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Report of the ISLSSL Executive Committee

15 September 2015

Cape Town, South Africa

Participation

The meeting took place from 9:00 AM to 12.30 PM at the Webber Wentzel on the 15th floor of the Convention Tower in Cape Town. It was attended by 37 members in representation of 27 national associations. 3 Honorary Presidents participated. The working languages were English, French and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation.

Report of activities

The Secretary General, Dr. Giuseppe Casale, proposed to the members the Agenda of the meeting which was approved. He presented the Activities Report of the Society for the period 2012/2015 highlighting the main items and reminding to the participants that all the information is available on the Society's web site through the various Bulletins published until then.

A brief discussion followed the intervention of the Secretary General. Prof. M. Nogueira of Spain stressed the fact that under the activities organised within the initiative of the Young Legal Scholars, the names of the various young scholars participating in the initiatives should be communicated to the national associations, in order that a better communication is established between the members of the national associations and the young scholars. She was in favour of the creation of one single Young Scholars Section while keeping alive the regional dimension. The latter aspect was confirmed by President Adrian Goldin in his reply to her.

Financial reports by the Treasurer and the Auditor

The Treasurer, prof. S. Bellomo, presented the financial report covering the entire period from 1 June 2012 to 12 September 2015. Most of the report was cleared with the Auditor,

prof. S. Evju, on 2 June 2015 in Geneva. However, due to the fact that prof. Bellomo was stepping down as Treasurer, he was asked to add the final items to the current budget with a view to handing it over to the new Treasurer with the latest financial transactions. The Auditor had received via email the new items which were accounted in the budget and his report was finalised on 11 September 2015, and all questions being reconciled. The financial report as presented was approved by the Executive Committee.

Election of a Secretary General, a Treasurer, an Auditor and six Vice Presidents (2015-18)

Giuseppe Casale was unanimously re-elected Secretary-General for the period 2015/18.

The CV of the candidate Prof. Janice Bellace was circulated earlier among the members of the Executive Committee, and she was unanimously elected as the Treasurer for 2015/18.

The Secretary General warmly thanked Prof. Bellomo for having served the Society as Treasurer for the period of 2012/15 in a remarkable way.

Prof Stein Evju was unanimously re-elected Auditor for 2015/18.

Six Vice-Presidents were appointed for 2015/18:

Western Europe: Prof (Ms) Mijke S. Hounwerzjil (the Netherlands)

Central and Eastern Europe: Ludwik Florek (Poland)

North America, Panama and Dominican Republic: Rolando Murgas (Panama)

Latin America: Adolfo Ciudad (Peru)

Asia and the Pacific: Stephen Kang (Taiwan, China)

Africa: Stefan Van Eck (South Africa)

Information on the XXII World Congress, Cape Town

Darcy du Toit of SASLAW said that the organisers had expected around 750 participants. However, many potential participants attended other conferences (LLR network in Amsterdam in June 2015 and the Regulating for Decent Work Conference in Geneva in July 2015). Many of them, especially young members, could not attend more than one conference abroad per year. As a consequence, 507 participants were registered by 14 September 2015 at the Congress in Cape Town. Under the circumstances, he thought that the rate of participation

was an excellent one. Moreover, many interesting papers on various subjects had been submitted to the Congress and the participation of high-level key-note speakers would certainly make this event a very successful one.

Next congresses

a. X American Regional Congress in Panama, 26-30 September 2016

Prof. Vasco Torres of the Panama Association presented and distributed the information about the programme and informed the members of the Executive Committee that the Web-page of the Congress had already been created.

b. IX Asian Regional Congress (2016/17)

The Secretary General informed that the Indian National Labour Law Association (NLLA) did not respond to any message to confirm their proposal to host the IX Asian Regional Congress in India in 2016 or 2017. The Asian members of the Executive Committee expressed their wish to follow up on this and to make a proposal for another possible candidate and/or alternative event to it.

c. XII European regional Congress in 2017

Prof. Jan Pichrt, President of the National Association of the Czech Republic, made a formal presentation and submission of the candidature of Prague as the next venue of the European Regional Congress. The University of Prague supported the idea of hosting the XII European Regional Congress of the International Society on 20-22 September 2017. He also added that the venue and facilities had been showed to the SG during his recent visit to Prague. The Executive Committee approved the next European Regional Congress venue in Prague in 2017.

d. XXII World Congress in 2018

Prof. Alessandro Bellavista, Secretary of the Italian Association of Labour and Social Security Law, confirmed the Italian proposal to host the XXII World Congress on 4-7 September 2018 in Turin, Italy. Following his intervention, Prof. Tiziano Treu distributed a background paper that he prepared as a basis for discussion on the preparation of the next World Congress. (The paper will be soon inserted on the web site of the Society in three languages.) Prof. Treu explained that there was a proposal of creating 6 international study groups on different topics which will be the main issues to be debated at the World Congress in Turin in 2018. The main idea was to make sure that researchers from different regions of

the world and on a voluntary basis will actively contribute to such study groups. The latters will be coordinated by leading scholars.

During the open floor discussion, Prof. Ronnie Eklund (Sweden) raised his concern on the format of the Congresses. He highlighted the usefulness of the previous practice, namely that general rapporteurs were sending out questionnaires to the national associations with a view to enriching the comparative perspective of the report. Such national reports, he said, contained a lot comparative information.

Jeffrey Sack (Canada), as a former member of the Servais' group, replied that as the level of quality of national reports and the rate of responses from national associations varied a lot, it was proposed to leave the general reporters to decide on the format to prepare their reports (working groups, questionnaires, other).

For Prof. Ulrich Becker (Germany) the process of preparing general reports should be open to all willing to contribute. He suggested that some meetings of the working group might be useful to organise, as at-distance communication could not be sufficient. Yet this would raise the problem of financial support.

Prof. Takashi Araki (Japan) said that the preparation of national reports was a good opportunity for national members to participate. However, this implies a better coordination to be made at the national level.

Prof. Stein Evju (Norway) agreed with J. Sack that the comparative labour law had some limits and considered that the process should remain open to all.

In replying to the various interventions, Prof. Treu agreed on the open process, and highlighted the fact that most of the work of the working groups will be successful if there will be a genuine commitment by the leaders and members of those groups. This reflected his own experience when he was President of the IIRA (now ILERA). In this regard, he will look closely on how best to optimise the composition of the working groups and make sure that there is equal quality among the various national contributions.

Admission of new members

The Secretary General informed the Executive Committee members that he had received the proposal of the Association Beninoise de Droit Social (ABEDROS) to become national member of the society. It was common practice that a new association is always present at the EC meeting when submitting such a proposal with a view to engaging in discussions with the members of the EC. The fact that there was no one present from Benin, it was agreed to postpone the approval of such a demand until the next EC meeting.

Institutional formalization of the Young Legal Scholars Section

Prof. Bellomo reported on the activities held under the Young legal Scholars section. He highlighted the excellent level of national reports/studies/papers, but insisted on the need to reach a comparative dimension. Prof. Goldin supported the need of the formal institutionalisation of the young scholars' section while keeping alive the regional sub-sections. In this regard, Prof. Blanpain stressed the need for young scholars to receive financial support.

After a discussion, the Secretary General declared the creation of one single Young Legal Scholars Section of the Society.

Prof. Sugeno (Japan) also informed that as from 2017 a spring seminar would be organised in Tokyo by the Japan Institute for Labour Studies and Training (for participants from Asia and other regions) open to young legal scholars.

Other issues

Prof. Adrian Goldin was unanimously recommended to be appointed as Honorary President of the Society.

In conclusion, Jeffrey Sack proposed to express thanks to Secretary General, Giuseppe Casale, for the excellent work done during these three years.

The Executive Committee meeting was closed at 12:30 pm.

General Assembly 18 September 2015

The General Assembly of the ISLSSL took place on 18 September 2015 from 15:30 to 16:30 in the Auditorium 1 of the CTICC in Cape Town. The Secretary General reported on the decisions taken by the Executive Committee Meeting of 15 September 2015. All the decisions taken by the EC were endorsed by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly fully endorsed the appointment of Prof. Adrian Goldin as Honorary President of the Society.

The General Assembly was concluded with two speeches: one from President-elect Prof. Tiziano Treu and the concluding speech by President Adrian Goldin.

The General Assembly was closed at 16:30 on 18 September 2015.