

European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR)

General Assembly University of Messina, Sicily, 17 September 2009

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.

Adoption of final agenda

It was accepted that notice of the General Assembly had been given according to the Constitution of the EASR.ⁱ Notice of the General Assembly was given by electronic mail on 22 May 2009. The Assembly was deemed to be quorate according to the Constitution, with fifty two members present sixteen of whom were committee members.ⁱⁱ 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 Messina, especially Giulia Gasparro who has served the EASR so well over many years. 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, www.easr.eu.

The General Secretary gave a report of the activities of the Association and the work of the Executive Committee in 2008-09, including reporting on the minutes on its meeting of 14 September 2009. At that meeting the nominations and election process for 2010 was discussed, and standard procedures to inform future elections were agreed. A Nominating Committee was established (Mar Marcos, Ülo Valk, Susanne Olsson, Wim Hofstee, Bretislav Horyna, Kim Knott). They will appoint a Chair and nominate candidates for vacant positions by 1 May 2010 when the nominations process will be opened to national associations and individual members of EASR who are fully paid up.

Her report is available on the EASR website.

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 €10,037.99. Up to €3,600 was earmarked for website improvement in 2010 (as the sum identified for use in 2009 had not yet been claimed). The sum of €2,800 was earmarked for bursaries in 2010 with a new policy discussed and agreed.

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 a request for membership by the Latvian Society for the Study of Religion (Latvijas Reliģiju pētniecības biedrība, LRPB) which had been established in Riga in May 2009. LRPB was unanimously accepted into membership by the General Assembly.

4. Any other business

No EASR conference would be held in 2010 because of the IAHR Quinquennial Congress in Toronto, at which the General Assembly and Executive Committee Meeting would take place.

The 2011 EASR conference would be hosted by the Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religion in Budapest. The following annual conferences were also agreed: Sodertorn (Sweden) in 2012, Groningen (Netherlands) 2014.

The General Assembly was then closed.

(Kim Knott, EASR General Secretary)

ⁱ 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."

ⁱⁱ 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.