

SECIS Annual Encounter– 7-9 June 2018 in Madrid

Delegates

Monika Kalista (Austria), Pierre Devos (Belgium), Roberta Canning (England and Wales), Hermann Weber and Matthias Haas (Germany), Manon Marinier (IFCU), Sarune Daugerdaitė (Lithuania), Edith Weber-Sinner (Luxembourg), Eduardo Duque (Portugal).

From Spain: David Sanchez Ramos, Maria Luisa Mesina, Eduardo Martin Ruano, Maitane Campos Sainz, Isabel Macarro Vera, Julia Puya Cabezas, Golda Torentera, Lucia Cabiedas Perea, Raquel Pérez Sanjuan

Thursday: Raquel welcomed all to Madrid and to the residence.

Pierre Devos expressed our thanks to Raquel for hosting the Assembly and all her work organising our days in Madrid. He then circulated a paper about SECIS and explained SECIS and how it came into existence with the encouragement of the Office for Migrants and Itinerant Peoples.

Roberta Canning reported on pastoral care for international students in the context of Catholic university chaplaincy and the relationship between universities and chaplaincy (Paper attached).

Edith Weber-Sinner explained the ministry of LISEL and their houses for students. She described trips and intergenerational houses with community living. Edith circulated LISEL material.

We celebrated Mass in the chapel.

Friday:

The group visited “Fundacion San Pablo CEU”

This is a private university welcoming many international students. There were presentations about how they try to prepare the students, how they welcome them and try to support them through their studies. Many are studying in English; they may have little Spanish and so limited opportunity to experience Spanish culture. They acknowledged problems bringing large numbers from one country – an example is Dentistry students from Taiwan.

Hermann Weber then presented on the KAAD scholarship programme and pastoral support for international students at German universities (Paper attached).

The group then went to Colegio Mayor Padre Poveda. There was a presentation about how Colegio Mayor support students. They have a programme of DVDs about faith and social issues and weekly discussions; all residents volunteer in projects and can volunteer abroad. There is a programme of preparation before volunteering. Every resident has a personal tutor.

Monika Kalista gave a presentation about the Afro-Asian Institut in Salzburg (Paper attached).

We celebrated Mass at Colegio Mayor Padre Poveda and lunched there.

Raquel had organised a walking tour, a visit to a dance festival and tapas.

Saturday:**SECIS Assembly**

Present: Pierre Devos, Hermann Weber, Edith Weber-Sinner, Raquel Pérez Sanjuan, Eduardo Duque, Sarune Daugerdaitė, Roberta Canning, Maria Luisa Mesina and Matthias Haas.

Pierre explained that the board had prepared the assembly with Raquel. He thanked her for our very productive and informative meetings.

He presented the report from the 2017 assembly in Paris.
A decision on the future of SECIS had been postponed to 2018.

Hermann explained the position of SECIS on the Pastoral Care Guidelines. There is no progress at present because of the reorganisation in Rome. Robinson has returned to Sri Lanka.

The accounts were presented and approved.

There was a long discussion on whether to remain an association established under Belgian Law. It was agreed more may be lost than gained by dissolution.

Raquel knows a Belgian member of the Teresian Lay Association who lives in Brussels and may be willing to come onto the Board.

It was agreed that Pierre, Hermann, Edith and Raquel will continue on the Board with Jean Charles Caloen as treasurer.

Raquel will meet with Pierre and her contact before the next meeting of the board (1-2 February 2019).

Assembly 2019

Where: Brussels

When: 4-6 July or 11-13 July. Pierre will explore possible meeting places

Theme: Europe and the European Ideal

SECIS members must be ambassadors for good Christian university pastoral care for international students.