



European Confederation of Jesuit Alumni/ae **Confédération européenne des Ancien(ne)s Elèves des Pères Jésuites**

Minutes of the Vienna meeting on October 18th and 19th 2008

Members present:

de Langsdorff Eric, F, Carrera Hervé, F, Kottrup Bernard, D, Rebes Enrique, SP, Camenen Francois-Xavier, F / WU, Perreau Sabine, F, Delair Serge, F, de Leusse Pierre, F (P), P. Salembier Pierre SJ, F, Fábregas Alegret Gonçal, SP (P), P. Meseguer Ruiz Fernando SJ, SP, Marini Gianpaolo, I, P. Arts Luk SJ, B, Judo Frank (P), B, Bayard Alain (P), B, Deneef Alain, B / WU, Mariano Giuseppe I, Cattano Massimiliano, I, Cifola Valerio, I, Ray Murphy (IRL), Michael Sheil SJ (IRL), Aidietis Gintautas, LIT, Kasparaité Lina, LIT, Maruniakas Ramunas, LIT, Medzvieckaite, Portisch Hans, AUT, Wildner Wolfgang, AUT, Rösch Bernhard, D, Garrido Filipe, PT, Agtmael Julie Van, B, Roeck Vincent de, B, Alakszai Zoltan, HU, Dudas Zsófia, HU, Juház-Nagy Andrea, HU, Pulinka Mihaily, HU, Nagy Gabor, HU, A. Banhegyi, HU, B. Barta, HU, McCABE John, GB, Agnell Adriana, SP, Gomà Mireia Ribas, SP, Puyelo Mercedes ((SP), Moreno Xavier SP, Ruiz de Eguino Alfonso, SP.

Excused:

Miselyte Nomedá, LIT, Lukosevicius Martynas, LIT, Gatt Stephen (P), MT, Czech Magdalena, PL, Paczynski Damian, PL, Myszk Lukas, PL, Lochrin Mark, IRL, Long Gerard, IRL., Martin Olivier, F, Cooreman Louis, B, Thompson Bernard, GB / WU, Petrulis Simonas, LIT, Fr Gilson Michel SJ, B, Thürliman Christoph, CH, Knecht Konstantin (P), D, Cacchione Ciro (P), I, Gallinoni Vincenzo, I, P. Ceroni Umberto SJ, I, Rogers Paul, GB, Mikalkenaite Jovita (P) LIT, v. Braunmühl Hermann, D, Scola Amparo, (SP), Wolff Alexander, AUT, Niemeyer Timo, CH, Agnell José Louis, SP, Anguissola Marco, I, Arosio Paolo, I, Ginte, LIT, Serys Povilas, LIT.

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Welcome

Opening and prayers - thoughts by Father Pierre Salembier sj, spiritual assistant of the European confederation

1. Welcome address and presentation of the agenda by Eric de Langsdorff

- *Approval of the minutes of the Turin meeting*
- *Activity report of the associations and member federations*
- *Key issues of the meeting:*
 - *The World Congress 2009 in Burundi*
 - *Relationship and cooperation with the Jesuits during the General Congregation 35.*

2. Round table (brief information about new issues) followed by a discussion:

Portugal: *Cooperation with the Jesuit Refugee Service.*

Switzerland:

- *The Swiss alumni/ae association offers to host one of the next meetings in Zurich.*
- *The alumni cooperate with the Swiss Jesuit foundation Franz Xaver: the « Stellaner Vereinigung Schweiz » opened an account to grant charitable and religious projects, as well as community service projects, Jesuit study centres, schools and projects to assist Jesuit schools.*
- *The young Swiss alumni suggest the examination of the idea of a European « Stellaner Cup » (sport event for Jesuit schools existing in Germany) under the patronage of the European Confederation, to see if it would meet any interest. In the case of an affirmative conclusion, it would be necessary to constitute a working group to determine the event timings and frequencies (i.e.*

1/year or 1/every two years), the means of transportation (by Eurobus for example) etc., to evaluate the costs and financing, to define the form and substance, as well as the rules.

Germany:

- The German federation held its meeting one week earlier in Würzburg. One item of the agenda was the public discussion about education, which met high approval, with the participation of university representatives, teachers from private schools, industry and politic representatives.
- The "Stellaner" foundation raised until now 4.000,00 euros a year, which is used to finance school fees, projects from the "Loyola Gymnasium" in Kosovo, as well as a scholarship for one student of this school.
- Cooperation with the Jesuit academy "Karl Rahner" in Cologne, the German federation being the most important sponsor.
- Different seminars are organised for alumni during the year.

Hungary:

- Participation in a European program for one trainee in the European parliament.
- Creation of an office and establishment of a web-site offering placements and jobs (only for alumni).
- The college of Miskolc initiated with the English alumni (in the framework of Eagle Aid) a program to enable English teachers to teach in the college.

Spain:

- A new national Congress will be held on November 26th 2008 in Malaga and will deal with migration.
- In the framework of the exchange program "Intercambio 2007" of the alumni associations from Spain and India, five young Hindus were able to come to Spain and visit different social projects in Spain during 10 days with their Spanish hosts, colleagues from Madrid, Saragossa and Barcelona (Alfonso gave a PowerPoint presentation).

Great-Britain:

- The representatives of the 7 British colleges meet every 6 months (it has to be mentioned that they have no national federation but support a charitable organisation called « Eagle Aid »).
- A young alumni rode the entire Tour de France route in July / August collecting 60.000 euros with the purpose to support victims of landmines in Kosovo.
- The lay members of Eagle Aid met in Bristol to coordinate their action.

Belgium (South) :

- Students from Southern Europe are entirely funded for one year by a grant of the foundation "Stanislas Kostka"
- It is planned to establish a social networking site, as many alumni/ae logged in to Facebook. The Brussels association created a domain on a French speaking social networking site. (some participants recall that many alumni/ae log in to Facebook to get in contact with fellow students or to organize a get together or meetings (information about Scotland, France through the Cofaec) ; Alain Deneef also recalls the project presented a few years ago by Hermann von Braunmühl concerning a social networking site for alumni/ae through Open-BC ; this precursor project, but this idea was not followed up; Alain suggested to make a new demonstration during the Budapest meeting of the European Confederation. The committee approved this initiative.

Italy:

- A new father Provincial has been appointed
- A working group has been established to improve cooperation between lays and Jesuits in the schools for educative purposes.
- The federation's web-site has been updated and improved.

Ireland:

- The 5 school associations run different projects (i.e., the construction of an orphanage for AIDS victims in Lesotho).

Belgium North: A congress was held in Antwerp about Jesuit education bringing together 200 participants and high quality Jesuit speakers. An article referring to it will be published in the next edition of ETC of the World Union.

France: A colloquium about "Education: for which excellence?" dealing with sub-subjects like "to

learn to be, to know, to live together” was organised by the federation on April 2nd 2008 in the premises of Franklin in Paris, where the General assembly also took place in the morning. Nearly 100 participants had the opportunity to listen to high quality speakers (but not Jesuits) and to prepare the speech of the alumni on the occasion of the meeting of educative communities of French Jesuit schools which will be held in Lourdes at the initiative of the French Jesuit province from April 30th to May 3rd 2009.

World Congress 2009 in July in Africa

- Presentation of the **7th Congress of the World Union of Jesuit Alumni/ae** which will take place in Bujumbura (Burundi) from **July 22nd – 27th 2009** by Grégoire Banyiyezako, president of the organising committee and current President of the alumni association of the College du Saint Esprit, who came to Vienna at the invitation of the European Committee. He was warmly welcomed by all and expressed his gratitude for the encouragement he received in his preparations for the meeting of Congress. Grégoire said a few words about the hosting country, the climate, and living conditions during the stay.

(for more information, please see the related pages of the web-site : www.abaj.bu)

- The **theme of the congress** will be:

“Witnesses to hope” Jesuit Alumni/ae, for a better Africa

What have we done? What are we doing? What must we do?

- Information sheets and registration forms were distributed

- Grégoire specified that:

- the World congress is organised by the Burundi Association of the Jesuit College du Saint Esprit, with the assistance of the alumni/ae association of the college of Bukavu (Democratic Republic of Congo) and alumni/ae from Rwanda.

- The Congress will be preceded by a week of «spiritual experiences» for young alumni/ae (those interested in our countries are kindly requested to get in touch with Vincent de Roeck and/or Alfonso Ruiz de Eguino).

- Registration fees: Before 31st December 2008: US \$280. From 1st January 2009: US \$300, the deadline being the 30th of April 2009

- Registration will be done via the national federations exclusively; they will group these forms and send them all together to the Secretariat of the Congress in Burundi.

- There are direct flights from Brussels; interesting prices can be negotiated if you travel as a group (Alain Bayard and Frank Judo will find out the conditions).

The committee adopted the principle of a special budget item « support » of 5.000 euros maximum (for travel expenses and registration fees), knowing that this fund is only a subsidiary fund, which means after a support of the associations, the national federations given to alumni/ae associations (especially the young ones) who would need the money to be able to participate at the Congress. 16 members announced to intend to participate at the Congress.

- For more information, please see the web-site of the World union (www.jesuitalumni.org).

3. Alumni/ae and the decrees of General Congregation 35

Some of the participants were impressed by the friendly atmosphere during the General Congregation, the communication efforts via Internet which gave the opportunity to keep contact with friends and colleagues of the Society of Jesus on the different continents, as well as by the continuity of the messages since the last General Congregation. The words mission and the title of decree 2 “A fire that kindles other fires” seem to be inspiring for reflection on ignatian charisma.

4. Budget of the European Confederation

Gianpaolo Marini (Treasurer) presented his financial report and traditionally asked the federations to pay the subscriptions overdue (to allow the Confederation to function for the two next years). The statement of account given by Gianpaolo will be joined to this report, which is at the same time a demand of payment for the federations which didn't pay the subscription for 2008.

5. Statutes

The revised text of the statutes has been distributed.

According to the statutes, the new text has to be submitted to the "Congress" (statutory term) to for approval. The result of the voting is as follows:

14 federations are member of the Confederation: 11 voted in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions (absent associations or federations without proxy: Poland, Lithuania, Hungry).

The new statutes having been adopted, it is important now to approach the different authorities in charge in Belgium, each federation has to apply again for new membership via their respective President (or a qualified representative). Giuseppe Mariano will examine with Frank the implementation of these different formalities to be compliant with the Belgian law.

In Turin, the Swiss Federation applied for membership. According to the statutes, the application needs to be ratified by the "Congress" (statutory term): Result: 11 voted in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions. The European Confederation comprises now 15 members.

6. Young alumni meeting

Alfonso Ruiz de Eguino reports on the activities of the working group "young alumni/ae" present in Vienna.

*Among others, they plan to meet one day before the general meeting in Budapest.
(cf. the minutes of this meeting).*

7. World Union

François Xavier Camenen, Executive Secretary of the World Union calls upon all the federations to pay the contributions overdue.

Different documents will be sent in the coming months to the associations et federations to complete the addresses and for the inscription of the next World Congress.

It will be also wanted in one of these mails for propositions of candidacies for the renewal of the board of the World Union what must intervene at the Congress of Bujumbura and as well as for the functions of members of council of the World Union (at present, Europe is represented by Alain Deneef and Filipe Garrido)

8. European Confederation

The term of three years of the President and the 3 Vicepresidents comes to an end at the end of the year. The federations are kindly requested to think about applicants for any of these positions, which do not include the secretary and the treasurer. This item will be on the agenda in Budapest.

9. Calendar of the next meetings of the European Confederation

The next meeting will be held on

March 6th - 8th in Budapest (Hungry).

Items on the agenda:

- latest information concerning the World congress in Africa (European delegation, youth "spiritual experience")*
- examination of our activities (associations/federations / confederation) in the light of the decisions of the General Congregation 35.*
- the potentials of Internet for the European network of alumni/ae (presentation made by Alain Deneef)*
- election of the Bureau of the European Confederation and application for positions in different structures (World Union, Unaec Europe...)*

*Our Swiss friends recall their invitation for a meeting in **Zurich in October 2009**, which finds an approval, the exact dates will be fixed at the next meeting.*

*We would like to remind you that the **core documents of our activities** (minutes of the meetings, the text "En todo", the list of the federations with their respective links, addresses, etc.) can be consulted*

on our **web-site**: www.jesuits-europe.info/alumni

10. Thanks

The Confederation wishes to thank Hans Portisch and Wolfgang Wildner (and their wives) for their excellent organisation (and the mass which gave us the opportunity to bring together alumni and father Jesuits in the splendid Jesuit church of Vienna for a time of prayer), and for the warm welcome in Vienna of the members of the comity and their companion Vienne, we also want to thank Frank Judo and Alain Deneef for their interpretation (french/english) during the two meeting days.

*Bernard Kottrup
Secretary
December 6th 2008*