
Apologies:
Pascal Bastien
Anna Cullhed
Michel Delon
Maria Helena Carvalho Dos Santos
Daniel Fulda
Eva Velasco Moreno
Tanehisa Otabe
Geraldine Sheridan
Ingi Sigurdsson

The EC was greeted and welcomed by the Rector of Sofia University, Prof. Ivan Ilchev, and the President of the Bulgarian Society, Angelina Vacheva, who also thanked Ivan Parvev, Maria Baramova and colleagues for their work in preparing to host the meeting.

1. Welcome from the President
Marc André Bernier thanked the Rector and the President of the Bulgarian Society, and also the organising committee for an admirable programme of meetings and events. He welcomed the EC to Sofia.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 27th August 2013 Executive Committee meeting
A correction was added to section 9(iii) as follows: Raïa Zaïmova has not received replies from Armenia or Moldovia, not Belarus or Tunisia. The meeting minutes from 27th August 2013 were thereafter unanimously approved.

President’s opening remarks
This would be the last full meeting of the current EC, and Marc André Bernier’s opening remarks focused on the main goals of ISECS and the current EC:
i) the development of new National Societies.
ii) the redevelopment of the infrastructure of the ISECS website.
iii) international meetings: planning of the 2015 ISECS Congress (Rotterdam), specifically the election of the bursary committee.
iv) the 2015 Executive Committee electoral list and the election of the overseeing committee.

3. General Secretary’s report
The General Secretary thanked the Voltaire Foundation, in their role as Technical Secretariat, for their efficient service, which continues to be provided free of charge. She also thanked Nelson Guilbert for his assistance on translating documents into French. The General Secretary then outlined her main areas of activity over the past year:
- communication with National Societies to request nominations for delegates to stand for election to the EC in 2015. The improved website, and up-to-date contact details for National Society officers, greatly helped this process.
- assistance in drafting the minutes for the Rotterdam EC meeting.
- assistance to the organisers of the 2013 Early careers seminar.
- contact with the organisers of the 2015 ISECS Congress (Rotterdam) organising committee, specifically Lex Raat whom she warmly thanked.

The vote to accept the General Secretary’s report was approved unanimously.

4. Treasurer’s report
Byron Wells presented the Accounts for the year 2013, stating that ISECS is on solid financial ground.

Income received came to £11,131 (€13,714 euros), with expenditure at £8,226 (€10,135 euros). Revenue should be in the region of £64,183 (€75,066 euros) at the end of the next financial year.

This is a healthy financial situation, and as such the Treasurer proposed £20,000 as ISECS’s contribution to the bursary fund of the 2015 ISECS Congress, which is similar to its contribution to previous Congress bursary funds. The bursary programme is important to encourage and facilitate participation in the Congress, and activity within ISECS, by future early career scholars. This would leave ISECS with an annual deficit for the year 2014, but the outlay should be recouped over the next 5 years.

The President also stressed the importance of the Congress for fostering eighteenth-century scholarship, and hoped that, as in prior years, National Societies would also be able to add generously to the bursary funds.

Delegates raised questions about the 0% anticipated interest rate on the ISECS deposit pool. The Technical Secretariat explained that the ISECS funds are held and managed by the University of Oxford, in its main account. The University chooses low-risk and thus very low-interest investment options, with negligible or zero interest.

The budget for 2014-15 was approved unanimously, and includes the provision of £20,000 for the Congress bursary fund.

5. Technical Secretary’s report
Lyn Roberts highlighted the main tasks undertaken by the Technical Secretariat over the past year:
- collection of 2013 subscription income.
• administration of ISECS’ financial obligations (Nelson Guilbert annual payment, Early career scholars subventions; other ad-hoc payments).
• on-going ISECS documentation held in the ISECS files.
• drafting meeting minutes of the Rotterdam 2013 EC meeting.
• assistance with preparation of the Sofia 2014 EC meeting agenda.
• receipt and administration of new candidate nominations for the ISECS 2015 electoral list.

Lyn Roberts stressed the importance of National Societies communicating with ISECS concerning annual subscriptions and National Society Committee changes. All communication with National Societies Committees is sent to the relevant person as listed on the ISECS website, usually the National Society Secretary or Treasurer. In this highly important electoral year, it is imperative that all National Society details are correct and up-to-date. Any changes should be sent by email to both the ISECS Secretary, Anne-Marie Mai (ammai@sdu.dk), and the Website editor, Nelson Guilbert (nelson.guilbert@uqtr.ca).

The Technical Secretary also noted the lack of communication from the Chinese Society regarding unpaid subscriptions over a number of years. The President stated that, in line with the ISECS bylaw C13, members of the Chinese Society will not be able to participate in the 2015 ISECS elections unless they are up-to-date with their subscriptions. He also asked EC members to use their Chinese contacts to re-establish links between ISECS and China. Delegates commented that Chinese eighteenth-century research is largely history-oriented and tends to focus on its own national research rather than European research. A meeting for historians will take place in China in 2015, and any attendees from the EC are asked to foster new relations with Chinese delegates.

The Technical Secretariat closed its report by stating that the Voltaire Foundation is very happy to continue supporting ISECS with its services, which it provides free of charge. The President expressed the Committee’s thanks to the Voltaire Foundation for their excellent services, with special thanks to Lyn Roberts for her constant and effective work.

6. Communications Secretary’s report (Website and Directory)
   a) New website
   Nelson Guilbert, Website content editor, presented the new ISECS website, developed and now hosted by the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières.

   i) Visual
   The visual presentation of the ISECS website has been completely re-hauled. The main objective is to present information in a clear and visually-appealing manner. The new website is adaptable in its functionality and works equally well on desk top computers, mobile devices and notepads. The new website has a rotating and moving image, which displays eighteenth-century art from different countries around the world. National Societies are invited to submit additional images if they wish, provided those images are high quality and free of rights.

   ii) News and announcements
   News and announcements will be disseminated on the website in real time (after moderation) and through RSS feeds. A Facebook page and Twitter account will also be developed in the near future.
iii) Journals section
The ‘Eighteenth-Century Journals’ section has been redesigned and now features a search engine. Many more sections of the website will also be improved upon in the near future, making them easier to use and more visually appealing.

iv) ISECS-direct
This is still in development, as member data and certain visual developments need to be updated and imported. Work is scheduled for completion in the forthcoming weeks. Members will be able to attach a photo and a resume (in PDF or Word format) to their profile. All members will receive new usernames and passwords, which they must activate in order to use ISECS-direct AND vote in the 2015 Elections – whether they chose to vote by e-ballot or by paper. Any questions regarding the new usernames and passwords should be sent to Pascal Bastien at admin@isecs.org.

v) NEW elections module
All members who are part of ISECS-direct will be able to use the new elections module. It has already been developed and tested, but as it is linked to ISECS-direct, it will only be ready for use when the directory is launched. It will be a propriety system so can be used in future elections without any extra cost to ISECS. A small number of Committee members were given a preview of the system in the summer of 2014. When the elections module is fully-functional (towards early October 2014), all EC members will be invited to take part in a test election.

The Technical Secretariat, the President and the Website content editor stressed the importance of National Societies listing their members on ISECS-direct. ISECS-direct generates the 2015 Elections list. This list is used to validate the electronic and postal votes. A National society member will only be able to vote if he/she is listed in ISECS-direct. EC delegates are asked to communicate this with their National Societies (Secretaries and Treasurers).

Comments from EC delegates concerning:
New passwords: when members receive their password they can be changed to more memorable passwords.
Searching for researchers: users of ISECS-direct can search for other researchers working in similar research areas.
Data protection: Brycchan Carey, the Treasurer of BSECS, raised concerns over data protection. Marc André Bernier said that this issue has been raised in the past, and stated that a member of a National Society is by default a member of ISECS. National Societies are a part of ISECS, and thus data held by National Societies can be shared with ISECS. The UK situation will be investigated further by Brycchan Carey, with any questions to be directed to the President of ISECS.

Nelson Guilbert was highly praised and warmly thanked for all his work on the new ISECS website.

b) IRECS online journal
In the absence of Pascal Bastien, Marc André Bernier provided an overview of work on IRECS.
The Finnish Society, who originally set up IRECS, did remarkable work. The new infrastructure of the ISECS website will allow IRECS to continue, with greater functionality. Possibilities for the new version, as proposed by the President and EC delegates:

- publish papers from the conferences that follow EC meetings
- publish the table of contents from National Society journals
- publish selected papers from National Society journals
- publish selected papers from ISECS conferences
- include links to members’ online publications
- publish selected papers from the Early career seminars. On this point the President stated that ISECS already have a contract with Champion to publish Early career seminar papers. ISECS needs to honour this contract, so papers from the Early career seminars should not be part of IRECS.

The President will ask the next EC to explore the future possibilities for IRECS as one of their objectives.

In his closing remarks on the new website, the President stressed that the website contract is between ISECS and the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, and that UQTR guarantees the technical functionality of the website and ongoing hosting. The agreement is for an initial 4-year period, with a clause to facilitate contract renewal, although ISECS are not tied-in to the agreement after the 4 years.

The EC warmly thanked Marc André Bernier for his tireless work on the website, and especially for securing outside funds that have allowed this extensive project to go ahead at no cost to ISECS.

7. Report of the Committee for developing new societies
Marc André Bernier outlined the progress in developing new societies over the past year.

i) The Pacific
A new Australian-Pacific Society is being developed by Jennifer Millom, University of Sydney. The society’s constitution is being drafted, and will hopefully be presented at the next EC meeting in Rotterdam for formal request for acceptance.

ii) South America
Maria das Gracias de Souza and the new EC delegate for Brazil, Antonio Carlos Dos Santos, presented the developments of the Brazilian Society. The Society statutes have been approved and a committee – composed of members from a variety of disciplines and geographic locations – has been appointed. The Society website is in its provisional phase, and a bank account is being set up this year. The committee’s first meeting will take place in October 2014, with an inaugural conference planned for 2016. The conference would have a broad theme in order to attract as many delegates as possible. The Society has 105 members at present. Maria das Gracias de Souza thanked ISECS for all their support in creating the Brazilian Society.

EC members voted unanimously to accept the Brazilian Society as a constituent society of ISECS.

iii) Eastern Europe
Raia Zaimova provided updates on developments in Eastern Europe. Serbia has a rich national history and links with Bulgaria and Romania. Serbia has been invited to become an associated society, but has not yet replied.
The situation in Turkey is difficult due to the political climate, so no further developments have been made. Belorussian colleagues are interested in developing a society, but again the political situation does not facilitate this at present. Raia Zaimova is also trying to create Balkan networks to facilitate the exchange of ideas. Marc-André Bernier warmly thanked Raia Zaimova for her significant work.

Marc-André Bernier outlined that associated societies are welcomed within ISECS. The main difference is that associated societies do not have EC delegates, and their members cannot vote in elections.

iv) Argentinian Society.
Maria-Susanna Séguin stated that the Argentinian Society is now an official society with 60 members. The inaugural conference was held in April 2014 and attracted 90 participants, presenting papers across a range of disciplines. Selected papers will be made available on a new Argentinian Society website in due course. The next South American congress is planned for 2017. EC delegates who attended the conference were very enthusiastic, and reported on the enthusiasm of the young researchers present.

Marc André Bernier announced that Robert McNamee, of the online database Electronic Enlightenment (EE), has proposed free access of EE to all members of the Argentinian and Brazilian Societies. He is warmly thanked for this generous offer.

8. International Congress in Rotterdam, 2015: Organizing committee report
i) As President of the Dutch-Belgian Society, Wiep Van Bunge presented the 2015 Congress organizing committee report. The local organising committee is chaired by Lex Raat. Inger Leemans chairs the scientific programme committee. The deadline for proposing panels is September 1st 2014, and the deadline for submitting papers is 12th January 2015. The languages for presentations are English and French. Wiep Van Bunge urged EC delegates to consult the website for further details:
http://isecs2015.wordpress.com/
Wiep Van Bunge gave a special thanks to Lex Raat for his commitment to organizing the Congress.

ii) Sponsorship
It has been extremely difficult to obtain sponsorship for the Congress due to the economic climate. However, a potential private donor may have been found, with whom Wiep Van Bunge is currently in discussion.
Congress subscription fees have been set at €250, which will include the opening ceremony, access to all sessions of the congress, tea and coffee and some elements of the social programme. This fee does not include accommodation. Some University accommodation (on and off campus) has been secured at approximately €40-€50 per night. The Congress is also establishing links with Rotterdam hotels. There will be a full and interesting social programme on offer, as well as excursions.

iii) Keynote speakers
The confirmed keynote speakers are:
Daniel Brewer (Besterman Plenary), John Robertson (Besterman Plenary), Daniel Edelstein, and Margaret Jacob. Fifth and sixth plenary speakers are being sought. The EC are supportive of the number of interesting plenaries anticipated from these people, but wonder whether a
greater diversity in gender, country and language could be born in mind when choosing the
fifth and sixth speakers.

iv) Title of the Congress
Discussion ensued on the title of the Congress: International Congress for 18th-century
Studies, and whether the term ‘Enlightenment’ should be adopted. It was concluded that the
title was discussed at the two previous EC meetings, and was now official, so would not be
changed. The titles of Congresses can be debated in future EC meetings, but should be
decided at an early stage.

v) Early career scholars’ seminar
Inger Leemans is organising the seminar, which will take place in Amsterdam. There will be
approximately 15 participants.

v) Bursaries
A Congress bursary committee was proposed by Marc André Bernier. The composition of the
proposed committee was as follows:
Chair: Lex Raat (Head of local organising committee)
Members: Heather McPherson (USA); Danièle Tosato-Rigo (Europe)
The Congress bursary committee will be responsible for deciding the criteria for evaluating
bursary applications, using guidance notes from previous Congress bursary committees.
The EC unanimously voted to accept the proposed Congress bursary committee.
ISECS will provide £20,000 (pounds sterling) towards the bursary funds. It is also hoped that
National societies will also be able to finance the bursary fund, as in previous years. The Graz
Congress bursary scheme assisted around 90 scholars from a range of geographic locations,
who each received on average €600–€700. Marc André Bernier commented that the Congress plans were developing extremely well, and
thanked Wiep Van Bunge, Lex Raat and the local organising committee for their
professionalism and tireless work in organising the Congress.

Penelope Corfield, past British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS), president
and current BSECS International Officer and Brycchan Carey, BSECS Treasurer, presented
further developments of the BSECS proposal to host the 2019 Congress. [The 2019 Congress
proposal can only be approved by the General Assembly at the 2015 Congress, although they
have the moral backing of the current EC. With this in mind, BSECS have made provisional
bookings as below].

The congress would be held at Edinburgh University, organised by Edinburgh First, the
University’s congress organising team. In view of the demand for University facilities over
the summer period, it was necessary to go ahead and sign a contract and pay a modest deposit.
BSECS will focus on the academic aspects of the Congress. A Conference organising
committee has been set up, and the first meeting was held. An initial list of plenary speakers
has been drawn up. Registration fees are anticipated to be around £200-£250. 600 University
dormitory beds have been reserved, which will cost £40-£50 per night. The Congress
reception could be held at Edinburgh Castle. The Castle has a maximum capacity of 800
people. The issue of including the reception as part of the registration fee (which would
increase the fee) or making it an optional element was discussed. EC members are asked to share their thoughts with Penelope Corfield by email: p.corfield@btconnect.com

The Congress theme will include the term ‘Enlightenment identities’, very topical at present. Marc André Bernier warmly thanked BSECS, Penelope Corfield and Brycchan Carey for their planning. As President he stated that the hosting of the 2019 Congress in Edinburgh has the moral backing of the EC, and will be recommended for approval by the General Assembly at the 2015 Congress.

10. 2015 EC Elections

i) Final list of candidates
Marc-André Bernier stated that the list of candidates was now final. There had been two modifications to the provisional list of candidates. Catriona Seth chose not to stand as Assistant secretary and Jacques Berchtold was proposed in her place; Maria Petrova chose not to stand as an Elected member and Julie Belova was proposed in her place. Both candidates have the requisite number of support signatures from their National societies. The final list of candidates was unanimously approved by the EC.

ii) Election procedures
Marc-André Bernier reminded delegates of the bylaws regarding the election procedures (Bylaws, section A). As per bylaw A4, a three-member Electoral commission to rule on disputes was proposed, consisting of:
Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink
Peter Reill
Lorenzo Bianchi
The Electoral commission was unanimously approved by the EC.
Hans-Jürgen Lüsebrink was proposed and unanimously approved as the Electoral agent.

iii) Details of candidates
All Candidates are required to send the Technical Secretariat (Lyn Roberts : lyn.roberts@voltaire.ox.ac.uk) a short biography (50 words max) and a photo (electronic file, JPEG or TIFF) by November 15th 2014. These will be posted on the ISECS website.
The Technical Secretariat will send by email and by post the elections material (mid December/early January 2014).
To ensure that these materials reach the right destination, it is important that all National Society EC information is up-to-date and correct on the ISECS website. Please review your National Society data and send any updates to Nelson Guilbert, web editor nelson.guilbert@uqtr.ca.

iv) Voting procedures
All ISECS members who are up-to-date with their subscriptions are eligible to vote. Members can vote by ebailot (via ISECS-direct) or by postal vote. The voting list is generated by ISECS-direct, so all members, regardless of whether they choose to vote by ebailot or by post, must be registered on ISECS-direct. Members will be unable to vote unless their name is on the electoral list.
The Ebailot will be managed by Nelson Guilbert and Pascal Bastien (any queries to admin@isecs.org). The paper ballot will be managed by the Technical secretariat.
The voting period will extend over 6-8 weeks (dates to be finalised), opening in early May 2015 and closing mid June 2015.
The vote count will take place in late June at the Technical Secretariat offices, attended by the Technical Secretariat (Lyn Roberts) and two EC members who are not standing for election, Brycchan Carey and Alberto Postigliola.

11. Seminars for Early Career Scholars

2014: Manchester, UK (BSECS-University of Manchester)
Penelope Corfield presented BSECS’ forthcoming 2014 Early Career Scholars seminar, taking place at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, September 8-12 2014. The theme is ‘Eighteenth-century arts of communication: in manuscript, in print, in the arts and in person’. The President of BSECS, Jeremy Gregory, and Penelope Corfield are co-directors. Jerôme Brillaud will give the keynote lecture. Fifteen participants from a range of countries will take part, and a closing workshop will be devoted to presentational skills. EC members were enthusiastic about the workshop and the programme. There were some concerns about the dates of the Seminar, which could conflict with potential candidates’ schedules, and also about the information on the Seminar, which was all in English. Penelope Corfield will prepare a post-Seminar report (synthesis of the meeting) and will arrange for it to be translated into French.

2015: Rotterdam, Netherlands
Inger Leemans will organise the 2015 Early Career Scholars seminar, to be held in Amsterdam. The theme will connect to the theme of the Congress, ‘Opening markets’, and it is intended that keynote speakers will open each day. Wiep Van Bunge will arrange for a French-language call for papers for the 2015 Early Career Scholars seminar.

Seminars from 2016 onwards cannot be formally accepted by vote. The current EC support the future suggested seminars, and Marc André Bernier will suggest that they are accepted by the future EC.

2016: Sofia, Bulgaria
The Bulgarian Society, via Ivan Parvev, would host the 2016 seminar, and at this stage dates are very flexible.

2017: Montréal, Canada
Pascal Bastien has expressed interest in hosting a 2017 seminar on the theme of ‘Revolutions in eighteenth-century sociability’.

2018: Viterbe, Italy
Rosamaria Loretelli has expressed interest in hosting a 2018 seminar.

EC delegates highlighted the fact that Seminars must also take into consideration the new Constituent Societies from Latin America. Maria-Susana Séguin, EC delegate for Argentina, commented that the Society would be very happy to host a seminar, but travel costs would be a distinct issue. Further discussion resulted in a suggestion that seminars are co-hosted by institutions from different geographic locations. A prime example is the 2012 Bloomington, Indiana seminar, co-hosted by Catriona Seth of the French National Society, and Guillaume Ansart, of IUB.
The issue of who would qualify as an Early Career Scholar was raised. This is particularly pertinent in the current higher education sector, where lectureships and permanent positions are being reduced. Marc-André Bernier said that the traditional definition of an Early Career Scholar is a person who had submitted their thesis no more than 6 years prior their application to the Seminar. This is not a clear-cut issue as the higher education systems differ between countries. It was decided to suggest to the next EC that a committee is set up to address these issues.

Further discussion concluded that the ISECS website should be clearer on this issue: early career scholars who have participated in previous seminars cannot participate in a second seminar, and should not apply. Early career scholars who have applied unsuccessfully to previous seminars are welcome to apply to future seminars (as long as they are still eligible).

Marc-André Bernier warmly thanked all past, present and future organisers of these seminars. They are a key aspect of ISECS’ mission, and will ensure the continuation of an energetic international community of researchers.

12. ISECS publications
Honore Champion publishes the Early Career Scholar papers (print only). Under the contract, signed in 2013, Honore Champion will publish the papers within 6 months of their final submission, and will not request a publishing subvention. This is the first contract to exist between ISECS and Editions Honore Champion.

Marc-André Bernier provided an update on the publications of past meetings:
2007: Montpellier, published
[2008: Pardubice, no papers received]
2009: Lisbon, published
2010: Belfast, at proof stage
[2011: Graz, not all participants submitted their papers so it was decided not to publish a partial conference proceedings.]
2012: Indiana, Champion will receive all the papers by the end of September 2014.
2013: Gotha, papers in preparation with Seminar organiser, plans to complete by December.

Marc-André Bernier said that this is a remarkable achievement, and congratulated all Seminar organisers, and Jean Mondot for being instrumental in the contractual negotiations with Honore Champion.

In order to raise the profile of the Seminars, EC delegates who are also book review editors for scholarly journals are urged to review the Seminar publications.

13. Future meetings of the Executive Committee
2015: Rotterdam, a half-day meeting of the outgoing EC, date to be confirmed. The first meeting of the new EC will be a half-day meeting at the end of the Congress.

Marc-André Bernier stated that the transition from the current EC to the new EC takes place during the General Assembly.

2016: proposal from Florence, Italy
The Italian Society is proposing to host the 2016 EC meeting. The current EC are not in a position to agree to this proposal, but Marc-André Bernier thanked the Italian Society and will recommend its acceptance by the next EC.
For future years, interest from the following societies has been received:
2017: Edinburgh, UK (as potential hosts of the 2019 Congress)
2018: Lisbon, Portugal
2019: Edinburgh, UK (during the potential Congress)

14. Other Business
Marc-André Bernier referred to statute 1, and the ISECS directory. This is now a web-based directory, so statute 1.4 needs updating. In addition, the composition of the offices has changed: there is now both a Technical Secretariat and an Electronic / Website Secretariat. Marc-André Bernier will send out a message regarding these changes in April 2015, notifying members that they will have the opportunity to vote on the amendments at Rotterdam.

Early Career Seminars. The issue of Latin American Seminars was raised once more, and it was decided that an exceptional meeting based in Latin America could take place, with the moral backing of the EC in order to foster young researchers in these areas.

In his closing comments, the President Marc André Bernier, praised Ivan Parvev, Maria Baramova, the local organising committee and the Bulgarian Society for their warm reception and generosity. The meeting had been very fruitful. He also thanked the translators for their excellent services.
Addendum

ISECS Executive Committee
final list of candidates

President: Lise ANDRIES (France)

First Vice-president: Wiep van BUNGE (Netherlands)
Penelope CORFIELD (Great Britain)

Second Vice-president (2 positions): Michel DELON (France)
Rosamaria LORETELLI (Italy)
Anne-Marie MAI (Denmark)
Heather McPHERSON (USA)

Secretary general: Julie HAYES (USA)
Wolfgang SCHMALE (Austria)

Assistant secretary: Jacques BERCHTOLD (France)
Danièle TOSATO-RIGO (Switzerland)

Treasurer: Pascal BASTIEN (Canada)
Anna CULLHED (Sweden)
Stefanie STOCKHORST (Germany)

Assistant treasurer: Laura BROWN (USA)
Tanehisa OTABE (Japan)

Elected members: Julie BELOVA (Russia)
Conrad BRUNSTROM (Ireland)
Sébastien CHARLES (Canada)
Marek DEBOWSKI (Poland)
Daniel FULDA (Germany)
Dena GOODMAN (USA)
Maria das GRAÇAS DE SOUZA (Brazil)
Harald HEPPNER (Austria)
Kenta OHJI (Japan)
Ivan PARVEV (Bulgaria)
Anna Maria RAO (Italy)
Maria Susana SEGUIN (Argentina)
Eva VELASCO (Spain)
Michael YONAN (USA)