

## **European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR)**

### **General Assembly**

**Masaryk University, Brno, 9 September 2008**

#### Agenda

1. Adoption of final agenda
2. Reports by the President and the General Secretary
3. Treasurers report
4. Proposals
5. Any other business

#### Minutes

The Assembly was chaired by Professor Maya Burger, President of the EASR.

#### **1. Adoption of final agenda**

It was accepted that notice of the General Assembly had been given according to the Constitution of the EASR.<sup>i</sup> Notice of the General Assembly was given by electronic mail on 24 May 2008. The Assembly was deemed to be quorate according to the Constitution, with forty three members present eighteen of whom were committee members.<sup>ii</sup> The published agenda was adopted. The General Secretary had been sent no additional items for inclusion by the due date.

#### **2. Reports by the President and the General Secretary**

The President gave a report in which she warmly thanked the organizing committee for their hard work in ensuring a successful conference in Brno and for drawing in so many younger scholars from Eastern Europe. She also expressed her thanks to members of the EASR Executive Committee for their work during the year. Her report is available on the EASR website.

The General Secretary gave a report of the activities of the Association and the work of the Executive Committee in 2007-08, including reporting on the minutes on its meeting of 8 September 2008. Her report is available on the EASR website.

The General Secretary followed up her report from 2007 on the election of officers for the triennium 2008-end 2010 by noting the electronic ballot and election of two

EASR Vice-Presidents, Professor Veikko Anttonen and Professor Hubert Seiwert. Michael Pye (Internet Officer to end 2007) and Mar Marcos (Membership Secretary) were thanked for their work in organising the ballot and acquiring membership lists.

The President's and General Secretary's reports were approved.

### **3. Treasurer's report**

The Treasurer presented the annual financial overview and report of subscriptions by member associations. The accounts show a positive balance of €10,581.07. Up to €1,800 has been earmarked for costs arising from development work on the EASR website in the coming year (bringing the two-year total to €3,600). A sum of €3,000 will be set aside for bursaries for next year's conference.

He spoke of bureaucratic matters following the change of treasurer, the importance of timely payment of annual subscriptions, the exclusion of non-paying associations and individual members, and the funding of this year's conference bursaries.

The Treasurer's report and the requests for IT and bursary funding were agreed by the General Assembly.

### **4. Proposals**

The General Secretary presented a proposal from the Executive Committee regarding the reimbursement of costs of officers travelling on EASR business (if not covered by their own universities): a) to earmark a maximum annual budget of €1,000, and b) to recoup this by levying a small charge on the conference registration fee (to be decided by the Treasurer in association with the local organising committee). The proposal was accepted.

The General Secretary presented a proposal from the Executive Committee that, in addition to the EASR Nominations Committee, only national associations (via their representatives or officers) or fully paid-up individual members can nominate officers for election to the Committee. The proposal was accepted and the General Secretary was asked to prepare guidelines on the nomination and election process.

In conformity with the Constitution, principles on EASR Honorary Membership had been drawn up by a sub-group of the Executive Committee. These were read out. The Committee proposed two people for honorary membership: Professor Giulia Gasparro and Professor Michael Pye (see statements on EASR website). The proposal was accepted unanimously and with pleasure.

### **4. Any other business**

Giovanni Casadio, representative of Società italiana di storia delle religioni, the Italian Association for the History of Religions, informed the General Assembly of the theme of the ninth EASR Conference and welcomed delegates to Messina, Sicily, from 14-17 September 2009 ('Religion in the History of European Culture' ). The call

for papers will be announced shortly on the EASR website and the e-lists.

The 2010 EASR General Assembly will be held at the IAHR Quinquennial Congress to be held in Toronto.

Magyar Vallástudományi Társaság, the Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religions, will host the 2011 EASR conference in Hungary.

The General Assembly was then closed.

(Kim Knott, EASR General Secretary)

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<sup>i</sup> EASR Constitution, Article 5, iv, "Notice of a meeting of the General Assembly shall be given by the general secretary. When notice is given not less than 90 days in advance of the General Assembly a widely available form of communication such as a printed bulletin or an electronic medium is sufficient. If the period of notice is shorter, notice must be sent to all members individually in writing. The minimum period of notice is 30 days by postmark. Non-receipt of notice by one or more members shall not invalidate the decisions of the meeting."

<sup>ii</sup> The EASR Constitution states that "the minimum number of members required for a meeting of the General Assembly (quorum) shall be twenty, of whom at least seven shall be members of the current committee" (Article 5, vi). Participation and voting rights depend on valid current membership, i.e. payment of the membership fee no later than May 31 2008 if no special arrangements have been made with the treasurer or the committee.