

# Report of the SECIS meeting 2013

Place : 5 avenue Marie-Thérèse, L-2132 Luxembourg

Date : 27-29 July 2013

## Members and associates present:

Avin Kunnekkadan, Pierre Devos, Marco Cattaneo, Hermann Weber, Sabine Schwartz  
Msgr. Robinson Wijesinghe, Jean-Charles van Caloen, Edith Weber-Sinner, Marguerite  
Ries

**Lisel host team:** Agnès Rausch and Marian

**Intervenants:** Mgr Jean-Claude Hollerich, Michel Hakizimana and Pierre Meyers

## Agenda for the board meeting and general assembly 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013

1. Opening prayer with a moment of silent meditation
2. Report of the Board 2011,2012
3. Evaluation and review of the SECIS exchange programme 2012
4. Budget for the year 2012 approval and proposal of budget for the year 2013
5. Report from different member countries and of Vatican
6. A clarification of the FENACA and the financial gift to SECIS
7. Proposal and election of the board members for the term 2013-2016
8. Meeting with Archbishop Mgr. Hollerich Luxembourg.
9. Conference session by Michel Hakizima CACEAC Charleroi
10. Cultural and historical walk in the city and dinner
11. SECIS activities for 2013
12. Website and communication
13. Observation from MSGR. Robinson Vatican participant
14. letter to Cardinal Veglio (Vatican)
15. Next General assembly and conference date and place
16. Eucharistic celebration, lunch and closing

## The Board Meeting

1. The Board meeting began at 5-00 pm with a short meditative silence and prayer.
2. The board members shared briefly on the activities and the **news** from different countries. The chairman Pierre Devos informed about the letters received from other countries and his attempts to get more members to SECIS.
3. The board discussed the **exchange programme** and shared the views from students. As a whole, the exchange programme was well attended by Luxembourg, Germany and Netherlands as well as in France. As difficulties concerning the offered events has been mentioned: travel expenses which students were not able to cover and dates of seminars not adapted to the rhythm of students. The board decided to continue with the exchange programme for the year 2013-2014. Two

types of activities shall be considered: meeting of people and intellectual challenge.

4. The **accounts** for the year 2012 were presented by the treasurer and were discussed. The **budget** for 2013 was approved by the board members. The board meeting came to an end by 6-15 pm.

## The General Assembly

-The General assembly began at 6-15 pm. All the participants were warmly welcomed by Agnes Rausch from Lisel and Théo from the pastoral communication center Luxemburg.

- ✓ The participants introduced themselves and briefly shared the situation of student chaplaincies in respective location.
- ✓ The director of the pastoral communication center presented a short video clip to begin the session and helped the members to reflect on the reality of student mobility and communication.  
The chairman read out the good wishes and the message letter of Reverend Joseph Kalathiparambil, secretary of the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People and a special welcome was given to the Vatican representative Msgr. Robinson Wijesinghe.
- ✓ The **report** of the general assembly of 2012 was taken up for discussion and was approved unanimously by the assembly.
- ✓ -The **treasurer** informed the assembly that the gift money from the former belgian national chaplaincy, i.e. 37250.00 euros, was invested in stock certificates and shall continue to pay a minimum rent (50% of the yield from the capital) to for the use of the office in Brussels until the end of the year 2014. The assets of SECIS were 40806,60 at the end of 2012. A deficit of 2427,30 euros was essentially due to the costs linked to money investment and to the nonpayment of subscriptions. We have to find sponsors in order to equilibrate our budget because subscriptions are not able to afford enough money. We have also to reduce the costs of the rented office in Brussels, which is no more useful. Discharge was given to the members of the board. Then, the budget for the year 2013 was taken up for discussion and was approved by the assembly.
- ✓ Election of the new **board members** was discussed. The statutes of SECIS were referred to understand the legal implications. The present board suggested that it may be good that the present board continue with an option for the election of a new female member to the board. Though Herman Weber and Pierre Devos were willing to have a change, they did not express any serious reason for the change and the assembly decided that the present board could continue for another term with the inclusion of a new women member to the board. Pierre Devos is asked to propose this new member to the board by the next board meeting. The decision was unanimously approved by the assembly.
- ✓ The assembly ended at 20-00 and the participants were led to LISEL office for the delicious meal prepared by the volunteers. After the meal the participants went with the guest families.

## Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2013

- ✓ The meeting began at 9-00 with the **country reports** and activities and involvement of chaplaincy in the university campus. It was observed that Europe is no more the center of the world. There are more and more students coming from Asia, Africa and China to Europe. The participants shared the experiences and at the end, it was decided that each country representative will send a short report of the activities of the year 2012 to the chairman so as to be included in the final report and to place it on the website (see appendix)
- ✓ At 10.00, **Mgr. Archbishop Hollerich** was welcomed and he shared his views on the student mobility and the importance of youth education. He shared his experience in education ministry in Japan university campus. He sees the youth shaping the future of the world destiny and stressed that the young people who come to Europe from Asia and Africa and China as well as east European countries and Latin America have to get attention of the chaplains so as to make them feel at home.  
He said that student mobility brings changes in world view due to globalization. He sees education as an important factor of socio-economic and religious reform and renewal with development and welfare.  
He informed he has opened his own residence to accommodate students who are in need.  
After a short discussion, there was coffee break from 11-00 to 11-15.
- ✓ From 11-15, the sharing of the **reports** from different countries continued till lunch at LISEL at 13-00. The lunch was prepared by volunteers from LISEL and the participants enjoyed the delicious meal with good conversation.
- ✓ After the lunch, the conference on “My own experience in the pastoral care of students in a secularized world” began at 14-30 led by Michel Hakizimana. A detailed report of the session is in appendix. This session ended at 17-00.
- ✓ After a tea break, the participants were lead to the city of Luxemburg by Agnes Rausch and Pierre Meyers sj, a well versed city guide, to see and experience the cultural tradition and history of Luxemburg. The walk and the explanations were an eye opener to many participants to the History of Europe and heritage of Luxemburg. The day ended with a meal with varieties of pizza with a good table conversation and discussion and the participants left to the guest houses at 21.00

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> 2013

- ✓ The meeting began at 9-00 with the **communication of Mgr. Robinson Wijesinghe**. He shared the concerns of Vatican and conveyed the greetings of Pope Francis and of Cardinal Veglio. He said that the office in Vatican looks forward to close collaboration with SECIS to prepare a guideline of the good practices of university chaplains. They will be based on the final documents of the three congresses held in 1996/2005/2011. They should also include “standards” in view of the stronger activities of new religious movements on campus. The draft of the proposed guidelines and good practices could be

discussed in Rome at the end of June 2014 or alternatively in September/October 2014. The date could be fixed along with the annual board meeting and general assembly so as to enable the participating countries to be present. We first expect a letter of the Vatican outlining the expectations of the council, particularly concerning our association. Instead of “guidelines”, some of us proposed to develop “inspiring ideas” intended to give answers to the question of “what I have to do with international students here in Europe”. It was emphasized that this work is the job of the Pontifical Council for the pastoral care of Migrants and Itinerant people ([www.pcmigrants.org](http://www.pcmigrants.org)) and not of the Pontifical Council for the Education. Some members urged to combine this with a mandate to SECIS in order to have legitimation towards their national bishop’s conferences.

- ✓ Marco gave a display of the new website [www.SECIS.info](http://www.SECIS.info). It was appreciated by all the participants and the assembly expressed a special thanks to the team work of Marco. The chairman requested all the participants to send news and activity list to the webmaster so as to include in the website from time to time.
- ✓ It was followed by a discussion on the future activities of SECIS and the discussion ended at 11-30.
- ✓ Being the feast day of apostles Peter and Paul, Fr. Pierre Devos presided over the thanks giving Eucharist and he gave an inspiring homily. After the Eucharist, the participants thanked team members of LISEL, especially Agnes Rausch for the good organization and facilities provided for the general assembly and hospitality. The meeting ended with a meal prepared by a student from Cameroun and the members thanked the LISEL team.

Thanking you,

Fr. Avin Kunnekkadan SVD, secretary of SECIS