



Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the EASR held at the University of Helsinki on 28 June, between 9:00 and 13:15

The President, Einar Thomassen, presiding.

1. The President welcomes all persons present and officially opens the meeting. He asks the General Secretary Marco Pasi to ascertain the attendance of EASR officers, delegates of member associations, the representative of the IAHR, representatives of individual members, and invited guests.

The following EASR Officers are present: Einar Thomassen (President), Marion Bowman (Vice-President), Giovanni Casadio (Vice-President), Marco Pasi (General Secretary), Katja Triplett (Deputy General Secretary), Jenny Berglund (Membership Secretary), Wanda Alberts (Co-opted Member).

The following EASR Officers could not attend and have sent their apologies: Tineke Nugteren (Treasurer), Franz Winter (Deputy Treasurer), Mihaela Timuş (Publications Officer), and Sebastian Schüler (Internet Officer).

The following member associations are represented by a delegate (acronym/name of the association and name of delegate in parentheses): Belgium (Babel; Monique Weis); Czech Republic (CSR; Tomáš Bubík); Estonia (EAUS/ESSR; Madis Arukask); Finland (SUS; Peter Nynäs); France (SER; Charles Guittard); Germany (DVRW; Christoph Bochsinger); Ireland (ISASR; James Kapalo); Italy (SISR; Alessandro Saggiaro); Lithuania (LSSR; Milda Ališauskienė); Netherlands (NGG; William Arfman); Norway (NRF; Knut A. Jacobsen); Spain (SECR; Silvia Alfayé); Sweden (SSRF; David Thurfjell); United Kingdom (BASR; Steven Sutcliffe).

The following associations have sent their apologies: Denmark (DASR), Hungary (MVTY), Romania (RAHR), and Turkey (TAHR). All associations that have sent a delegate are in order with the payment of dues and their delegates have therefore the right to vote during the meeting.

The delegate of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Afe Adogame, is present.

The representative of the individual members, Svetlana Karassyova (Belarus), is present.

The following persons have been invited to attend this meeting as guests and are present: Jos Verheyden (Babel; organizing committee of the 2017 EASR conference in Leuven); Ljudmyla Fylypovych (delegate of the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion, UARR); David Robertson (Religious Studies Project).

2. The General Secretary confirms that the meeting has been called in due form according to the regulations of the EASR, i.e. at least 30 days before the date of the meeting (more information on this can be found in his report, see annex 2). He further notes that the meeting has a quorum, as stipulated by the EASR constitution (6.v).
3. The agenda is adopted.
4. The minutes of the previous EC meeting (Erfurt 2015) are approved.
5. The President reads his report (see annex 1), to be presented at the upcoming General Assembly (GA). In his report he thanks the various EASR officers for their work during the past year and Tuula Sakaranaho from the Finnish Association for the organisation of the 2016 EASR conference. He also insists on the importance for the EASR to follow closely the developments in the European research funding system, currently known as Horizon 2020. This is why the EASR has joined the European Alliance for the Social Sciences and the Humanities (EASSH), which is a network devoted to the promotion of the humanities and the social sciences in the context of the research programmes of the European Union. He reports that he has represented the EASR at the first General Assembly of EASSH in October 2015 in Brussels.
6. The General Secretary presents his report (see annex 2), to be presented at the upcoming GA. His report focuses on the following points: 1) Timing of calls for the 2016 EASR meetings; 2) Elections for the next term (2017-2019); 3) Proposals for changes in the constitution and guidelines; 4) Applications for membership; 5) Working Group Committee; 6) Site visits and future conferences; 7) Finances and absence of the Treasurer; 8) Ideas for the future and end of the present term.
7. Due to the absence of both the Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer, the General Secretary reads the report about the financial situation (see annex 3), prepared by the Treasurer. The report will be presented at the meeting of the GA as well. As usual, the report discusses the payment of dues by the members and the bursary program. The report concludes that the financial situation of the EASR is currently secure and stable. Together with the report, the balance sheet for the past financial year (see annex 4) is circulated among the members of the EC.
8. The next point in the agenda concerns the election of the EC officers for the next term (2017-2019). The current term for EASR officers will expire at the end of 2016. The President explains how the election for the next term has been prepared, based on our constitution and byelaws (see annex 5). In the course of the past year, the Nominating Committee appointed by the EC in Erfurt brought forward a list of nominees for each vacant position. Subsequently, a call for additional nominations was sent by the General Secretary to all national delegates. No additional nominations were received. This means that the nominated candidates will be elected as unopposed at the next meeting of the General Assembly. The EC approves the list of nominated candidates by

acclamation and recommends it for election to the General Assembly. The EC also expresses gratitude to leaving officers with an applause.

9. The General Secretary introduces the next point in the agenda, concerning a complement to the guidelines for the Nominating Committee (see annex 6). After the EC meeting in Erfurt it was decided that more clarity was necessary in the guidelines about the appointment procedure for the Nominating Committee. The General Secretary has prepared a text to be included in the guidelines that will cover that aspect. This complement has been prepared by keeping in mind the discussion at the EC meeting in Erfurt and by comparing similar provisions in the IAHR constitution and guidelines. After a brief discussion, it is suggested that the heading of the text is changed from "Rules" to "Appointment", to which the General Secretary agrees. After this modification, the text is submitted to vote and is unanimously approved by the EC.
10. The next point concerns a proposal of the General Secretary to change some of the articles in the EASR constitution related to the election of EC officers. The General Secretary had circulated the proposal among EC members before the meeting. He explains the reasons for the proposed changes, which have to do with the fact that the provisions for elections in the present constitution are extremely difficult to implement, as they were originally conceived when the EASR was a much smaller association. They require that the EC officers are elected by *all* the members of the EASR, meaning *all* members of *each* national association plus all the individual members (6.i). Since the EC normally has access to the members of each national association only through their delegates, and situations with respect to membership vary significantly from country to country, it would be very difficult to mobilize the entire EASR membership each time an election takes place. Furthermore, the constitution demands that elections are conducted by "postal ballot" (7.ii), which makes things even more complicated. Finally, the example of other associations similar to ours, such as the IAHR, shows that the electorate is usually not the whole membership, but a smaller, if fairly representative, body. The General Secretary has therefore presented two possible options to solve the problem. With the first one the electorate is the General Assembly, with the second it is the Executive Committee. Each option has its pros and cons: the GA is in principle a larger body and is open to all members, but it can be very uneven in representativeness (eg, depending on where a conference is held, members of a particular country will be over-represented). The EC is smaller, but at least each national association is evenly represented by one delegate in it. The General Secretary expresses his personal preference for the second option. Another suggested change concerns the limit of two terms for the national delegates, which is also very difficult to implement given the broad variety of situations in each national association. In fact, this is a point of the constitution which, to the knowledge of the General Secretary, has always been ignored. Finally, it is also important to consider that what is decided by the EC on this occasion will have to be submitted next year to the GA, since, according to the constitution, only the GA has the power to modify the constitution by a two-thirds majority (8.i). After the General Secretary's presentation, a discussion follows. Christoph Boehinger (DVRW) says that it is a pity to renounce postal ballot as a means for voting, even if he understands the reasons for doing so. Giovanni Casadio (Vice-President, SISR) asks whether an electronic ballot might also be an option, and whether the vote would be secret or public. Afe Adogame (IAHR) suggests a compromise between the two options, so that the EC holds the election, but the result is later ratified by the GA. The President

says that it would be better if the GA is only informed of the result of the election, without the power of ratifying, and therefore also of rejecting, it. The General Secretary agrees with the President and says that it is better to leave as little ambiguity as possible about who has the power to decide what. William Arfman (NGG) asks what would be the quorum if the EC is the electorate, the General Secretary responds that it would be the usual quorum for EC meetings as stipulated by the constitution: the President or at least one of the vice-Presidents plus at least six other members of the EC (6.v). Adogame returns to his suggestion, noting that it is similar to how things are done in the IAHR. According to him, it is very unlikely that the GA would nullify the decisions of the EC and that ratification would be a kind of rubber-stamp on the election. After this round of discussion, seeing that there is no obvious agreement about the issue of ratification, the President decides to have two separate votes: first, about which of the two options for the electorate is chosen; second, about ratification. The EC proceeds to vote about the first issue, ie the two options. Option 2 (EC as electorate) receives 23 votes and is therefore unanimously chosen. After this vote, a new round of discussion about ratification follows. Arfman asks what would happen if the GA does not ratify the election made by the EC. Adogame asks what the rules are for proposing a motion at the GA. The General Secretary responds that the agenda of the GA meeting is prepared in advance and cannot be changed at the meeting itself. A proposal to include new items in the agenda has to be submitted at least three weeks before the meeting. Additional items can be changed during the meeting with a two-thirds majority. The President asks then to vote about the issue. The proposal to introduce a ratification by the GA of the election made by the EC is unanimously rejected. The text of the amended parts of the constitution, as approved by the EC, will be submitted to the GA in 2017 for final approval (see annex 7).

11. The next point concerns the guidelines for the establishment of an Audit Committee, which will review the reports made by the Treasurer at the end of each financial year. A proposal for the text of the guidelines has been prepared by the General Secretary and is submitted to the EC for approval (see annex 8). The President points out that this is a typical feature of associations such as ours and it would be a good thing to have it from now on. There are no particular questions about the text, which is unanimously approved. After the vote, Christoph Bochinger (DVRW) asks if the members of the committee should be geographically close to the Treasurer's location, so as to be able to look through files and papers. William Arfman (NGG) points out that this should not be necessary, because all work is done electronically now. After this discussion the President asks whether there are volunteers to serve in the first Audit Committee. William Arfman (NGG), Knut Jacobsen (NRF), Monique Weiss (Babel) propose themselves and are unanimously approved by the EC. They will compose the Committee during the next term (2017-2019).
12. The next point concerns the application for membership of the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion (UARR), represented at the meeting by Ljudmyla Fylypovych. The application was sent formally to the General Secretary with a letter received via email on 14 September 2015, and is now submitted for consideration to the EC. The President asks Fylypovych to introduce the UARR to the EC, which she does by giving details about the history, organisation and present activities of the association. After her presentation, Afe Adogame (IAHR) asks for a clarification about one of the stated aims of the UARR, namely to foster a "spiritual revival in Ukraine". He asks whether this

implies some conflict with the non-confessional stance of the IAHR and its affiliated associations. Fylypovych responds that by “spiritual” what is meant is mostly “cultural”, and that the English wording does not perhaps reflect the intended meaning in the original language. Svetlana Karassyova (Belarus, representative of the individual members) points out that the special situation of post-socialist countries in this respect should be considered. Fylypovych agrees and observes that there is a desire to promote a change of attitude towards religion after many years in which a very negative image of religion was imposed by the political establishment. She admits in any case that it is probably better to change the wording. The President notes that the EASR upholds a non-normative approach in the study of religion and agrees that “spiritual” is not an appropriate wording. After this discussion the UARR is welcomed by an applause. The affiliation of the UARR will therefore be recommended by the EC at the next meeting of the GA.

13. The report of the Membership Secretary, Jenny Berglund, follows. Berglund reports that there are at present six paid-up individual members, whose names are on the list on the EASR website. Concerning the representative of individual members, the previous representative, Ivar Matsutov (Russia), has not been in contact and has not paid his dues for a long time, and his membership can therefore be considered as lapsed. Following the provisions in the guidelines for individual membership, an election for a new representative has been organised by the Membership Secretary. All six paid-up members have voted and have elected Svetlana Karassyova, from Belarus, who is now present at the meeting. Finally, Berglund reports that a new application for membership has been submitted by Ksenia Medvedeva, from Russia. The application has been reviewed by Berglund and appears to be in order. The EC unanimously approves it.
14. The next point is the report from the Working Group Committee. The Committee has been established last year and is composed of Sebastian Schüler, Wanda Alberts, and James Kapalo. It has submitted a text with the purpose of clarifying the status of working groups and affiliated associations (see Annex 9). Kapalo represents the committee and explains the rationale behind the proposal. The intention was to have a minimal definition of an “EASR Working Group” and of its activities. This should not be a self-selecting group using the EASR to pursue an individual agenda. The General Secretary observes that it is good to make a distinction between working groups and affiliated research networks. Further, he remarks that the EASR only has one working group at the moment, perhaps it would be good to assess how the existing working group has functioned so far before we accept others in the future. Finally, he suggests that we accept the first part of the proposal as a new guideline for working groups, but we postpone the adoption of the second part, because the IAHR also has a similar category of affiliated organisations, and it was already the intention of the General Secretary to make a proposal for creating this category in the EASR in the future. The President endorses this suggestion. The General Secretary says that he will prepare a draft for the next EC meeting. The President asks the EC to vote about the adoption of the first part of the proposal (“Working Groups”) as a new guideline. The EC unanimously approves.
15. The next point in the agenda is the series of reports from other designated officers and delegates (Internet; Publications; Working Group on Religion in Public Education; IAHR). The General Secretary presents the report of the Internet Officer in his absence (see annex 10). No report has been received from the Publications Officer. The

representative of the Working Group on Religion in Secular Education, Wanda Alberts, presents her report. She informs the EC that a book is coming out, and will be discussed in two panels at the Helsinki conference. She also notes that the working group was mistakenly called “Working Group on Religion in *Secular* Education” in the agenda for the meeting. The General Secretary apologises for the mistake. He further notes that, if we accept the new guidelines for working groups, the current Working Group on Religion in Public Education resembles more a research network than a working group, because it doesn’t seem to have a definite goal that can be reached in a limited amount of time. James Kapalo (ISASR) notes that the EC should make a decision about the option to dissolve a working group when its goal is reached or whether the working group should dissolve by itself. The President expresses appreciation for the work of the working group. Next, the Secretary General of the IAHR, Afe Adogame, expresses gratitude on behalf of the IAHR to the organizing committee of the Helsinki conference, especially for providing space to meet for their EC. He is also thankful that a subsidy was granted to some IAHR EC members in the form of a reduced conference fee. The organising committee of the 2017 EASR conference in Leuven has invited the EC of the IAHR to meet there. Therefore, the status of IAHR Special Conference has been awarded to that conference. Decisions about the location of the 2020 IAHR World Congress will be communicated soon. A *Numen* special publication has been produced to commemorate *Numen’s* 60th anniversary. Brill provides a discount to IAHR members. Adogame invites members to purchase the book, the code for the reduced rate being available on the Brill website. Results of the IAHR EC meeting in Helsinki will be communicated to members and affiliates in due course. He also urges members to provide information about workshops and other events. The IAHR works to see that all member associations comply with its constitution. He then reads the relevant article.

16. The next point concerns future EASR conferences. Jos Verheyden represents the organising committee of Leuven 2017 and gives information about the advancement of preparations. He confirms that the conference has been granted the status of “IAHR Special Conference”. The dedicated website and the flyers have been prepared, and the timeline for the call for panels and papers has been set up. Things will get into full motion from 1 September 2016. For the 2018 and 2019 conferences, since no informal offer had been received, it has been decided to send around a call for bids, after which three bids have been received: one from the Swiss Association for 2018 in Bern, one from the German Association for 2019 in Hanover, and one from the Estonian Association for either 2018 or 2019 in Tartu. The bids have been circulated among EC members before the meeting, so that an informed decision can be made. Representatives of the three associations that have sent a bid are present at the meeting: Jens Schlieter for the Swiss Association, Wanda Alberts for the German Association, and Madis Arukask for the Estonian Association. They offer details about their respective offer, such as facilities, funding, and affordability. Schlieter reminds members that this is the first bid ever presented by the Swiss Association for an EASR conference. He intends to attract external funds to keep fees low, and to offer additional bursaries. He mentions the anticipated theme of the conference (“Multiple Identities - Heterogeneous Traditions”) and gives some information about the location. All is in walking distance. The accommodation may be expensive, but available funding may help to lower the prices. Alberts explains that this would be the second EASR conference in Germany, after Bremen 2007. Special funding and ample staff for the conference will be guaranteed only for 2019, because of a special situation that will expire afterwards.

The department that would organise the conference is small, but internationally oriented. The organisation would be of course taken care of in collaboration with the DVRW. She also mentions a possible theme (“Concepts of Religion”). After her presentation, Christoph Bochinger (DVRW) comments that he would like to dispel any impression that the DVRW has the intention to dominate the EASR, keeping in mind that the IAHR World Congress was also recently held in Germany. Finally, Arukask presents the Estonian bid for Tartu. He says that the Estonian Association would be ready to organise the conference either in 2018 or in 2019, although there would be a preference for 2018, because of the hundredth anniversary of Estonia’s independence in 1918, which would make special funds from Estonian authorities likely to be available. He observes that this is also the first bid ever from the Estonian Association. Participation in the conference would be relatively inexpensive because of the relatively lower cost of life, and the location would be in buildings located in the city centre, all in walking distance. The Estonian Association is young, but can now muster sufficient support for organizing such a conference. The local committee already has experience with big events. He also mentions the proposed theme for the conference (“Religion: Continuations and Disruptions”). After the presentations a brief discussion follows. Giovanni Casadio expresses his favour for Bern, whereas Marion Bowman (Vice-President, BASR) observes that it would be a good thing to have our conferences in places where we have not been before. After this, the President asks the EC to vote about the options on the table, with a vote for each year (2018: Bern vs. Tartu; 2019: Hannover vs. Tartu). For 2018, 13 members vote for Bern, 5 vote for Tartu, 5 abstain. Bern is therefore chosen as a location for the 2018 EASR conference. For 2019, 16 members vote for Tartu, 1 votes for Hannover, 6 abstain. Tartu is therefore chosen as a location for the 2019 EASR conference. The President thanks all associations and committees that have sent a bid.

17. The next point concerns the appointment of the Honorary Membership Committee for the next term (2017-2019), on the basis of the new guidelines approved last year. Charles Guittard (SER) agrees to serve in this committee and to ask two other colleagues whether they will accept to join him. The following names are suggested: Giulia Gasparro, Michael Pye, Ingvild Gilhus, and Jan Bremmer. Guittard will contact them in that order and report as soon as possible to the General Secretary about the final composition of the committee.
18. The next point is a presentation of the Religious Studies Project by David Robertson. He explains that the Project offers a podcast every week on a particular topic related to the study of religion, with a particular attention for critical edge. It has been created in 2012, is based in Britain, and has been supported until now by the BASR, the AAR and the Australian Association for the Study of Religions. Two hundred podcasts have been prepared and put online so far and its editorial team is spread all over the world. He now asks for support from the EASR. He observes that it would be good to include a non-anglophone community in the future and asks whether it would be possible to give financial support to two young scholars who would conduct interviews for the project at future EASR conferences. The General Secretary says that it should be possible to negotiate a partial waiver of registration fees for two persons with local organising committees, even if this cannot be guaranteed, of course.

19. The next point concerns the budget proposal for the next financial year (2016-2017; see annex 11). The budget includes the usual items, such as the bursary program, the website maintenance, the officers' travel costs for site visits, and the annual fee for the EASSH membership. The budget proposal is unanimously approved by the EC.
20. There being no other business, the President thanks all the participants and declares the meeting closed.

ANNEX 1

President's report

Dear delegates and colleagues

Last year I had the pleasure of reporting to you that the affairs of our association were running smoothly. This year, my task is no less pleasurable. Since we last met, the several administrative functions of the EASR have been performed with great dedication and competence by our various designated officers, a fact you will soon be able to ascertain yourselves from their reports. Thank you all for your hard and selfless work in the service of our association! Special thanks are due this year as well to our General Secretary Marco Pasi, who holds all the threads of our organisation and manages it on a daily basis. It is he who has called and organised this meeting, having done the massive work of preparing the many documents that are needed for each of the items on the agenda, and sending them out in perfect agreement with the stipulations of our Constitution. In particular, I wish to direct your attention this year to the important initiatives he has taken to improve the procedures for electing the Executive Committee, and to clarify the guidelines of the Nominating Committee. Following up the mandate issuing from last year's discussions, these matters can be finalised at today's meeting.

I also wish to mention specifically the essential service to our association that is provided by our Treasurer Tineke Nugteren, who is in charge of the finances of the EASR, including correspondence with our fee-paying members and our bursary programme. Due to illness, Tineke is unable to be with us today, and since our Vice-Treasurer is also unable to attend, General Secretary Marco Pasi has undertaken to present the Treasurer's report. I wish to thank Tineke for her conscientious and hard work in managing the association's finances, and express our concern and wishes for her full and speedy recovery. I also thank Marco for offering to take over the presentation of the Treasurer's report on very short notice.

At this last meeting of the current EC it is also to be noted that three of our officers will not stand for re-election for a new term. Deputy General Secretary Katja Triplett, Membership Secretary Jenny Berglund, and Publications Officer Mihaela Timuş have all been highly visible in the work of the EC and have made remarkable contributions to it. Thank you all for your dedication and enthusiasm. It has been a true pleasure to work with you, and you will be missed.

The most important purpose of the EASR is undoubtedly to ensure the organisation of our annual conference. The conferences serve to develop the study of religion as a scientific enterprise in our continent, to exchange ideas across national borders, to refine our ideas in response to criticism, to establish networks and formulate new projects. The association cannot do this without the active support of its member associations and their individual members. It is gratifying to see that this active support holds up and is even increasing. This year, we are all grateful to our Finnish colleagues for having been willing to do this work for us. Thank you, Tuula Sakaranaho, and all your collaborators, for all your hard work in organising what appears to be the largest EASR conference ever!

It is no less gratifying to see that offers to organise the conference in the coming years have already been made from different parts of Europe. This is a testimony not only to the steadily growing support for the EASR throughout the continent, but also, and more importantly, to the importance of

the study of religion itself as a key factor in the understanding of today's cultural processes, identity negotiations, and human hopes and fears.

The conviction that the study of religion can, and should, make a substantial contribution to contemporary developments in society and culture, is a main reason why we, as an association, also try to monitor the European research funding system, currently known as Horizon 2020. Last year we voted to become a member of the European Alliance for the Social Sciences and the Humanities (EASSH), which is devoted to the promotion of the humanities and the social sciences in the context of the research programmes of the European Union. We now pay an annual membership fee of 100 euros to EASSH, and I attended the first General Assembly of EASSH on 28 October 2015, in Brussels (<http://www.eassh.eu/>). I also attended the Net4Society conference in Brussels on the two following days, at which the 2016–2017 Work Programme for Societal Challenge 6 was presented. As a matter of fact, this Work Programme, and the calls resulting from it, contain a number of openings for research on religion, and I presented an overview of these in a posting on EASR's Facebook 22 December 2015. It is important in my opinion that scholars in the study of religions are alert to these funding opportunities and do not leave it to other disciplines to respond to the quite significant requests for research on religion made in some of the "Challenges" in Horizon 2020. In this respect, the EASR conferences should serve as a networking arena for the formation of research partnerships that will enable our discipline to become more visible in the European research system. As president, I intend both to follow up our involvement with EASSH and to look for other opportunities for interacting with European research policies on behalf of the EASR and our discipline.

Einar Thomassen
President of the EASR

ANNEX 2

General Secretary's report

Dear EASR officers, dear delegates, dear guests,

Thank you all for being here today. And thank you particularly to the organizing committee of the EASR conference in Helsinki, who have facilitated this meeting in every possible way.

As you can see, it has now become a tradition to hold our EC meeting on the same day as the opening of the EASR conference. I think this is a good choice, because it allows EC members to arrive just the day before the beginning of the conference while it gives us enough time and freedom to carry out our business without having to rush things too much.

This has been a relatively busy year for the EASR. One of the most important activities has been the preparations for the election of the EASR officers for the next triennial term, which will begin at the end of the present year. But there are also some other important things that have been done or that have happened. As usual, I will give full details in the present report only on those things for which there is no separate entry in the agenda, and which will be discussed further in the course of the present meeting.

1. *Timing of calls*

The calls for the meeting of the Executive Committee and for the General Assembly to be held here in Helsinki were sent by email to EASR officers, national delegates, and contact members on 3 March 2016. This is well within the timeframe stipulated by our Constitution (90 days for the GA in case of electronic notification; and 30 days for the EC meeting). Final calls for both meetings, including their respective agendas, have then been sent separately on 13 June 2016. The minutes of the previous EC meeting and a number of annexes to the EC agenda have also been attached, so that EC officers and delegates could read in advance the documents that will be discussed during the meeting. This is meant to increase transparency and to make discussions more efficient during the meeting.

2. *Elections for the next term (2017-2019)*

The next term of office will start on 1st January 2017 and will end on 31 December 2019. Therefore, preparations for the elections of new officers had to be started already last year. We appointed in Erfurt a Nominating Committee (NC), consisting of Kim Knott (chair), Peter Antes, Veikko Anttonen, James Cox, and Mar Marcos. I would like to thank them here for their work. The NC has submitted a list of nominees, all of whom have agreed to stand as candidates and have submitted a statement of intent. Both the list of nominees and their respective statements of intent have been sent to EC members and delegates on 20 April 2016.

This is the list submitted by the NC:

For the position of President: Einar Thomassen (Norwegian Association, second term)
 For one position of Vice-President: Marion Bowman (British Association, second term)
 For one position of Vice-President: Giovanni Casadio (Italian Association, second term)
 For the position of General Secretary: Marco Pasi (Dutch Association/Italian Association, second term)
 For the position of Deputy General Secretary: Ábrahám Kovacs (Hungarian Association)
 For the position of Treasurer: Tineke Nugteren (Dutch Association, second term)

For the position of Deputy Treasurer: Franz Winter (Austrian Association, second term)
 For the position of Membership Secretary: Silvia Alfayé (Spanish Association)
 For the position of Publications Officer: Teemu Taira (Finnish Association)
 For the position of Internet Officer: Sebastian Schüler (German Association, second term)

After receiving the list of nominees, the General Secretary opened the nomination process to all delegates of EASR member associations. No alternative nominations were received, which means that, on the basis of our Constitution (7.ii), the candidates nominated by the NC will be elected unopposed during the next meeting of the General Assembly.

3. Proposals for changes in the Constitution and guidelines

Last year, one of the most important points for discussion was the proposal made by the General Secretary, in agreement with the President, to modify the EASR Constitution with respect to the procedure for the election of EC officers. At present, the Constitution stipulates that the election is to take place by way of postal ballot, with the entire EASR membership as the electorate. This procedure cannot but create numerous practical problems, which were discussed at length last year. On the basis of that discussion, it was decided that the General Secretary would prepare a proposal for the revision of the Constitution. This has been done, and the proposal will now be submitted to the EC for endorsement. If endorsed by the EC, the proposal will then have to be submitted to the General Assembly, which, according to our Constitution (8.i), will be asked to approve it by a two-thirds majority. However, it is important to note that the vote in the General Assembly can only take place next year in Leuven, because, according to our Constitution (8.i), proposals for amendments to the Constitution must be notified to EASR members well in advance, together with the notice for the convening of the General Assembly. This does not constitute a problem however, because the next election of EC officers (hopefully with the new rules) will only take place in 2019.

Other recommendations were made last year during the EC meeting. When the new guidelines for the Nominating Committee were proposed and approved, it was pointed out that they did not cover all aspects, such as the criteria for selecting and appointing the members of the committee. It was therefore decided that a complement to the guidelines would be prepared by the General Secretary. This has been done and the proposed complement is presented at the meeting this year. Finally, it was also suggested that an Audit Committee be created in order to review the financial statements produced by the Treasurer. A proposal for the establishment of an Audit Committee is therefore also presented at the meeting this year. If it is approved, the first Committee can be appointed for the next term, beginning with January 2017.

4. Applications for membership

In the course of this year we have been very happy to receive a new application for membership. This comes from the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion (UARR). I received an official letter from its president, Prof. Anatolii Kolodnyi on 14 September 2016 requesting the affiliation to the EASR. The UARR has been a member of the IAHR for a long time, and is, also for this reason, fully eligible to become a member of the EASR. Needless to say, I hope that both the EC and the GA will approve the application and give a warm welcome to the UARR as a new member of the EASR.

Applications were also received from prospective individual members. Details about them will be given by the Membership Officer in its report and will then be included in the minutes of this meeting.

5. *Working Group Committee*

Last year it was decided to appoint a Working Group Committee that would “produce a document outlining the rationale and the guidelines for the adoption of working groups within the EASR” (see minutes of the 2015 EC meeting, #14). Sebastian Schüler, Wanda Alberts, and James Kapalo kindly volunteered to sit on this committee. The committee has produced a document that has been circulated as an annex before this EC meeting and will be discussed during the meeting itself.

6. *Site visits and future conferences*

Throughout the year, I have had frequent contact with the organizing committee of the Helsinki conference, and particularly with Tuula Sakaranaho, who is the chair of the committee. In October 2015 I went to Helsinki for the usual site visit and met with the members of the organising committee. I had a very warm welcome from them and was struck by the enthusiasm and professionalism with which they were working on the preparations for the conference. From what I saw during my visit and judging from the communication I had with the committee during the year, there is every reason to expect that our 2016 conference will be a very successful one. At the beginning of May Tuula Sakaranaho informed me that there were at that moment no less than 470 registered participants already, which is quite extraordinary. As it has been the case since 2008, we will stick to the regulation of asking a small levy on the registration fee of the conference (€2 per regular participant, €1 per student participant) in order to generate some extra funding to cover the travel expenses for the site visit.

Next year, as I assume you already know, the EASR conference will be organized in Leuven by the Belgian Association Babel. The prospective dates for the conference are from 18 to 21 September, and the theme will be “Communicating Religion”. Both our President and myself have been in frequent contact during the past months with the Belgian delegate Jos Verheyden about the preparations. We also liaised with the President of the German Association, Christoph Bochinger, since the Leuven conference will be very close to the annual conference of the DVRW. We have discussed ways to avoid an overlap between the two conferences, as we want to make it possible for all members (and especially German ones) to attend both events if they so wish.

As to the years after 2017, we still need to make a decision. We had received an offer from the Spanish Association to hold the 2018 conference at the University of Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, which would have been a wonderful location. Unfortunately, in the end the offer had to be taken back because there was no certainty that such a big conference could be conveniently accommodated there. Because of this, the President and the General Secretary decided to issue a call for bids for the years 2018 and 2019. This is not something that the EASR has often done in the past, as locations were usually proposed in a more informal manner, but it may be a good idea to do it again in the future. This will increase transparency and give even chances to all to host our conferences in the future. At the moment of writing, I have received a bid from the Swiss Association for 2018, a bid from the German Association for 2019, and a bid from the Estonian Association for either 2018 or 2019. The bids have been circulated among EC members before the EC meeting in Helsinki so that an informed choice can be made during the meeting. We will not of course have to worry about 2020, since the next IAHR quinquennial congress will be held in that year, and we will therefore have no EASR conference.

7. *Finances and absence of the Treasurer*

An important point that needs to be mentioned in this report concerns the unfortunate circumstances which have obliged our Treasurer, Tineke Nugteren, to be absent from the EC meeting and GA this

year. Tineke had prepared her travel to Helsinki and was planning to participate in the meetings but sadly, a week ago, news came that she was obliged to cancel her trip due to serious illness. This was unexpected, and it is made even more unfortunate by the fact that our Vice-Treasurer, Franz Winter, also could not make it to Helsinki. In any case Tineke has provided me with all necessary information and documents related to the current financial situation and has sent me her report, so I will take care of presenting them both at the EC meeting and to the General Assembly this year. At this moment, I can of course only wish Tineke a speedy recovery, and I am sure she will be back with us next year in Leuven.

8. Ideas for the future and end of the present term

At the end of my report last year, I mentioned my idea of creating a special category of affiliated regional or thematic organizations, along the same lines as the IAHR. But I thought that, since we are now having a particular charged agenda, it was not a good idea to present a proposal about it this year. At the same time, I saw that the Working Group Committee mentioned something similar in their report as an idea to be developed. My suggestion is therefore to return to this matter next year.

Finally, I cannot conclude this report without remarking that the EC is now at the end of its triennial term and that the new one will soon begin. Some officers will have to leave us and some new ones will join the team. I would like to thank here Jenny Berglund, Katja Triplett, and Mihaela Timuş for all the energy and enthusiasm they have put into working with us. Their input and contribution have been remarkable, and they will be missed. At the same time, I wish all the best to those new EC officers who are going to take up their functions at the end of this year.

Thank you very much for your attention

Helsinki, 28 June 2016

Dr. Marco Pasi
General Secretary of the EASR

ANNEX 3

Treasurer's report

1. Preliminary remarks

This report starts with the financial status as found in the previous report, presented during the EC and GA meetings in Erfurt, August 2015. During that meeting we agreed about the proposed budget for the following year. This budget appears in the balance sheet under 'earmarked funds'. It should be clear that as far as the bursaries are concerned, reimbursement will take place only after the conference is over. Copies of the balance sheet, drawn up by the treasurer in collaboration with the general secretary, are with the President, the General Secretary, the Treasurer and the Deputy Treasurer.

2. Membership dues

This year the extended deadline for the national associations to pay their dues was set at the 15th of May. After a reminder in March, some associations paid straight away or reacted with questions or requests for official EASR letters to their Universities or Academic Councils. In addition, as the payment of dues is an essential prerequisite for a national association to have the right to vote at the Executive Committee Meeting and at the General Assembly, the General Secretary also pointed this matter out in his calls to the EASR meetings in Helsinki. The EASR's flexible policy in this respect allows some last minute's cash payments on the spot, both by representatives of national associations and by individual members. We are happy to say that almost all regular associations have paid their dues so far. Considerable efforts have gone into prodding associations that have been in arrears for several years (Poland and Turkey) into action. We are relieved to say that contact has been re-established and dues have been paid to a certain degree. Since the computation of national dues to be paid to the EASR is based on the member list of such an association the Treasurer normally gratefully accepts the payments without checking the actual number of members. However, when it would become apparent that the amount paid as dues is far below the actual membership, action may be taken.

3. Bursary funds

We sent out the instructions for applying for bursary funds in two ways: through mails from the General Secretary and by giving all the information as a fixed feature on the EASR website. We received a good number of applications, mostly from early-career candidates and independent scholars. The President, the General Secretary and the Treasurer came to a consensus and awarded seven candidates. When one recipient notified us that he had received news that his other (simultaneous) grant application had been successful we could – last-minute – give the bursary to the candidate next in line who gratefully accepted it. We had settled on a budget of €500, divided into seven grants of up to a maximum of 500 Euro each. The bursaries will be reimbursed as usual after the conference, upon demonstration of both actual participation in the conference and original material evidence of actual costs.

4. Conclusion

Based on the present state of the EASR bank balance and (1) the earmarked expenses covering the reimbursements after the Erfurt conference, and (2) the earmarked expenses pertaining to the Helsinki conference, the financial situation looks secure. We propose a new budget (3) leading to next year's conference in Leuven consisting for the main part of a bursary fund and some additional expenses on maintenance of the website, dues to be paid to the EASSH, and travel expenses to be made by the General Secretary for a site visit to Leuven.

In a separate document, we propose items for next year's budget to an amount of €4.600. This is divided into €600 for website maintenance, €300 for travel expenses, €100 for the dues to be paid to the EASSH, and €3.600 for nine bursaries to a maximum of €400 each. This budget is to be voted during the General Assembly.

Dr. Albertina Nugteren

Treasurer of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)

ANNEX 4

EASR balance sheet (21 August 2015 – 24 June 2016)

<i>date</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>debits</i>	<i>credits</i>	<i>earmarked</i>
20/08/15	Total credit		€14.159,11	
25/08/15	Earmarked			
	Bursary fund			€3.500,00
	Website maintenance			€600,00
	Travel costs EASR officers			€400,00
	Membership EASH			€100,00
	Total earmarked			€4.600,00
	Cash flow			€9.550,11
24/08/15	Polish/PTR membership fees 2004-2009 (partial)		€220,00	
27/08/15	Bank account costs	€4,85		
27/08/15	Dues Indiv. Member Katic 2015		€15,00	
07/09/15	Dues Indiv. Member Karassyova 2015		€15,00	
07/09/15	Dues Indiv. Member Folieva 2015		€15,00	
07/09/15	Dues Indiv. Member Kostylev 2014+2015		€30,00	
07/09/15	Dues Indiv. Member Okuyama 2014+2015		€30,00	
07/09/15	Nugteren/cash payment dues Romanian/RAHR 2015		€50,00	
07/09/15	EASSH 2015-16 membership fee	€100,00		
18/09/15	Bursary Janssen	€371,95		
18/09/15	Bursary Nanini	€400,00		
22/09/15	Bursary Pedrucci	€400,00		
22/09/15	Bank account costs	€4,85		
22/09/15	Bursary Katic	€263,50		
22/09/15	Bursary Cosentino	€400,00		
22/09/15	Bursary Cotter	€400,00		
23/10/15	Bank account costs	€4,85		
23/10/15	Webhosting EASR website	€48,00		
27/10/15	Polish/PTR membership fees 2010-2011 and 2016 (partial)		€100,00	
05/11/15	M.Pasi reimbursement travel costs Helsinki	€382,00		
23/11/15	Bank account costs	€4,85		
24/12/15	Bank account costs	€4,85		
29/12/15	Univ.Erfurt balance keynote Knott		€179,72	
31/12/15	Interests on savings account over 2015		€35,40	
05/01/16	Austrian/OEGRW membership fees 2016		€156,00	
22/01/16	Webhosting EASR website	€54,00		
25/01/16	Bank account costs	€4,85		
09/02/16	Webhosting EASR website	€48,00		

18/02/16	Quast Internet Dienstleistung	€ 333,20	
23/02/16	Bank account costs	€ 4,85	
08/03/16	Spanish/SECR membership fees 2016		€ 312,00
08/03/16	Swiss/SGR-SSSR membership fees 2016		€ 474,00
09/03/16	Dutch/NGG membership fees 2016		€ 140,00
09/03/16	German/DVRW membership fees 2016		€ 674,00
14/03/16	Irish/ISASR membership fees 2016		€ 50,00
16/03/16	Finnish/SUS membership fees 2016		€ 148,00
23/03/16	British/BASR membership fees 2016		€ 290,00
23/03/16	Bank account costs	€ 4,85	
07/04/16	Webhosting EASR website	€ 48,00	
12/04/16	Czech/CSR membership fees 2016		€ 200,00
19/04/16	Norwegian/NRF membership fees 2016		€ 116,00
26/04/16	Latvian/LRPB membership fees 2016		€ 50,00
28/04/16	Bank account costs	€ 4,85	
02/05/16	Hungarian/MVTY membership fees 2016		€ 0,16
02/05/16	Danish/DASR membership fees 2016		€ 80,00
09/05/16	Italian/SISR membership fees 2016		€ 150,00
12/05/16	Belgian/BABEL membership fees 2016		€ 144,00
16/05/16	Estonian/ESSR membership fees 2016		€ 68,00
25/05/16	Bank account costs	€ 4,85	
03/06/16	Greek/GSSCR membership fees 2016		€ 100,00
06/06/16	Hungarian/MVTY membership fees 2016		€ 100,00
08/06/16	French/SER membership fees 2016		€ 100,00
22/06/16	Turkish/TAHR membership fees 2015-2016 (partial)		€ 95,00
22/06/16	Bank costs over Turkish transfer	€ 7,00	
23/06/16	Bank account costs	€ 4,85	
	Total debits	€3.309,00	
	Total credits		€4.137,28
24/06/16	Bank balance active account		€ 5.606,21
24/06/16	Bank balance savings account		€ 9.381,18
24/06/16	Total		€14.987,39

ANNEX 5

**ELECTIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE EASR
for the period 1 January 2017 – 31 December 2019**

Background

The current term of office in the Executive Committee of the EASR will come to an end on 31 December 2016. The next term will run from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019. A Nominating Committee (NC), consisting of Kim Knott (chair), Peter Antes, Veikko Anttonen, James Cox, and Mar Marcos, was established by the EASR Executive Committee in Erfurt on 23 August 2015. According to the current guidelines, the purpose of the NC is to assist in the election process by providing a list of nominees who are deemed to be the most suitable candidates to serve as officers in the next term. The NC has brought forward the following list of nominees, all of whom have agreed to stand as candidates and have submitted a statement of intent:

For the position of President: Einar Thomassen (Norwegian Association, second term)
 For one position of Vice-President: Marion Bowman (British Association, second term)
 For one position of Vice-President: Giovanni Casadio (Italian Association, second term)
 For the position of General Secretary: Marco Pasi (Dutch Association/Italian Association, second term)
 For the position of Deputy General Secretary: Ábrahám Kovacs (Hungarian Association)
 For the position of Treasurer: Tineke Nugteren (Dutch Association, second term)
 For the position of Deputy Treasurer: Franz Winter (Austrian Association, second term)
 For the position of Membership Secretary: Silvia Alfayé (Spanish Association)
 For the position of Publications Officer: Teemu Taira (Finnish Association)
 For the position of Internet Officer: Sebastian Schüller (German Association, second term)

Additional nominations

The General Secretary issued a general call for additional nominations on 20 April 2016. The call was sent to all delegates and/or contact persons of EASR corporate members. No additional nominations were received by the General Secretary before the deadline, which was set on 31 May 2016.

Election

Since no additional nominations were received, the nominated candidates will be elected as unopposed during the next General Assembly, to be held in Helsinki on 29 June 2016 (see art. 7.ii of the EASR Constitution: “The elections shall be conducted by postal ballot. In cases where a candidate is unopposed there should be no postal ballot.”).

Amsterdam, 9 June 2016
 The General Secretary of the EASR
 Marco Pasi (m.pasi@uva.nl)

ANNEX 6

New guidelines for the Nominating Committee

The EASR Executive Committee, in accordance with its constitution and bylaws, will appoint a Nominating Committee to assist in the election process by bringing forward the names of nominees for election to office.

Appointment

The Nominating Committee is appointed by the Executive Committee (EC) in the year that precedes the election of new EC officers. It is composed of five members.

Ideally, the members of the Nominating Committee are senior colleagues who have distinguished themselves in serving the EASR or the IAHR in the past, and who are not seeking appointment as officers in the next term. The composition of the Nominating Committee should be as balanced as possible in terms of gender and regional representation.

A list of suitable candidates for the Nominating Committee can be submitted by the President or the General Secretary to the EC, but all members of the EC can suggest alternative candidates. If more candidates are proposed than available positions, appointment will be decided through a vote. It is important that potential candidates have been asked before the appointment whether they intend to serve in the Nominating Committee and have declared themselves available in case they are appointed.

Role

The role of the Nominating Committee is to contribute to the smooth and effective running of EASR elections by identifying candidates for nomination to EASR executive positions.

The Nominating Committee shall bring forward the name of a nominee for each executive position for which a vacancy may arise, shall complete a nomination form, and shall obtain from the candidate a statement of intention.

The task of the EASR Nominating Committee is to nominate candidates, not to appoint them.

This procedure will contribute to the EASR's democratic electoral process. It does not override or take precedence over the legitimate nomination of candidates by other means (by national associations or those with individual membership of EASR).

Tasks

The Nominating Committee's tasks are as follows:

- (a) to identify a Chair who shall oversee the process according to the timetable (see below);
- (b) to bring forward a name for each executive position that may become vacant and in each case complete a nomination form (to identify the proposer and seconder, and to register the agreement of the candidate for nomination), this process to be completed five months before the date of the next General Assembly;
- (c) and to obtain from each candidate a brief statement (on the form provided) of credentials, experience and intentions in respect of the position of which they are nominated, and to submit these statements to the EASR General Secretary five months before the date of the next General Assembly.

EASR Election Timetable and Guidelines

- Nominating Committee to be established at the EASR Executive Committee Meeting in the year preceding the election (e.g. 2015 for election in 2016 for appointments starting January 2017).
- *Immediately after establishment*: Nominating Committee to appoint its own Chair and to notify the General Secretary.
- *12 to 6 months before the General Assembly being held in the election year*: Chair to lead Nominating Committee in discussion of names of potential nominees, and to begin the process of nomination.
- *6 months before General Assembly*: Membership Secretary and Internet Officer jointly to search and verify appropriate online resources in case an electronic ballot is needed.
- *5 months before General Assembly*: Nominating Committee to complete nomination form for each candidate (proposer/seconder/agreement of candidate), and to obtain statements of intent. All forms (nominations and statement of intent) to be sent to General Secretary.
- *3 months before General Assembly*: General Secretary to open nomination process to national associations and EASR individual members, and, at the same time, to circulate existing slate of candidates drawn up by Nominating Committee.
- *30 days before General Assembly*: National associations and EASR individual members to have completed nomination forms and obtained statements of intent from any additional candidates.
- *Executive Committee Meeting*: EC to consider list of nominations and to discuss options for electronic ballot in case it is needed.
- *General Assembly*: GA to confirm election of unopposed candidates. General Secretary to announce election process if any post is contested by two or more candidates.
- *Within 30 days from after the General Assembly*: details of election process to be circulated via e-lists and national associations.
- *Before the end of the solar year*: Vote open to all members of fully paid-up national associations and paid-up individual members. Nominating Committee to act as supervisor during the counting of votes. Results of election to be announced and circulated by General Secretary.
- *1 January of following year*: New executive officers take up posts

Annex 7

Proposed changes to the articles of the EASR Constitution concerning the election of EC officers (to be submitted at the GA meeting in 2017 for approval)

Present text of the Constitution (parts to be changed are highlighted in yellow):

Article 6. Committee and officers

i) The business of the EASR shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of (a) designated officers who shall be elected by **all the members**, (b) one member each delegated by the European affiliate associations of the EASR in accordance with their own electoral provisions (c) two elected representatives of the individual members of the EASR from countries where no national affiliated association exists and (d) one member delegated by the Executive Committee of the IAHR.

Article 7. Elections

i) The **members of the Committee** shall be elected for a period of three calendar years running from January 1st. A member may be re-elected, except that no member shall serve in the same office for more than two terms, and no member shall be elected for a total of more than five terms with or without intervening periods. **The same terms apply to delegated members.**

ii) **The elections shall be conducted by postal ballot.** In cases where a candidate is unopposed there should be no **postal ballot**. Responsibility for the conduct of the elections lies with the Committee. **The cooperation and the assistance of the national associations shall be requested in the conduct of the elections.** More specific rules for the conduct of the elections may be laid down by the General Assembly, provided always that they are consistent with these statutes.

Proposed new text (changes are highlighted in blue):

Article 6. Committee and officers

i) The business of the EASR shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of (a) designated officers who shall be elected by **the Committee**, (b) one member each delegated by the European affiliate associations of the EASR in accordance with their own electoral provisions (c) two elected representatives of the individual members of the EASR from countries where no national affiliated association exists and (d) one member delegated by the Executive Committee of the IAHR.

Article 7. Elections

i) The **designated officers** shall be elected for a period of three calendar years running from January 1st. A member may be re-elected, except that no member shall serve in the same office for more

than two terms, and no member shall be elected for a total of more than five terms with or without intervening periods. ~~The same terms apply to delegated members.~~

ii) ~~The designated officers shall be elected by the Committee. In cases where a candidate is unopposed there should be no~~ vote. ~~Responsibility for the conduct of the elections lies with the Committee. The cooperation and the assistance of the national associations shall be requested in the conduct of the elections.~~ More specific rules for the conduct of the elections may be laid down by the General Assembly, provided always that they are consistent with these statutes.

Annex 8

Guidelines for the Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is appointed by the EASR Executive Committee (EC) to review the financial statements and other official financial information provided annually by the Treasurer to the meetings of the Executive Committee and of the General Assembly. Furthermore, it ensures that these financial reports are presented and distributed correctly.

The Audit Committee is composed of three members appointed by the Executive Committee from the delegates or representatives of member associations. Representatives of individual members can also be members of the Audit Committee. EC designated officers cannot be members of the Audit Committee.

One member of the Audit Committee will be appointed as Chair by the Committee itself.

The term of office of the Audit Committee is three calendar years and it coincides with the term of EC officers.

The Treasurer of the EASR will collaborate closely with the Audit Committee and will give access to all relevant information that may be relevant for the auditing process.

The Chair of the Audit Committee will deliver a brief report on the results of the audit at each meeting of the EC and at each meeting of the General Assembly.

Annex 9

EASR Workings Groups and Affiliated Associations

Working Groups

EASR Working Groups are established on the initiative of the EASR Executive Committee. Working Groups are established to meet a specific need identified by the Executive Committee. The terms of reference (duration, composition, brief) for each Working Group will be defined by the Executive Committee, which will appoint a team of EASR members to lead the Working Group. Working Groups report to the Executive Committee and once their brief has been met can be dissolved by the Executive Committee.

[The rationale behind this approach is that Working Groups are established to fulfil a need identified by the Executive Committee and will, of necessity, generate work for the Executive Committee in terms of reporting, agenda items at meetings, promotion of outputs etc. Working Groups should not be a self-selecting group of individuals that would like to use the EASR as a vehicle to pursue a particular academic interest – this kind of groups should form an independent research network and then apply for affiliated status.]

Affiliated Research Networks

Affiliated Research Networks are pre-existing independent networks that request affiliated status to the EASR. The EASR plays no role in the constitution, working, publicity or promotion of Affiliated Research Networks.

[The rationale behind this approach is that Affiliated Research Networks should not generate any work for the EASR Executive Committee. They are independent of the EASR as an institution, but have been formed on the initiative of individuals within the EASR. When applying for affiliated status research networks should be fully functioning and make no financial, time or other demand (webspace, publicity, sponsorship) on the EASR.]

Annex 10

EASR Executive Committee meeting 2016: Report from the Internet Officer

EASR website

Website management

The website has been updated on a regular basis as to current news or dates and updates of the member associations. All updates and changes have been done in accordance with the General Secretary Marco Pasi.

Technical maintenance

Proper and timely technical updates and security management of the EASR website have been ensured by a maintenance contract with a company specializing in Typo3: QID-Media located in Marburg. This technical maintenance requires 333,20 EUR per year. The bill is paid directly by the EASR via its Treasurer.

Website of working group "education"

The EASR working group "Religion in secular education" (RISE) inquired for a web presence on the EASR website already last year.

One possibility would be to create a link on the EASR website that opens a separate window which meets the design of the current EASR website and yet comprises the contents of the RISE working group. The creation of this separate website in line with the design of the existing EASR website involves some expenses (500 Euros plus 19% Value-Added Tax (VAT), and 250 plus 19% VAT for any additional working group).

- ➔ a decision for this might correlate with the question on additional future working groups and/or affiliated research networks in general (and their rights for individual webspace via the EASR website).

Wanda Alberts (spokesperson of RISE) and the IO agreed on a preliminary (and cost free) solution by creating a rubric for RISE on the current website with some basic information about RISE.

Census of EASR Member-Organizations

The IO would be happy to update the numbers of members by country as soon as they are accessible (last status 30.7.15)

EASR on facebook

Jenny Berglund started a facebook group about 1,5 years ago

Number of members last year: 607

Number of members June 2016: 874

E-lists

The six e-lists are fairly active, especially as to announcements such as calls for applications, calls for papers and some book publications. Yggdrasill, the German e-list, has seen occasionally very

intense phases of discussion, as in recent years. List members of the e-lists have access to electronic archives of the lists via the Sympa portal maintained by Marburg University, so members can research and review these discussions anytime.

Statistics

Number of subscribers (by email address)

	August 2009	August 2010	September 2011	August 2012	September 2013	May 2014	August 2015	June 2016	Decrease/ Increase from last year
Candide (French)	56	66	82	95	104	110	117	118	+1
Dolmen (English)	179	201	231	248	280	302	323	344	+21
Most (East European Languages)	74	77	87	91	96	102	99	97	-2
Synkron (Nordic Languages)	122	124	131	131	152	154	149	145	-4
Tonantzin (Spanish)	92	101	106	112	122	117	112	110	-2
Yggdrasill (German)	616	685	774	850	902	926	978	1008	+30

Sebastian Schüler, June 2016

sebastian.schueler@uni-leipzig.de

Annex 10**Budget for the next financial year (2016-2017)**

- A program of 9 conference bursaries of €400 each	€ 3.600
- Website maintenance	€ 600
- Travel costs officers	€ 300
- EASSH membership fee	€ 100
Amounting to a total of	€ 4.600