

**Minutes of 5th European ICSU members meeting
Berne, 26th October 2007****Morning session (Chair: Denis Monard):**

Denis Monard, President of the Swiss Academy of Sciences, welcomed all participants and thanked the organising committee for its preparatory work.

1. Adoption of the Agenda and Minutes of Paris

The minutes have been accepted with the following corrections:

Last sentence of the paragraph 2c (Spain is presently discussing the possibility to offer such a secretary) to be removed.

In paragraph 2a the following sentence to be added: The participants agreed to invite european ICSU members by referring to the UNESCO-Definition of Europe (without the United States.)

2. Background information on the evolution of the European meetings

Ingrid Kissling gave a short overview of the activities of ICSU during the last five years (cf. presentation¹).

3. Objectives of the Strategic plan of ICSU

Thomas Rosswall, executive director of ICSU, presented the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan for 2006-2011 as well as the priorities of ICSU on an international level (cf. presentation). He underlined the importance of the regional groups of ICSU.

The participants commented and asked for an ICSU coordination of the activities between regional offices, in order to avoid overlap. ICSU should also promote a better collaboration between natural and social sciences.

Specific ICSU issues*4. Dues reviews*

Martin Grötschel, member of the Working Group to Review ICSU's Dues Structure, presented the report on dues structure mandated by the ICSU Executive Board:

Recommendations of the working group for the national members:

1. Dues be based on a model based on raw GDP figures.
2. 10 bands be used, rather than the current 51. R
3. A minimum payment of €1,000 be required.
4. A cap be placed on the top band amount (currently paid by the United States[1]).
5. In-kind contributions to ICSU be encouraged and recognised in

¹ Download of documents cf. http://www.scnat.ch/5th_ICSU_Meeting_2007.php

some way.

The executive board has positively received this report.

There has been animated discussion on the question if voting or influence within ICSU could be weighted by referring to the amount of dues paid. While this issue lay strictly beyond the terms of reference, it does of course have implications for equity in ICSU. A consensus in this question could not be found, but the participants agreed on the GDP figures as basis for the calculation of dues as a simple and transparent indicator and the 10 bands.

5. General assembly 2008

20th - 25th October 2008, Maputo, Mozambique

Adoption of the terms of reference as circulated before

Ruth Cooper explained the procedure, by which the terms of reference have been developed and agreed. The participants unanimously accepted the terms of reference. She also presented the web pages and web platform constructed by the Royal Society, which can be used as exchange platform by the ICSU European members group.

Afternoon session (Chair: Eckart Ehlers):

6. European collaboration and coordination of activities vis-a-vis ICSU

Ruth Cooper summarised the results from the survey (cf. paper Survey of European Members of ICSU).

Most of the participants responded to this survey. It would be useful to have full information. Ruth Cooper agreed to re-circulate the survey to ensure that all members of the group had time to submit a full response.

There has been an intensive discussion on the coordination and cooperation between European ICSU members:

- Marie-Lise Chanin suggested to submit a project to the next General Assembly on one of the following priority themes within ICSU (cf. presentation): *Sustainable Energy, Health, Hunger in the world*
- Gérard Siclet informed about the increasing role of European scientific association
- Anne Streiff presented the NYPSE initiative (swiss-academies), a project in the 7th framework program.

The whole group agreed on a webpage run by the Royal Society as a platform for exchange. All members have to contribute actively. The Belgian Academy and the Royal Society have to decide on the transfer of the website to Belgium,

a) The website contains the following items:

- 1) Terms of reference and basic principles
- 2) Preparation of General Assembly in Maputo.
- 3) Other important topics to be discussed. Thematic focus on 1 or 2 subjects such as open access and urban environment in Europe.

Addendum a2: It is important for the European group to work together and to have a common position. Before developing new projects, this group has to assess what is done in ICSU. It is important to see what the strategic plan contains and how to organise the European input. The goal of the next meeting in Finland is to prepare input to the General Assembly from a European standpoint

Conclusions by Eckart Ehlers

- a) Agreement on the ongoing informal cooperation of the European ICSU members: the next meeting will be held in Helsinki in order to prepare the GA in Maputo;
- b) Establishment of a website by the Royal Society in close cooperation with the Belgium Academy; strong recommendation to the members to contribute and interact;
- c) Potential foci: ICSU core issues and ICSU related projects;
- d) Critical assessment of the existing strategic plans and development of considerations for the second period. ICSU-Europe must consider the question if the group wants to launch new projects or join existing programs by meaningful broadening?
- e) Preparation of the GA in Maputo: enter in an internal European discussion on aspects of election and also planning.
- f) Try to formulate a statement about the open-access project, for those who were interested via the proposed website.

Next meeting:

Helsinki, Finland

8 and 9th April 2008

Thematic focus: discuss the cooperation with humanities and social sciences.

Anne Streiff/SCNAT, Berne, 01.11.2007

Participants:

Ahmet Ademoglu, Turkey
Attilio Boriani, Italy
Emil Broesterhuizen, Netherlands
Marie-Lise Chanin, France
Loucas Christophorou, Greece
Ruth Cooper, UK
Eckart Ehlers, Germany (Chair, afternoon session)
Martin Grötschel, Germany
Ionel Haiduc, Romania
Dick Hedberg, Sweden
Ain-Elmar Kaasik, Estonia
Ingrid Kissling-Näf, Switzerland
Cora Laforet, Germany
Bob Lapidot, Israel
John Maguire, Ireland
Laura Mahoney, Ireland
Denis Monard, Switzerland (Chair, morning session)
Rafael Núñez-Lagos, Spain
Hans-Rudolf Ott, Switzerland
Kari Raivio, Finland
Thomas Rosswall (Executive Director, ICSU)
Davorin Rudolf (Croatia)
Niceas Schamp, Belgium
Gérard Siclet, France
Djordje Sijacki, Serbia
Anne Streiff, Switzerland (minutes)
Hans Thybo, Denmark
Laura van Veenendaal, Netherlands
Jan Vondrak, Czech Republic
Perko Vukotic, Montenegro