



**Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of the EASR
held at University College Cork, O'Rahilly Building
on 27th of June 2022 from 8.00 to 11.00**

The President, Kim Knott, presiding. The General Secretary, Jenny Berglund taking the minutes.

1. The President welcomes all persons present and officially opens the meeting.

The following EASR officers are present: Kim Knott (President), Joseph Verheyden (Vice-President), Jenny Berglund (General Secretary), Chiara Tommasi (Vice General Secretary), David Zbiral (Deputy Treasurer), Carmen Becker (Internet Officer), Jenny Buttler (Publications Officer).

Abraham Kovac, William Arfman and Silvia Alfayé could not attend and sent their apologies.

The following member associations are represented:

Czech Republic (CSPS)	Jakub Cigan
Finland (SUS)	Titus Hjelm
Germany (DVRW)	Wanda Alberts
Ireland (ISASR)	Alexandra Grieser
Italy (SISR)	Giovanni Casadio
Lithuania (LSSR)	Rasa Pranskevičiūtė-Amoson
Netherlands (NGG)	Ernst van den Hemel
Norway (NRF)	Cecilie Endresen
Spain (SECR)	Juana M. Torres Prieto
Sweden (SSRF)	Fredrik Gregorius
United Kingdom (BASR)	Suzanne Owen

The representative of the individual members Igor Mikeschin is present, as is the president of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR), Satoko Fujiwara. Wanda Alberts (DVRW) also represents the working group Religion in Public Education.

The General Secretary apologizes for the early hour and 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. She further notes that the meeting has a quorum, as stipulated by the EASR constitution.

2. The agenda is approved.
3. The minutes of the previous EC meeting (Pisa 2021) are approved.
4. The President reads her report that will be presented at the General Assembly (annex 1).
5. The General Secretary reads her report that will also be presented at the GA (annex 2).



6. The Deputy Treasurer, David Zbiral reads his report about the financial situation (see annex 3). The report will be presented at the GA as well. The report concludes that the financial situation of the EASR is stable and that most associations have paid their fees.
7. The Audit Committee presents their report and thanks the Treasurers for all information and concludes that the finances are in good condition.
8. The Budget for the next financial year is presented and approved.
9. Reports from other designated officers and members:
 - a. Since the Membership secretary is not present, Jenny Berglund reports that there have been no new applications from any individual members but that a group of scholars from the Sakartvelian (Georgia) Association for the Study of Religions have made contact and are considering to become members as a national association. The General Secretary will follow up on this.
 - b. The Honorary Membership Committee has sent a message that they have received no nominations this year.
 - c. The Internet Officer, Carmen Becker first explains her regular tasks as internet officer: i.e., updating content on the webpage, adjusting website, updating “CMS & plug-ins and checking back up activity. She has also restructured and updated the content under “Publications” and prepared a privacy policy statement in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation of the EU. The publication of privacy policy statement is planned in the next period. As for the Facebook group, the internet officer reports that there are three moderators: Jenny Berglund, Jenny Butler and Carmen Becker. They regularly check membership requests and posted content, sometimes also removing content that does not fit the policy of the group. A future task is to formulate membership questions in order to safeguard the academic character of the group. The number of members of the EASR Facebook group has risen dramatically since June 2019. In terms of the mailing lists the internet officer describes her regular tasks that is answering subscription requests, forward posts upon request and answer questions and comments from subscribers. She points out that the email lists are not moderated. Since the provisional code of conduct was put in place in 2021 she also deals with requests and cases failing the provisional code of conduct. Since the last EC-meeting, the internet officer initiated a discussion on a reform of the email lists. EASR member associations and the members of the six EASR mailing lists were asked to send ideas or comments concerning a reform of the mailing lists including the text of the provisional code of conduct. No statements came in from the national associations. Three German colleagues sent individual comments. Discussions on the issue took place on Yggdrasill in January 2022 involving in total 28 people, 11 posted more than twice including the internet officer. Yggdrasill had 1.134 members in January 2022. Conclusion: No active support for a reform in general → EASR will maintain the status quo. Future tasks are 1) updating automated messages and standard texts in order to clarify how the mailing lists are managed; update the privacy policy statement.
 - d. The publication officer, Jenny Butler reports that she has been in contact with Laura Morris (Brill) about a possible collaboration between Brill and EASR on the *Journal of Religion in Europe*. Some of the officers will meet with Laura Morris to discuss the issue during the conference.



- e. No representative of the Women Scholars Network is present during the meeting. The General Secretary reports on the activities. The present coordinators are Amy L. Allovvo and Milda Ališauskienė. 2020 they successfully introduced a series of WSN webinars. Since then, they have organized a total of seven webinars. Between 30 and 60 scholars participated live in each webinar. Recordings of the seminars are available on the IAHR official Youtube channel. On average, they have each attracted nearly 60 views.
- f. Wanda Alberts reports that the Working Group on Religion in Secular Education has not been active during the pandemic times, but plan to resume during 2022/2023.
- g. Satoko Fujiwara reports that the IAHR has decided to hold their 2025 congress in Poland.

10. Election of Officers for 2023-2025. The president presents the nominated officers which are the following.

President:	Kim Knott (UK)
Vice Presidents:	Ábrahám Kovács (Hungary) Joseph Verheyden (Belgium)
General Secretary:	Jenny Berglund (Sweden)
Deputy General Secretary:	Chiara O. Tommasi (Italy)
Treasurer:	Kim Knibbe (Netherlands)
Deputy Treasurer:	William Arfman (Netherlands)
Membership Officer:	Anne Kubai (Sweden)
Publications Officer:	Jenny Butler (Ireland)
Internet Officer:	Carmen Becker (Germany)

On the 27th of March the General Secretary sent out the list on nominated officers and asked if there were any alternative nominations. No such alternative nominations were received which means that the nominated candidates are elected.

- 11. Election of new Honorary Membership Committee. The President explains that a new membership committee is needed and asks the EC to delegate the issue to the officers. The EC gives approval.
- 12. Suggestion for change of guidelines for election of representative of individual members. The General Secretary explains that there is a dilemma in the guidelines concerning EASR individual membership. The guidelines state that the nominating committee in collaboration with the Membership Secretary should ask individual members to nominate candidates for the two positions of representative. Since the nominating committee in general knows very little, or nothing about the individual members the General Secretary suggests that it should be only the Membership Secretary who engages in the task to find a representative. The suggestion is approved by the EC.
- 13. Future conferences:
Due to the war in Ukraine, the Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion will not be able to organize the EASR conference in Kyiv as planned. The General Secretary has been in regular contact with the Ukrainian Association about how to handle the situation (see General Secretary's report). Instead the following conference scheme is suggested:



- a. EASR 2023a: The Ukrainian Association of Researchers of Religion will organize an online event on the 24-25th of February with the theme Religion and War.
- b. EASRb: The Lithuanian association has generously offered to organize the 2023 on site conference. On the 4th to 8th of September 2023. Rasa Pranskeviciute presents the theme Religion and Technologies as well as the venue in Vilnius.
- c. EASR 2024 will be held in Gothenburg 26-30th of August. The theme will be Ecology, Nature and Religious Responses to Climate Changes.

The EC approves of the suggestion.

14. EASR mailing lists: Code of Conduct for email lists:

The Internet Officer Carmen Becker presents the code of conduct for email lists where the sentence “The six EASR mailing lists are not a forum for the circulation of confessional, interfaith, theological or apologetic material nor for political or other non-academic agendas” is changed to “The six EASR mailing lists are not a forum for the circulation of apologetic material, political propaganda and other non academic agendas”. The EC approves the new wording and also to make the code of conduct permanent.

15. Further Business:

No other business is brought up so the president thanks all officers and national delegates and declares the meeting closed.