to our new status, to negotiate a non-profit user cost for our paypal system
- > To do: update Delen Bank mandatory
- > To Do: Prepare the paypal system for a non Euro-Zone Conference

Establish legal status and clarify the tax situation of the association

- > Done: Put the new legal status before the General Assembly for adoption. Thereafter, with the Board of the ISSR, create the "new association".

- > To do : Published the new council composition.

Implement the financial strategy proposals adopted by Council

- > Done: Select and fund a regional Conference with all the legal agreement. Idem for the student and best paper awards.
- > To Do : The last selection process was too short...We need more time before the regional Conference in order to operate adequately all the legal agreements and the money transfers... Especially when it's outside Euro Zone.

Evaluate the performance and ethics of our banking institutions, and, if necessary, propose changes

- > To do: This remains to be done, even I presented a first evaluation /comparison during Zagreb Council in 2014.

Fundrising

- > To do: I give priority to apply for European Institutions Fundings and for Belgian funding for employment. But Off course I remain open to all the other fundraising possibilities.

The report of the Treasurer was unanimously accepted.

8) REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Véronique Altglas, president of the Committee, was not present at the GA and her report was distributed in a written form.

In 2013, the Committee undertook the preparation of the 2014/2 issue of *Social Compass* dedicated to the plenary sessions of the 32nd ISSR conference that took place in July 2013 in Turku. A total of 9 presentations (6 papers, 2 discussant reports and Karel Dobbelaere's address) were presented in the 4 plenary sessions of the conference. The Editorial Committee received a finalised version of these texts, which therefore have been all published.

In November 2013, the Committee received a total of 36 miscellaneous papers for the publication

of *Social Compass*, issue 2015/2. Each paper was read and assessed by two members of the EC, in order to decide whether they are good enough to be sent to external reviewers, rejected straight away at this stage or allowed to be revised and resubmitted.

At this stage, 20 papers were sent to reviewers, and on the basis of their score, 9 were accepted for publication in Spring 2014. Unfortunately, one author had to pull out for health reasons. Thus, 8 papers will be published in the 2015/2 issue of *Social Compass* which is currently under press. You will note that 6 of these papers are in English: I gave precedence to quality over the French/English balance. Indeed, in the recent years we had expressed our concerns regarding the quality of pieces published in the periodical. Hence this particular approach.

With this report, I complete my mandate as chair of the ISSR/SISR *Social Compass* Editorial Committee, replacing J.-P. Willaime for this task. It is now under Peter Beyer that the ISSR/SISR *Social Compass* Editorial Committee will continue its work and review text submissions for the publication of the proceedings of the conference in Leuven.

I would like to thank the Council members for their trust in my ability to chair the ISSR/SISR *Social Compass* Editorial Committee over the last two years. I also thank Elisabeth Arweck, Pauline Côté, Philippe Portier and Jörg Stolz, for their active participation and invaluable contributions to the work of the Committee.

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

9) ISSR BY-LAW FOR THE ELECTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The President presents the by-law which was unanimously accepted:

a) The exact number of members of the Administrative Body (Council) of the ISSR, and, where applicable, which country or region such members will represent, shall be fixed by the Council itself.

b) Members of Council shall begin their elected mandate and assume their term of office at the General Assembly of the ISSR of the next biennial conference after their election.

c) Not less than nine months a Council position becomes vacant, the General Secretary shall announce the vacancy to the members of the ISSR normally resident in the relevant country or region, and who are in good standing or were in good standing for the immediately previous membership period, asking them to nominate candidates, who are at the time of their nomination in good standing, to represent them on the Council. Such nominations must be submitted in writing (electronically or on paper) by the nominator, and with the support in writing of one other member from the region or country and the agreement to stand of the proposed candidate.

d) Not less than six months before the term of a Council position for a particular country or region is to begin, Council will establish the definitive list of nominees presented by each country or region and this list will be communicated to all members in good standing.

e) Voting by secret electronic ballot, or by personal written (electronic or paper) communication to the General Secretary, shall take place at least two months before the General Assembly at the Conference which marks the end of the relevant period of office, except for the Secretary General and the Treasurer whose mandates expire at the end of the calendar year during which the Conference takes place.

f) All members of the society who are in good standing at the time of the balloting will be invited to vote.

g) Those candidates who receive the most votes for a position shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the General Secretary shall draw lots in the presence of two witnesses.

h) In case of a vacancy on Council, the Council may decide between two options: a) to hold a by-election (for the end of the term) , following the procedures for regular elections; or b) to fill the vacant position at the next regular election (for a full 4-year term).

10) THE 34TH ISSR CONFERENCE IN 2017

Bob Dixon presented the venue for the 2017 conference which will be held in Melbourne, Australia.

11) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No issue was raised.

At 6:30pm the meeting came to a close after the President had thanked all members present.

SINIŠA ZRINŠČAK, General Secretary