



## **ANNUAL ENCOUNTER & GENERAL ASSEMBLY Namur (Belgium), 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

Participants: Pierre Devos (Belgium, Chairman), Hermann Weber (Germany), Edith Weber-Sinner (Luxembourg), Roberta Canning (England & Wales), Anne Van Nuffel (Belgium), Teodor Mellen (ESADE - Barcelona Business School, Spain), Raquel Pérez (Spain).

### **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July: SECIS Encounter**

Pierre Devos welcomed all the participants to “Quai-22” Residence at 16h. After greeting each other, we exchange news and the update from SECIS member countries, as well as the contacts established along 2019 with the Dicastery for Integral Human Development and the Congregation for Catholic Education; a contact with the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) is pending. By 18h the country reports were shared, except for Germany which is postponed to Saturday morning. At 20.30h we share an authentic Belgian dinner at “Estaminet Bistro Belgo Belge”. We finish the day with a promenade round Namur city centre.

On Friday we left for Brussels on an early train. First we went to the EU Commission's General Directory for Education and Culture (DG EAC) which is the executive branch of the EU responsible for policy on education, culture, youth, languages, and sport. At 9.30h we met Mrs. Harpa Sif. Arnarsdottir, with whom we had a very interesting dialogue and exchange. She presented to us Erasmus+ 2021-2017 programme and answered with accuracy to our questions. We then took a walk to Anne van Nuffel's house for lunch. After a delicious meal *chez Anne*, at 14h we went to COMECE for our meeting with the General Secretary, Fr. Olivier Poquillon OP. By 16.30h we visited the Chapel for Europe, where Sabine González and Krystian Sowa SJ explained to us their mission, and we celebrated mass. At the end of this intense day, we returned to Namur, and enjoyed dinner together at “Quai-22” prepared by one of Namur's university chefs.

### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July: SECIS Assembly 2019**

Delegates: Pierre Devos (Belgium, Chairman), Hermann Weber (Germany), Edith Weber-Sinner (Luxembourg), Roberta Canning (England & Wales), Anne Van Nuffel (Belgium), Raquel Pérez (Spain).

#### **1. REPORT 2018 AND ACCOUNTS**

Pierre presented the report from the 2018 Assembly in Madrid and from the Board meeting held in Namur (February 2019). They were approved by the assembly. He recalls that the aim of SECIS is to enlarge the local experience and to help to progress in the Church concerning International Students. He gives out a copy of the Statutes, after the changes approved in previous Assemblies have been submitted to Belgian authorities.

The accounts were presented and approved, the balance is 47.243,89€. We also went through the budget 2020, and we agreed on the following criteria:

- SECIS Board meeting: all expenses are covered by SECIS (trips and lodgement)
- SECIS Annual Encounter & General Assembly:  
Members: all expenses except the travel are covered by SECIS  
Non-members:
  - Local participants with no lodgement: 30€
  - Participants with lodgement: an amount to be decided by the Board each year, depending on the programme (in any case, below 200€ - membership fee).

Since SECIS is not a savings group, but has a social purpose (cf. art. 2 & art. 6.1 Statutes), it is possible to employ some funds in extra expenses, such as promotion of participation (in some cases, it could be necessary if no other institution is ready to pay).

We discussed on how to motivate and facilitate new countries to join SECIS and/or participate in the Annual Encounter (to be followed up in particular Austria, France, Switzerland, Italy and Lithuania).

A suggestion is put forward: whether SECIS funds could be partly invested in social investment. We agree to submit this possibility to study.

## 2. BOARD ELECTION

Following SECIS Statutes, we agree on a 4 member Board of Management (cf. art. 5.1 Statutes). The elected Board for the coming three years (2019-2022) is:

- President: Raquel Pérez (Spain)
- Vice-President: Edith Weber-Sinner (Luxembourg)
- Secretary: Pierre Devos (Belgium)
- Treasurer: Jean-Charles van Caloen (Belgium)

The request that “at least one member of the Board of Management will have the Belgian nationality” (art. 5.1 Statutes), is therefore fulfilled.

## 3. NEXT SECIS ENCOUNTER & GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2020)

It will be held in **Braga (Portugal), from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> until Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2020**. We express our gratitude to SECIS member Eduardo Duque (Portugal) for welcoming the coming Encounter & Assembly in Portugal.

Theme: To be determined by the board on February. Some ideas were already mentioned concerning universality of the church, support and accompaniment.

Next meeting of SECIS Board (2020): from Friday 31/01 evening (Brussels) until Saturday 01/02 afternoon (Namur).