

2010

ANNUAL REPORT

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Académie royale
des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts
de Belgique



Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie
van België
voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten

The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

RASAB vzw/asbl

Belgian Federal Science Policy Office

RASAB ANNUAL REPORT 2010

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The ROYAL ACADEMIES FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS (RASAB)

1. Introduction

The association "The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium" was founded in 2001 by the Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (ARB) and the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten (KVAB). The association is located in the old royal stables of the Palace of Academies in Brussels.

The Royal Academies of Belgium work to promote science and art in Belgium. In order to meet this demand, the Academies organize scientific and cultural activities, they try to promote inter-university cooperation in Belgium, they provide representation in international and European organizations, they pull researchers to formulate recommendations to the government, industry, education and research, and they award prizes to talented researchers and artists.

RASAB is responsible for the coordination of the activities of the two Academies at a national and international level, as well as for the national scientific committees and the representation of Belgium in the federation of Academies such as IAP and EASAC, ALLEA, etc.

The statutes of RASAB were published in the 'Moniteur Belge / Belgisch Staatsblad' of April 19th, 2001.

2. Composition

General Assembly

KVAB	ARB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willems D., Chair • Schamp, Baron N., Permanent Secretary (<i>partim</i>) • van Outryve d'Ydewalle Ridder, G., Permanent Secretary (<i>partim</i>) • Smeyers P. (Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen) • Witte, Barones E. (Klasse van de Menswetenschappen) • Laporte A. (Klasse van de Kunsten) • Frimout D. (Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richelle M., Chair • Hasquin H., Permanent Secretary • Mawhin J. (Classe des Sciences) • Debusscher G. (Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques) • Samyn P. (Classe des Beaux-Arts)

Board of Directors

KVAB	ARB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Willems D., Chair • Schamp, Baron N., Permanent Secretary (partim) • van Outryve d'Ydewalle, Ridder G., Permanent Secretary (partim) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richelle M., Chair • Hasquin H., Permanent Secretary

3. New website

Since November 2010, RASAB has a new website¹ at the address: <http://www.rasab.be>.

a. Presentation

The creation of a new website for RASAB had two major objectives:

- To make the site more visually attractive;
- To enable a better visibility for RASAB and the National Committees' activities.

To achieve these objectives, the design of the website has been completely revised. New features have been created, such as:

- List of news;
- List of activities;
- Ability to download documents (RASAB activity reports, report of the Belgian representatives in various international organisations, etc.).

A new website section, devoted to international relations, has also been created.

b. Future perspectives

1. English version. The website is currently available in French and Dutch. An English version will be launched during 2011.

2. Newsletter. A newsletter (available in English, French and Dutch) will be created in 2011, most probably at the end of the year. By means of an HTML e-mail; it will advise the members of the Academies and National Scientific Committees of activities and actualities of RASAB.

¹ Screenshots of the site are available in the appendixes, p. 61.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. ALLEA

a. Introduction

All European Academies – ALLEA – is an European federation of National Academies of Sciences and Humanities. ALLEA was founded in 1994 and is the federation of 53 National Academies of Sciences and Humanities from 40 European countries.

Website: <http://www.allea.org>

b. Belgian representation

On the 16th and 17th of April, the annual General Assembly was organized in Stockholm. Like many of the participants, our delegates couldn't reach Stockholm because of the air transport problems caused by the dust cloud of the Icelandic volcano. The quorum wasn't reached at this meeting, so no definite decisions were made.

The Belgian Academies are represented in 3 working groups of ALLEA:

- Intellectual Property Rights: Prof. Carine Doutrelepon (ARB) has been nominated as the Belgian representative in October 2010.
- Science and Ethics: Prof. Marcel Storme (KVAB) has been the Belgian representative for several years. There was 1 meeting of the working group in 2010; Prof. Storme wasn't able to attend.
- Science Education: Prof. Léo Houziaux (ARB) has been nominated as the Belgian representative. He was put in contact with Prof. Joos Vandewalle (KVAB), to assure a good knowledge of the complete Belgian situation. There was a meeting of this working group in York, on October 29th ².

On February 8th and 9th, ALLEA organized a consultative meeting: "Towards Young Academies across Europe – sharing experiences and building capacities" at the Instituto de España in Madrid. The President of the KVAB, Prof. Dominique Willems represented the Belgian Academies at this meeting³.

In December, Prof. Marc De Mey attended the 1st meeting of ALLEA's Interest Group "Social

² Report: Attachment 2, p. 63.

³ Report: Attachment 3, p. 66.

Sciences and Humanities" (SSH), lead by the British Academy, to discuss the future role of the SSH in Europe and in European Research and Innovation. As a result of this meeting, ALLEA was invited by the European Commission to contribute to the discussions on the Framework Programme 8, or the Common Strategic Framework. A meeting between ALLEA members and representatives of the European Commission is scheduled in March 2011.

2. EASAC

a. Introduction

European Academies Science Advisory Council; EASAC – the European Academies Science Advisory Council – is formed by the national science academies of the EU member states to enable them to collaborate with each other in providing advice to European policy-makers.

Website: <http://www.easac.eu>

b. Belgian representation

The former permanent secretary of KVAB, Prof. Niceas Schamp, represented RASAB at the Council Meeting in Budapest on June 16th-18th. He was replaced as Council member by Prof. Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle (KVAB), who attended the Council meeting on December 2nd-3rd in Warsaw.

RASAB nominated Marc Van Montagu (KVAB) as the Belgian member of EASAC's new Biosciences steering panel. This panel will decide on the topics that will be discussed by EASAC in the Biosciences programme, taking into account the current challenges in this field and the relevancy to the policy makers. The first meeting of this panel will be in February 2011.

c. RASAB hosting

RASAB hosted and helped organizing an event under the label of the Belgian presidency of the European Union on October 13th, called 'Science-Based Policies for Europe: The Contribution of the EU National Science Academies'. This event was held in the Palace of Academies and included a panel discussion with 2 members of the European Parliament and a representative of DG Research of the European Commission.

To help its member academies strengthen the quality of their science-policy dialogue, EASAC organized 2 workshops, of which one in the Belgian Palace of Academies, where it was

discussed how national academies can provide their government with independent scientific knowledge and expertise. The outcome of this workshop is a Good Practice Guidance for Academies, which can be found at <http://www.easac.eu/home/dialogue-project.html>. Sofie Vanthournout, scientific counsellor of RASAB and responsible for RASAB's liaison office, played an active role in these workshops. In 2011, this project will be continued with a deepening of the understanding of the processes involved in science and policy dialogue and a widening of the number of academies involved in the work, opening up to other academy networks.

3. H.R. Network

a. Introduction

The 'International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies' is a worldwide network of about 60 academies that assists scientists, scholars, engineers, and health professionals around the world who are subjected to severe repression solely for having nonviolently exercised their rights as promulgated by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). It also promotes human rights consciousness-raising and institutional commitment to human rights work among national academies and scholarly societies worldwide.

Website: http://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/humanrights/PGA_044113

b. Belgian representation

To answer to the demands sent by the network, the Royal Academies of Belgium have created a joint committee: the Committee for the Free Practice of Science and Arts. The first committee meeting is scheduled for 2011

Composition

KVAB	ARB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veretennicoff I. (Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen) • Foblets M.-C. (Klasse van de Mensenwetenschappen) • Willen E. (Klasse van de Kunsten) • Gosselin D. (Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frère J.-M. (Classe des Sciences) • Smets P. (Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques) • Bartholomée P. (Classe des Arts) • Doutrelepon C. (Classe Technologie & Société)

4. IAP

Interacademy Panel on International Sciences; IAP is a global network of the world's science academies, launched in 1993. Its primary goal is to help member academies work together to advise citizens and public officials on the scientific aspects of critical global issues. IAP is particularly interested in assisting young and small academies in achieving these goals and, through the communication links and networks created by IAP activities, all academies will be able to raise both their public profile among citizens and their influence among policy makers.

5. ICSU

a. Introduction

The International Council for Science is a non-governmental organization with a global membership of national scientific bodies (121 members) and international scientific unions (30 members). All National Committees are member of one of these international scientific unions.

Website : <http://www.icsu.org>

b. Belgian representation

On September 16th-17th there was a meeting of the European subsection of ICSU (EU-ICSU) in London, attended by Prof. Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle (KVAB) and Prof. Freddy Dumortier (KVAB, President of the National Council of the Scientific Unions⁴). To increase the impact of EU-ICSU, a European Secretariat will be established, hosted by the Delegation of the Finnish Academies. Moreover, a Management Group was founded, composed of Hungary, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Belgium will be represented by Prof. Dumortier.

6. UAI

a. Introduction

The Union Académique Internationale is an organization of many National Academies from more than 60 countries and several international academies.

The UAI works to promote the advancement of knowledge, development of scientific exchanges and initiatives of its Academies. The increasing number of projects, by its

⁴ This council is made up of Permanent Secretaries of the two academies, and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of National Scientific Committees.

willingness to accommodate more members of Academies, the International Academic Union aims to represent the principle of excellence which animates it.

The Union Académique Internationale's missions are:

1. Encouraging cooperation between National Academies (and comparable institutions) whose activities are mainly or partly concerned within the field of human and social sciences. This cooperation is achieved by leading projects of high scholarly and intellectual standard and by coordinating interdisciplinary and joint activities, conceived in full partnership, over the long and medium-term. This should result in the production of fundamental reference tools that enhance knowledge and advance fundamental research for the benefit of both the people involved in the research (scholars, experts, researchers, ...) and the general public.
2. Safeguarding and promoting of the human and social sciences, at the level of both national and international academies.
3. Developing solid support for every National Academy and its members, provided people are convinced of the rightfulness and the advantages of this solidarity and international cooperation.

Website: <http://www.uai-iaa.org>

b. Belgian representation

At the 85th General Assembly of the Union, held in Budapest from the 24th till the 29th of May 2010, the Royal Academies of Belgium was represented by Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB), Prof. Jean-Charles Balty (ARB) and Prof. Carl Van de Velde (KVAB).

c. General Secretariat

Since its formation, the Union Académique Internationale has its seat in the Palace of Academies in Brussels. The Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique is in charge of the general secretariat of the Union.

The 2010 activity report of the UAI can be found on its website.

7. Belgian Liaison Office

In April, the liaison office between the European Academies and the European governmental institutions was founded by RASAB. Its mission is to increase the visibility of the Academies, more specifically of the federation of Academies EASAC, and to use their high potential to be

a source of independent science policy advice. The office also wants to have an intelligence-gathering function, using primary resources (e.g. websites, literature) as well as personal networking to identify relevant developments, assess emerging issues and forecast the points in the institutional policy cycle when intervention of the Academies would be particularly effective.

In this initial year, the office focused on two main tasks:

- Developing a strategy to increase the visibility of EASAC. In 2011, this will be followed by a communication plan.
- Building up a network of contacts within the European governmental institutions and affiliated organizations.

To develop the strategy, there were meetings with other think tanks and liaison offices, other similar organizations such as LERU, with staff members of the European Commission and the European Parliament and with other academies who are experienced in giving science policy advice in their country.

Contacts were established by taking part in conferences and meetings, by organizing receptions and an event under the label of the Belgian presidency of the EU and by meetings in person.

Worth mentioning are the contacts established with the cabinet of minister Schauvlieghe and with the Minaraad, the main advisory body of the Flemish Government on environment and energy. These local contacts are very important to interact with the Councils of the European Union, which are composed of the national ministers. In 2011, we want to use our national experiences as an example to stimulate other Academies to interact with their national governments.

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

The National Scientific Committees' mission is the promotion and coordination of various scientific disciplines for Belgium, mainly seen in an international context. The creation of a National Committee is subject to the existence of an International Scientific Union affiliated to ICSU or a scientific body of ICSU (scientific committees, special committees, ...) concerning the same scientific discipline.

1. The National Committee for Antarctic research

a. Introduction, mission, goals

According to its Terms of Reference, the goals of BNCAR are defined as follows:

(a) General Terms of Reference.

- Forum to bring members together to share information, identify common problems and to seek collective vision and endeavors for Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research.
- Strategy to identify scientific and operational issues of strategic importance with respect to Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research and activities.
- Voice to express a collective vision for the future Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research and activities in relation to developments in Belgium, Europe and the World.

(b) Specific National Terms of Reference.

- Participate in the Belgian coordination bodies concerning Antarctic research.

Establish by means of invited speakers or surveys an overview (State of the Art) of Belgian Antarctic (and Arctic) research and activities.

- Organize - whenever appropriate – manifestations, symposia, etc., to promote Antarctic (and Arctic) research.
 - Voice – whenever appropriate or necessary - our concerns about the state of the environment in Antarctica (and Arctica) within the framework of sustainable development.
- Promote Polar science in general within the Belgian context.

(c) Specific International Terms of Reference.

- BNCAR is the official representing body of Belgium within SCAR (Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, ICSU). This implies that BNCAR members can participate in SCAR

meetings, contribute to establish the Belgian annual report to SCAR and respond to particular information requests from SCAR.

- Give advice or respond on matters raised within international bodies such as the ATCM (Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting) and its CEP (Committee for Environmental Protection), CCAMLR (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources), CCAS (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Seals), EPB (European Polar Board).
- Promote (Belgian) Polar Science at an international level.

b. Meetings of the Committee

(a) Plenary meeting of February 10th, 2010.

The meeting was entirely devoted to the redaction of the Committee's recommendations based on the contributions from the scientific research community regarding the priorities for the future Belgian Antarctic research, which takes the research priorities setup at the international level and the Belgian expertise into account. This document has been submitted to BELSPO, at its requirement. A draft was circulated on February 15th to the Committee, and sent to BELSPO on February 19th, 2010.

(b) Plenary meeting of April 4th, 2010.

The first topics of the meeting concerned the organization of the "International Polar Year Symposium" on May 26th, 2010 by the Belgian National Committee on Antarctic Research, under the auspices of the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium. It was also decided that the proceedings with extended abstracts would be published (F. Dehairs as editor) by the KVAB.

Then, the renewal of the memberships (confirmations, resignations, candidatures) was discussed for full and associate members, as well as the renewal of the board. For all the elections, the quota of voting full members was not reached and the cooptation of new full and associate members as well as new board members had to be postponed. It was decided to proceed to an electronic secret vote via Doodle. The Doodle poll following the meeting gave the following results:

Prof. Philippe Huybrechts (VUB) and Dr Annick Wilmotte (ULg) were coopted as Full Members. Dr Bruno Delille (ULg), Dr Alexander Mangold (KMI-IRM), Dr Nicole Van Lipzig (KUL), Dr Michel Van Roozendaal (IASB- BIRA) were coopted as Associate Members. Prof. Etienne Paulissen (KUL), Prof. Paul Simon (IASB- BIRA) were coopted as new Honorary Members.

Prof. Frank Pattyn (ULB) was elected as the new Chairman and Dr Annick Wilmotte (ULg) as the new Secretary.

The nominations were submitted for approval to the Science Classes of both Academies.

In addition to the plenary meetings the Board met 4 times during the year.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The Secretary, Dr Claude De Broyer, represented the Committee at the XXXI SCAR Statutory Meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, as Belgian National Delegate (SCAR XXXI National Delegates Meeting, August 9th-11th, 2010), Belgian member of the SCAR Life Sciences Standing Scientific Group, July 30th – August 2nd, 2010) and participated to the SCAR XXXI Open Science Conference (August 3rd-6th, 2010).

d. Other activities

(a) Press and communication activities:

The Vice Chairman, Prof. Tony Van Autenboer, and the Secretary, Dr Claude De Broyer, participated to the RTBF TV broadcast of April 26th, 2010 “Ce jour là, Belgique rime avec Antarctique”.

(b) Belgian SCAR representation and secretariat:

As usual, BNCAR has pursued its role of SCAR representative in Belgium. The National Committee prepared the annual report to SCAR covering all Antarctic-related research done in Belgium. The report is distributed to the Antarctic researchers of SCAR country members through their SCAR National Committees.

BNCAR also forwarded to Belgian researchers all useful information from SCAR.

Documentation and information:

BNCAR has continued to represent the Belgian Antarctic research by answering to information requests at Belgian or international level. The distribution of books related to Antarctica and Belgium has been pursued.

On the other hand, the National Committee has continued to manage its Antarctic documentation as well as the archives of the Belgica expedition held at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and part of the archives of the Belgian and Belgian-Dutch Antarctic Expeditions.

e. Future perspectives

(a) Rules of Procedures will be proposed for discussion and vote in 2011

(b) The future of Belgian Antarctic Research within the framework of the SCAR strategic plan will be discussed

(c) A better link between the Belgian delegation to the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP) of the ATCM will be searched by inviting Mr. de Lichtervelde (Health, Food Chain security and Environment Ministry) to present the work of the CEP and discuss the possible involvement of Belgian scientists.

2. The National Committee for Astronomy

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee for Astronomy represents Belgian scientists conducting research in the field of biophysics in the work of the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

b. Meetings of the Committee

The Committee gathered twice during the selected period : on January 19th, 2010 and October 19th, 2010. Both meetings took place at the Belgian Royal Academies in Brussels.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

(a) Astronomy & Astrophysics (A&A).

C. Sterken is the Belgian delegate in the A&A editorial board, where he represents the BNCA and introduces its potential questions or requests. He reported at each BNCA meeting about A&A matters, mentioning the important items about the journal politics and statistics, the rejection and acceptance rates, the mandates, the selection of a new publisher, the new politics of full open access and its consequences for us. The 2010 share of Belgium in the A&A contribution is 2.91% or 7.1 kEuro. C. Sterken was elected Vice-chairman in May 2010 for the next four years.

A summary is provided in each of the minutes of the BNCA meetings held this year. Documentation is also made available through the BNCA website.

(b) Belgian National ESO Committee (BNEC).

Reports on the two BNEC meetings were presented by its President, J. Surdej or its secretary, S. Van Eck, during the BNCA meetings following the BNEC meetings. Details and comments are regularly added by C. Waelkens, Belgian representative at the ESO Council.

(c) ESA matters.

W. Verschueren, in charge of ESA matters at BELSPO, is an associate BNCA member, and therefore reports about ESA matters (such as budget, missions and their evolution, delays or problems, the Belgian participations, the main political issues...) at each BNCA meeting.

(d) International Year of Astronomy: IYA2009.

The BNCA was informed by R. Alvarez, Belgian representative for the activities regarding IYA2009; a global report was written beginning of 2010 and R. Alvarez participated to the IYA2009 Closing Ceremony on January 9th-10th, 2011 in Padova. More than 340 events were registered all over Belgium (<http://www.astronomy2009.be>) and the international network established for IYA2009 was pursued in 2010.

(e) ASTRONET.

BNCA noted the absence of link between Belgium and ASTRONET, a network created by a group of European funding agencies in order to define a comprehensive long-term planning for the development of European astronomy. The objective of this effort is to consolidate and reinforce the world-leading position that European astronomy has attained at the beginning of this 21st century.

Following the BNCA request, the FWO and the FRS have joined the network ASTRONET in 2010, as associated members. The delegates chosen by FRS and FWO are A. Jorissen and C. Aerts. A first meeting for the Belgian delegation (FNRS & FWO) took place at the Paris Observatory in September 2010.

The BNCA proposes to send only one delegate per meeting, alternatively from FRS and FWO.

(f) FNRS / ROB Contact Group.

A new organizing team (Contact Group bureau) has been officially designated by FNRS: Lionel Siess (ULB) and Rodrigo Alvarez (ROB) as President and Secretary respectively, for the organization of FNRS/ROB Contact Group Astronomy and Astrophysics meetings. The 11th annual meeting was held on May 25th, 2010 in the Planetarium of the ROB.

(g) E-ELT.

The french speaking astronomers have been contacted by the Région Wallonne (RW- DG06) to assess their interest about the E-ELT project. A working group composed of 13 members from the French community was formed. It was chaired by Jean Surdej. The main activity of this working group has been to write a report that was delivered to the cabinet of Minister J.-M. Nollet on October 13th, 2010.

The federal government has decided to delegate this mission to the regions, and not to the

usual organizations. The Flanders government has been contacted as well, and has decided not to support the E-ELT project. As the political structure of the country is currently being reshaped, with the communities and regions receiving more competencies, the BNCA suggests to appoint new associated members at the BNCA, from the community or regional administrations. Their participation to the BNCA meetings will be an opportunity to present them with our priorities and our funding needs. This point will be discussed and concretized in 2011.

3. The National Committee for Quaternary research (BELQUA)

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The purpose of BELQUA is to encourage the Belgian research on various aspects of the Quaternary period, either research conducted in Belgium or by Belgian scientists abroad. It aims to encourage young researchers and to promote scientific communication. All fields related to Quaternary research are welcome, e.g. geology, climate, archeology, etc.

b. Meetings of the Committee

Dates: (a) 02/03/2010, (b) 18/11/2010, both in Brussels.

Main conclusions:

(a) Election of the BELQUA committee (2010-2014); Evaluation of Workshop 2010; proposition for the next fieldtrip and workshop;

(b) Discussion concerning the forthcoming activities in 2011 – workshop and fieldtrip planning; the annual report, new honorary member; appointment of a national delegate for the next INQUA Congress 2011.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Others activities

(a) BELQUA annual workshop.

Description: 1-day workshop in Brussels with 11 presentations. After lunch, Prof. Dr. A. Long (Durham University, UK) gave a brilliant keynote on “Sea-level changes: past and future”. The presentations with abstracts cover a very wide range of topics and disciplines. Many of this year’s presenters were new faces, suggesting a larger than expected community working in Quaternary sciences in Belgium.

Goal: The workshop is an opportunity to meet colleagues working in Quaternary Sciences in Belgium. It is also an opportunity for students to present their PhD research.

Attendance: There were on average about 20 participants in the morning and about 30 in the afternoon.

(b) Annual BELQUA fieldtrip.

Description: 1-day fieldtrip organized by Dr. Peter Van den Haute, Gent University. The topic in the morning was "The Late Pleniglacial sand-filled ice/frost wedges in Central West Flanders", guided by Gunther Ghysels (UGent) describing the structures visible in an outcrop. The topic in the afternoon was "Prehistoric settlement and land-use systems in Sandy Flanders (NW Belgium): a diachronic and geo-archaeological approach" guided by Philippe Crombé and collaborators. The field visit discussing shallow drillings/cores followed by several introducing presentations.

Goal: Discussion on field on ongoing research. Each fieldtrip was focused on one particular topic of the Quaternary research.

Attendance: 10 participants in the morning and 20 in the afternoon.

(c) EGU General Assembly.

Description: Organisation of a specific session at the European Geosciences Union.

Goal: to enhance discussion between colleagues at the scale of European community, to initiate new cluster(s) of research.

Attendance: A session CL1.27: Lake and climate in the climate division has been convened at the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna in 2010 by Nathalie Fagel and Marie-France Loutre. 20 abstracts have been submitted, about 60 persons have attended the oral session.

e. Future perspectives

(a) BELQUA annual workshop 2011: The KULeuven, with G. Verstraeten and P. Degryse as convenors, offers to take care of the organisation of the 2011 Workshop. A keynote lecture on the topic of geoarchaeology is proposed.

(b) BELQUA annual Fieldtrip 2011: G. Verstraeten will organise a visit of the Dijle catchment area. The topic of the field trip will be "Human and climate impacts on the hillslope and fluvial sediment dynamics of the Dijle since the lateglacial period".

(c) EGU 2011: A session CL1.27: Lake and climate in the climate division will be convened at the next European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly in Vienna (April 3rd-8th, 2011) by Nathalie Fagel and Marie-France Loutre.

(d) INQUA Congress 2011: G. Verstraeten will represent the national committee. Several members of BELQUA will convene a session. For instance “Quantifying and modelling human and climatic impacts on hillslope and fluvial sediment dynamics during the Holocene” by G. Verstraeten.

4. The National Committee for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The goal of the National Committee is to promote research in the field of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, by organizing meetings and inviting outstanding internationally renown scientists. Because of the increasingly interdisciplinary nature of the biological sciences, often symposia are organized together with other societies and National Committees.

Because of the common goals, the members of the National Committee on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology are also member of the board of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and as such are involved in the preparation and organization of all the activities of this society.

b. Meetings of the Committee

The National Committee meets together with the board of the Belgian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. In 2010 a board meeting took place on the 30th of January at the ICP in Woluwe, organized by Prof. Fred Opperdoes. In this board meeting the planning for the coming year was decided. Further organization was done by email. The concrete organization of the symposia is done by the local organizers.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

At the 202nd meeting, the 59th General Assembly took place. Prof. Stalmans (KUL) was appointed publications officer of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Most members of the National committee have participated in many international scientific events. However it would be impossible to provide an extensive list of all these activities.

d. Other activities

The Society/National Committee has organized in 2010 the following two scientific meetings:

- (a) The 202nd meeting “ Proteases and Protease inhibitors” was organized at the University of Antwerp on the 5th of February 2010 by Prof. A. Lambeir.
- (b) The 203rd meeting was organized at the Royal Academies in Brussels together with the Belgian Society for Microbiology, and the National Committee on Microbiology on the 18th and the 19th of November 2010. The two-day symposium was titled: “Molecular dialogue in host-parasite interactions”. It was very well attended.

e. Future perspectives

- (a) The Biochemical Society plans a first meeting on the 6th of May organized by Prof. Joris Messens (VIB-VUB) on the topic of “Redox Mechanisms”.
- (b) The National Committee plans a one day symposium “ Synthetic Biochemistry: the future of Chemistry? “ on Monday the 12th of December 2011 in the Royal Academies in Brussels.

5. The National Committee for Biological Sciences**a. Introduction, mission, goals**

The Committee of Biological Sciences represents Belgian scientists conducting research in the field of biological sciences in the work of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS).

b. Meetings of the Committee

One meeting of the committee took place on 24/03/2010.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

No other activities were organized in 2010.

e. Future perspectives

In 2011, the committee would like to concretise one or two activities regarding the biodiversity in Belgium.

6. The National Committee for Biomedical Engineering

a. Introduction, mission, goals

Biomedical Engineering is the multidisciplinary field concerning Engineering research, developments and applications in (bio)medicine.

The Belgian National Committee on Biomedical Engineering aims to bring together the Belgian academics, students, researchers and professionals, active in the broad field of biomedical engineering.

The aims of the National Committee are:

- Stimulating scientific and educational interactions;
- Linking with international organizations and societies;
- Representation of the Belgian academic point of view;
- Setting up a forum for interested students and professionals.

b. Meetings of the Committee

The Committee met on: February 18th, March 11th, June 2nd, September 21st, November 26th (the Contact Forum in the Academies).

Main conclusions:

- Continuing efforts for a yearly Contact Forum;
- Involving young scientists and professionals, alumni of our master programs;
- Streamlining communications (updated informative website);
- Contacts with industry: mostly via the association UNAMEC;
- Continuing liaison efforts with European, world-wide associations;
- Need for continuing efforts in promoting research and development and an awareness of the community.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

(a) Belgian Day on Biomedical Engineering (November 26th 2010):

Description: Contact Forum with 3 invited speakers, a “short presentation” session and a poster session of new research results.

Goals: Bring Belgian researchers in contact with internationally recognized speakers (this year's theme: Bridging the gap between Engineering and Medicine) and allow them to present their work in a short presentation and poster (Belgian Day); Evaluate the future activities of EAMBES.

Attendance: 130 persons attended the “Contact Forum”: 9th National Day on Biomedical Engineering on November 26th, 2010.

(b) Liaison with worldwide societies/activities:

- Contacts between the National Committee, the World Federation IFMBE, the Union (IUPESM) and ICSU via Marc Nyssen.
- Contacts between the National Committee and EAMBES (European level umbrella organisation) via Jos Vander Sloten.
- Contacts between the National Committee and ESEM (the European scientific society) via Pascal Verdonck.

e. Future perspectives

The Committee aims at expanding the involvement of students and of captains of industry in the Committee's future activities:

(a) As there are now 5 “Master in biomedical engineering” programs (UGent/VUB, KUL, ULB, UCL, Ulg), the Committee wants to become the meeting place for communication between these programs (also for Phd's linked to the masters), in order to strive to a full recognition of the title “Master in biomedical engineering”.

(b) Staying in touch with the alumni.

(c) A “Youngsters Board” was set up successfully and was fully operational in 2010.

Clarification of abbreviations:

IFMBE: International Federation for Biomedical Engineering: the “World Federation”.

EAMBES: European umbrella association, regrouping societies and teaching/research departments.

ESEM: European Society for Biomedical Engineering.

ICSU: International Council of Scientific Unions (links with national Academies).

7. The National Committee for Biophysics

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee for Biophysics represents Belgian scientists conducting research in the field of biophysics in the work of the International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB).

b. Meetings of the Committee

For the organization of the activities of the committee, the board had a few meetings in Leuven (Lab. of Prof. Engelborghs, centrally situated for most members) but most of the organization was done by email.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

The following events were organized:

(a) One-day Symposium on “Bionanotechnology”, January 8th, 2010, Palace of Academies, Brussels.

(b) Joint organization of the Faculty of Science of the KUL, the Arenberg Doctoral School and the Belgian Biophysical Society: Summer School dedicated to Single-Molecule Biophysics, August 16th-19th, 2010, KUL.

(c) Eight one-day symposium on “Protein Folding and Stability”, September 3rd, 2010, ULg.

We were able to receive 3 x € 400 from EBSA to support the participation of foreign students to our Biophysics summer school.

e. Future perspectives

(a) May 31st: Young scientist day at the conference center Het Pand, University of Gent.

(b) Ninth one-day symposium on “Protein Folding and Stability”, September 2nd, 2011, ULg.

(c) One day meeting on “Mass Spectrometry in Structural Biology”. Venue will be Gent or Antwerp.

(d) A one-day symposium on the theme “Protein-Nucleic acid Interactions” will be organized in January 2011, at the Palace of Academies, Brussels.

8. The National Committee for Chemistry

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The goals of the National Committee for Chemistry is:

- (a) to federate the messages in chemistry (Universities, technical Colleges, Essenscia, CEFIC, KVCV, SRC, JSC, etc.);
- (b) to stimulate and encourage chemistry in Belgium in all aspects;
- (c) to be the bridgehead of IUPAC in Belgium (in and out).

b. Meetings of the Committee

In 2010, the activities of the Committee and representatives were focused essentially on the preparation of the International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011):

- (a) Coordination and listing of all the actions in Belgium (2011), information and stimulation of all the actors in Belgium (5 meetings);
- (b) Contribution to the preparation of the Opening Event of IYC 2011 in Paris on January 26th-27th, 2011 (P. Baekelmans as a member and adviser of the team chaired by Prof. Moreau President of the IUPAC); meetings at the UNESCO (6 meetings);
- (c) Preparation, organisation, budgeting and following up of the Closing Event together with the “Industrial Sponsors of the Event” (CEFIC, SOLVAY, BASF, DuPont, DOW, Janssen Pharmaceutica, UCB, GSK) and P. Baekelmans as chairman of the Organizing Committee. (6 meetings);
- (d) Meetings at the Commission with Mr. Barosso and representatives in charge of IYC, Euchems,(3 meetings) and meetings with BePost to prepare the stamp emission. (4meetings) (A CNC team);
- (e) Presentation of the IYC 2011 program in Belgium, at the Management Committee of IUPAC in Triangle Park North Carolina (US), invited by the IUPAC (2 days - P. Baekelmans.);
- (f) Short Presentation of IYC at the Royal Academies of Belgium on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the National Committee (October 27th, 2010).

Output and conclusions of the meetings:

- (a) In Europe and more particularly in Belgium IYC 2011 has stimulated enthusiasm and a commitment to participate effectively. The “chemistry” community has welcomed the initiative of IUPAC and UNESCO in the Universities, “High Schools”, “Young Science organisations” , and in the industry as well (with the support of Essenscia in Belgium, and CEFIC for Europe). It should be emphasized that both individuals and chemical companies

are involved through their financial support. Without this support, the events requesting substantial budgets would not be possible. The cost of the closing event in Belgium is entirely covered by the sponsor companies adhering to the themes promoted by UNESCO and IUPAC. Participation of companies and their staff is also a contribution of time and money. Essenscia has also contributed very significantly by giving us administrative help and by their action and impact in the chemical industry in Belgium.

(b) A program of events (exhibitions, workshops, public events, open doors, lectures, visits, etc...) is now in place and will be developed all along the year in collaboration with the actors belonging to the Communauté de Langue Française de Belgique and the Vlaamse Gemeenschap as well and will take place in Flanders, Wallonia and Brussels. The details of IYC 2011 in Belgium can be visited on the IUPAC website.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

See b.

e. Future perspectives

Main events with the participation of the Committee:

(a) General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry in Puerto Rico. (July 30th - August 7th, 2011).

(b) Opening Event of IYC 2011 in Paris with the participation of 5 members guests of the IUPAC. (January 27th and 28th).

(c) Closing Event of IYC 2011 in Brussels (December 1st, 2011).

Other perspectives:

(a) It has been suggested to dedicate the efforts of the committee to refocus the objectives of the Committee and to revisit the missions in regards to other organizations in Belgium (KVCV, SRC, etc.).

(b) Composition of the National Committee.

9. The National Committee for Cristallography

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The Committee for Cristallography represents Belgian scientists conducting research in the field of Crystallography in the work of the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr).

b. Meetings of the Committee

(a) The first meeting was held on March 10th, 2010. During this meeting, the organization of the Sixth Belgian Crystallography Symposium BCS-6 has been completed (general program, chosen speakers, preparing request for the Contact Forum, overview of the potential sponsors, ...). An overview of the registrations and preparations for the Belgian Crystal Growing Competition was given and the awards ceremony at the Palace of Academies was established on May 12th, 2010. Finally, the Belgian representative for the Council Meeting of the European Crystallographic Association (ECA) in Darmstadt was discussed.

(b) During the second meeting held on October 12th, 2010, Bernard Tinant gave a summary of the Council Meeting of the European Crystallographic Association (ECA) held in Darmstadt. Preparations for the eleventh edition of the Belgian Crystal Growing Competition started in 2011. Also, the schedule was updated on the website of the Committee ([sites.google.com / site / xallobe](http://sites.google.com/site/xallobe)).

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

Bernard Tinant represented the Committee at the Council Meetings of the European Crystallographic Association (ECA). Luc Van Meervelt, as a member of the Executive Committee of the European Crystallographic Association, also participated in these meetings. Frederique Hatert (ULiège) is chairman of the special Interest Group SIG5 - Mineral and Inorganic Crystallography, Joke Hadermann is an active member of the IUCr Commissions - Aperiodic crystals and Electron Crystallography.

d. Other activities

(a) The National Committee for Crystallography organized successfully in 2010, with support from both Academies and the company Chem-Lab, the tenth edition of Crystal Growing Competition for students in secondary education (see also new website [http://www.chem.kuleuven.be/bcc /](http://www.chem.kuleuven.be/bcc/)). For this edition, borax was selected as the compound to crystallize. The judging of the submitted crystal took place on May 1st, 2010 in Namur. On May 12th, 2010 the official awards ceremony was held in the Palace of Academies. Prof.

Philippe Claeys gave a fascinating lecture on "Meteorite in, dino out!".

(b) On October 13th, 2010 the National Committee for Crystallography organized a contact forum titled 'Sixth Belgian Crystallography Symposium BCS-6' at the Palace of Academies. In addition to lectures given by S. Larsen (IUCr current President), P. Thiry and M. Caffrey a poster session, a selection of three short lectures and an exposition were organized.

10. The National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The BNCGG serves as a link between IUGG and the Belgian scientists working in the fields of Geodesy and Geophysics. This activity reaches a climax every four years at the IUGG general assembly. The next IUGG General Assembly (XXV) will be held in Melbourne (Australia) from June 7th till July 8th, 2011.

The BNCGG is then charged to propose to the Academies the national delegates to IUGG and to its eight Associations:

- International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS);
- International Association of Geodesy (IAG);
- International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy (IAGA);
- International Association of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences (IAMAS);
- International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS);
- International Association of the Physical Sciences of the Ocean (IAPSO);
- International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth Interior (IASPEI);
- International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth Interior (IAVCEI).

In the meantime the BNCGG regularly organises conferences with the cooperation of renowned Belgian or foreign scientists. The BNCGG tries also to encourage the participation of young scientists to the IUGG General Assemblies by attributing grants.

Belgium was among the 9 countries who established the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) on July 28th, 1919 in Brussels. The Belgian National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics (BNCGG) was created shortly after in 1921. The running expenses were covered until 1950 by the National Cartographic Institute and later on by the Royal Academy of Belgium, now split into the "Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor

Wetenschappen en Kunsten" and the "Académie Royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique".

Since 1955, there also exists an "Association sans buts lucratifs de droit belge" which is called: "Comité National Belge de Géodésie et de Géophysique, Bruxelles". It is charged with the administration of the finances of the Committee.

b. Meetings of the Committee

Dates and main conclusions:

During 2010, the CNBGG had one General Assembly (21/01/2010) and two other meetings (29/04/2010 and 21/10/2010) with several lectures. Detailed reports (with attendance and conclusions) for the GA and for each other meetings are provided in French and Dutch on the website of the Committee: <http://www.bncgg.oma.be> (activities).

The following lectures were organized by the Committee:

(a) on January 21st, 2010 at 14h00 at the Royal Observatory of Belgium; the General Assembly was preceded by the talk of Prof. Philippe Huybrechts (VUB) :“Overview of cryospheric science in Belgium”;

(b) on April 29th, 2010 at 14h00 in Heverlee (KUL). A meeting was held with two lectures: Prof. Patrick Willems (Hydraulics Division, KUL) presented in English a talk entitled "Climate change impacts on hydrological extremes along rivers and urban drainage systems in Belgium." The meeting continued at 15h10 with Prof. Niko Verhoest (UGent) who presented in English a lecture entitled: “Stochastic rainfall modeling for hydrological design”;

(c) on November 11th, 2010 at 14h00 at the UGent:

Dr. Elie Verleyen (postdoctoral researcher of FWO-Flanders, Laboratory of Protistology & Aquatic Ecology, Department of Biology, UGent) presented in English a lecture entitled: “Coastal Antarctic lakes: recorders of past changes in climate and relative sea level”. At 14h55: Dr. Jasper Moernaut (postdoctoral researcher of FWO-Flanders, Renard Centre of Marine Geology, Department of Geology and Soil Science, UGent): “Recurrence of 1960-like earthquake shaking in South-Central Chile revealed by lacustrine sedimentary records”.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

No other activities were organized in 2010.

e. Future perspectives

The next XXV General Assembly of IUGG will be held on June 27th - July 8th, 2011 in Melbourne, Australia (<http://www.iugg.org/assemblies/2011melbourne/>).

11. The National Committee for Geography**a. Introduction, mission, goals**

The National Committee for Geography represents Belgian scientists working in the field of Geography in the work of IGU. This committee is a forum for exchanging views on the landscape of Geography in Belgium.

b. Meetings of the CommitteeDates:

The National Committee met on February 13th, 2010. A second meeting was scheduled for December but due to the bad weather, it was postponed to January 22nd, 2011.

Main conclusions:

At the meeting of February the following points were discussed:

- Tribute to H. Béguin;
- Difficulty of equivalence of certain foreign degrees, especially French degrees;
- Fragmentation of the geographical discipline within FWO and FNRS;
- Participation in the IGU, Cologne 2010;
- Organisation of the days of Belgian Geographers;
- Discussion about the Atlas of Belgium.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

IGU 2010 - The Conference of 'IGU Regional Conference' held in Tel Aviv (Israel) where we noted the presence of some Belgian geographers.

d. Other activities

(a) Subcommittee of the Atlas of Belgium.

The third Atlas of Belgium was carried out with the program 'ATLAS' of the Belgian Science Policy. Volume 2, 'Paysages, campagne et agriculture - Landschappen, platteland en landbouw' was published in October 2010 and the Volume 'Habitat - Wonen' will be published in spring 2011 in both the languages. The other volumes 'Géographie économique- Economische geografie', 'Les Villes - Steden', 'Population - Bevolking', will be published in the second quarter of 2011. Delays were incurred at all levels but now the funding for the remaining volumes of the edition is guaranteed by the Science Policy.

Another project funded by the Federal Policy titled 'ATLAS-Web is developed by Prof. J.-P. Donnay (ULg) and Prof. Ph. De Maeyer (UGent). This project will not only update certain maps from the paper version but it will also offer new cards. The first phase of the project was presented in 2010 by Prof. Donnay and his collaborator Marie Trotta. The rest of the project will be developed in 2011.

The Geological Survey of Belgium is planning three new maps on the gravity of Belgium. In 2011, they will be on the server 'Web-atlas'.

(b) Subcommittee for Geomorphology (BAG).

The subcommittee informed that the BAG was a coorganizer of the tour of Prof. Vincent Hallet (FUNDP), held on June 18th, 2010 with the theme: 'St Hadelin river catchment, a typical catchment of the Condroz Region'. The tour was a success.

(c) Subcommittee for Cartography and SIG.

The chair of the Committee advised that the subcommittee for Cartography organizes the participation of Belgium to the International Cartographic Conference (ICC-CIC), a congress of the ICA-ACI, International Cartographic Association. This conference will be held in Paris in July 2011.

The subcommittee is responsible for Belgium to collect the map material to exhibit at this conference.

The committee also called in two languages for the drawing competition 'Barbara Petchenik Children's World Map Competition 2011'.

(d) Days Belgian geographers.

Organized by the KUL and UCL on October 22nd-23rd, 2010. The days were a success. No less than 480 participants were present during those days.

e. Future perspectives

- (a) Organization of Belgian days of Geographers, 2011;
- (b) New members for the National Committee of Geography;
- (c) Next release of the Atlas of Belgium in March 2011;
- (d) Preparation for the participation of Belgium in the 2012 IGU Congress;
- (e) Preparation of a new publication of a mini atlas of Belgium. The cost for the publication of a mini atlas of Belgium will be analyzed. The goal is to launch this new publication during the IGU Congress in 2012.

12. The National Committee for Geological Sciences

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The Comité National des Sciences Géologiques / Nationaal Comité voor Geologische Wetenschappen (CNSC/NCGW) (National Committee for Geological Sciences) coordinates the activities of academic and scientific institutions in all fields of geology in Belgium. It also interacts between these institutions and other agencies, especially governmental agencies (federal, regional).

The CNSC/NCGW has a number of commissions and working groups such as the Commission Nationale de Stratigraphie / Nationale Commissie voor Stratigrafie (the National Commission for Stratigraphy which is subdivided in specific subcommissions focussing on the different parts of the geological time scale) and the Groupe de Travail Géologie Structurale / Werkgroep Structurele Geologie (Working Group for Structural Geology).

The CNSC/NCGW promotes and spreads information concerning Earth sciences towards the general public. Its members participate to social debates on geological causes.

The CNSC/NCGW follows up on the activities of UNESCO's IGCP resulting from Belgian initiatives and is the national contact point for the International Union of Geological Sciences.

b. Meetings of the Committee

February 4th, May 15th (extraordinary meeting), November 18th.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

(a) The Committee has acted as coordination centre and has given its support to activities in the frame of the IYPE (International Year Planet Earth), initiated by scientific institutions, universities and other administrations (including touristic activities and publications).

(b) The National Commission for Stratigraphy of the CNSC/NCGW has set up a semi-interactive website where actors (field geologists, academics) in the lithostratigraphy of Belgium can find information, share experiences or add their contribution: see <http://www2.ulg.ac.be/geolsed/GB/NCS.htm>.

(c) Tenure of a symposium and a contact forum devoted to “Tectonics and Structural Geology in Belgium, a guideline to terminology and a better understanding of deformation structures” (May 14th, 2010), attended by 45 specialists.

e. Future perspectives

Tenure of a symposium/contact forum devoted to geotourism in Belgium.

13. The National Committee for Logic, History and Philosophy of Sciences

a. Introduction, mission, goals

According to the mission of the National Committees, as stipulated in the Royal Decree of April 2nd, 1979, the National Committee for Logic, History and Philosophy of Sciences aims to promote and coordinate research activities on Logic, History and Philosophy of Science in Belgium, primarily with regard to the international representation of Belgian scholarship in the International Council of Scientific Unions.

The National Committee is the Belgian member of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), to both its Division for History of Science and Technology (DHST) and its Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (DLMPS).

In practice the National Committee acts along three axes:

(a) to represent Belgian scholarship on the international level by being present as a member or spokesperson with international organizations (IUHPS, European Society of History of Science);

(b) to coordinate Belgian scholarship by setting up collaborations and joint projects with other institutions (National Centre for the History of Science [KBR], Gewina [Belgian-Dutch

Society for the History of Universities and Science], BSLPS [Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science]);

(c) to promote the integration of historical and philosophical studies of science.

b. Meetings of the Committee

During 2009, the Committee has organized two general meetings, on March 27th and on October 13th. At these meetings, scientific papers were presented and administrative matters were discussed.

The meeting on March 27th was organized in collaboration with the National Centre for the History of Science (KBR) and the Dutch-Belgian Society for the History of Science Gewina. There were five presentations:

- Alix Badot (NC) en Pascal Majérus (NCHS), “Online bronnen voor de wetenschapsgeschiedenis in België - Sources en ligne pour l’histoire des sciences en Belgique”;
- Huib Zuidervaat en Ilja Nieuwland (Huygensinstituut), “Online resources for the History of Science from the Netherlands: the DWC (Dutch - History of Science - Web Centre) and the web-based ‘collaboratory’ of 17th century scholarly correspondences”;
- Robert-Jan Wille (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen), “Van microscopisten tot stationisten. De wortels van de lobby voor biologische onderzoeksstations in Nederland en Indië”;
- Myriam Mertens (Universiteit Gent), “Rationele therapie in een koloniale context: het medisch laboratorium van Leopoldstad en de ontwikkeling van een Belgische tropische geneeskunde”;
- Sofie Onghena (KU. Leuven), “De popularisering van laboratoriumwetenschap in België op het einde van de negentiende eeuw”.

On October 13th, two scientific papers were read:

- Sébastien Moureau (Nancy), “Accipe sanguinem hominis rufi. Le corps humain comme ingrédient alchimique”;
- Geert Vanpaemel (Leuven), “Laboratoriumcultuur in België. De oprichting van universitaire laboratoria op het einde van de negentiende eeuw”.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The National Committee was represented at the 4th European Society for History of Science conference in Barcelona (November 18th-20th, 2010) by its Secretary Geert Vanpaemel.

d. Other activities

(a) Bestor

BESTOR stands for Belgian Science and Technology Online Resources. It is the aim of the project to establish a wiki-website on Belgian scientists, in order to enhance the public image of the Belgian science with different target audiences (schools, journalists, citizens,...). Also the project aims to offer to researchers a much needed online tool to investigate the wider scientific community in Belgium, in particular for twentieth century science.

In the first stage of this project, which is scheduled to end in August 2011, the project focuses on biographical pages of members of the Science Class of the Royal Academies of Science, Letters and Arts. In many cases, related online resources (biographical notices, publications, images,...) are provided. Funding for the project is provided by BELSPO.

The project started in September 2009 with one scientific collaborator, Alix Badot, who has set up her office at the KVAB. The project is counseled by a steering group, with delegates from the National Committee (Geert Vanpaemel, Carmélia Opsomer), RASAB (repr. by Sofie Vanthournout), BELSPO (repr. by Bertha Depoorter), universities (Isabelle Rothier [UGent] and Didier Devriese [ULB]) and other scientific institutions (Brigitte Van Tiggelen [National Centre for the History of Science, KBR]). The direct supervision of the project is in the hands of Geert Vanpaemel.

During 2010, the team was enlarged by the appointment of Wendy Van Camp. Badot writes French pages on the nineteenth century members of the Academy; Van Camp is responsible for the Dutch pages, either translations from Badot's notices, or new biographical memoirs of (deceased) twentieth century members of the Academy and the KVAB. Also, collaboration was set up with the National Centre for the History of Science (KBR). Whereas Badot and Van Camp work on the biographical pages of Academy members, the National Centre creates pages on scientific societies. Badot coordinates the style and lay out of the pages.

The website of BESTOR can be accessed from <http://www.bestor.be>. Technical management and maintenance is carried out by the ICT Desk of the Faculty of Arts of the KUL, where the physical storage of BESTOR is located as well.

As of January 2011, BESTOR contains more than 300 pages, as well in French as in Dutch. More than half of these pages are biographical notices on scientists, with others relating to

scientific institutions, journals, societies, universities, prizes, etc. At the present rate of work, it is still very probable that the first phase of the project will be finished in time.

The pages in both languages do not overlap. The French pages concern mainly the nineteenth century, the Dutch pages the twentieth century. Also it has not been practical to maintain a strict equivalence between both language versions. In particular with minor changes, e.g. the introduction of new links or the addition of new information in older pages, it proved to be very time consuming to edit all the relevant pages in both versions.

(b) Young Researchers Days II.

The National Committee organized for the second time, in collaboration with the Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science, the Young Researchers Days on Logic, History and Philosophy of Science (Brussels, September 6th-7th, 2010). Funding was provided by the KVAB (Contactforum), the BSLPS and the Groupe de Contact FNRS "Histoire des Sciences". The aim of these YRD is to establish a closer contact between the different fields of Logic, History and Philosophy of Science, and to support young researchers in the early years of their career.

Thirty researchers have submitted papers. Four internationally renowned speakers were invited to give a lecture on the mutual relations between logic, history and philosophy of science and on the opportunities for developing common perspectives: Michael Detlefsen (Notre Dame, Indiana), Christoph Lüthy (Nijmegen), Carsten Reinhardt (Bielefeld), Eric Schliesser (Gent).

The first day was attended by more than 50 participants, the second day had over 30 participants. The papers will be published in the series Contactfora of the KVAB.

e. Future perspectives

(a) During 2011, the continuation of BESTOR will be one of the main goals of the National Committee. In particular the National Committee will submit a second phase project to BELSPO, and it will attempt to enlist more actors (universities, archives,...). Also the members of the National Committee will be invited to collaborate in the production of thematic pages on historical topics.

(b) The National Committee will organize, as always, two general meetings. Furthermore, it will participate in or support different activities, such as the International Year of Chemistry, or celebration of 100 year of Solvay Conferences (ULB).

(c) The National Committee will represent Belgium at the General Assembly of IUHPS/DLMPS (Nancy).

14. The National Committee for Mathematics

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee aims at stimulating and coordinating in Belgium research in mathematics, both in *pure mathematics* and *applied mathematics*, including *education in mathematics*. In fact the distinction in pure and applied mathematics is not always easy to make. In pure mathematics we think of algebra, geometry and analysis, but also these areas overlap and do not cover the whole domain. One can think of logic, combinatorics, topology, set theory, etc. Applied mathematics, consisting among others of numerical analysis, statistics, mathematics related to physics, is currently expanding and covers areas such as econometry and finance, informatics, bio-mathematics, etc.

One of the main goals of the committee is to form a bridge between the International Mathematical Union (IMU) and the Belgian scientists who work in the area of Mathematics. As such we choose the delegates that could represent Belgium at the General Assemblies of the IMU and propose their names to both Academies. Together with the Belgian Mathematical Society we take care of informing the Belgian mathematical community by means of the “Newsletter of the Belgian Mathematical Society and the National Committee for Mathematics”.

We aim at having 16 members, respecting linguistic parity, taking care of a good gender representation and having a well balanced participation of the different universities and important mathematical domains.

b. Meetings of the Committee

During 2010 the National Committee for Mathematics only had electronic meetings; on one hand we held a formal meeting at the end of 2009 and on the other hand, the normal decisions, to be made on demand of the IMU, have all been taken during the General Assembly of the IMU in Bangalore on August 16th-17th. The proposed meeting at the Academy on September 13th has been canceled due to the heavy schedule during that day (PHD-day, see below). The members of the Committee have regularly been informed, by e-mail, about initiatives of the IMU or about the proposals of the IMU for which the opinion of the NCM was requested. All members and honorary members of the NCM received the Electronic IMU-Newsletter and the IMU-Bulletin. They received all preparatory documents for the General Assembly, as well as the report of the IMU-GA.

Main decisions:

(a) Prof. dr. Hennie De Schepper (UGent) was elected as a new member, while Prof. dr. Joseph Thas has been nominated honorary member of the NCM. The NCM thanks J. Thas for the long and very active way in which he participated at the activities of the NCM, recalling that he was secretary of the NCM for nine years and that he was three times a representative of Belgium at the IMU-GA.

(b) As proposed by the Belgian Mathematical Society, the NCM decided to create, in cooperation with the BMS, a committee that could take care, in due time and in an efficient way, of the necessary actions to make nominations for prizes. The committee will consist of F. Bastin, S. Caenepeel, C. Finet and H. Van Maldeghem.

(c) It finally revealed to be impossible to find two more delegates to accompany F. Dumortier at the IMU-GA, taking place in Bangalore on August 16th-17th. The NCM decided to give total support with any position that the unique delegate would take in the votes; in any case Belgium kept its three votes.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The General Assembly of the IMU (International Mathematical Union) took place in Bangalore, India on August 16th-17th. The GA meets every four years, usually before an ICM (International Congress of Mathematicians) to review the past term and to decide on IMU's future policy and activities. The IMU-GA consists of the delegates appointed by the IMU adhering organizations, the members of the IMU Executive Committee and observers invited for purposes of consultation upon specific items on the GA agenda. Only delegates have the right to vote. About 160 persons participated in the meeting.

At the IMU-GA, Freddy Dumortier was elected chair of the Resolutions Committee.

Brief summary of the main decisions of the IMU-GA:

- Seoul has been chosen as the location of ICM 2014 and the congress will take place from August 13th-21st. Gyungju will be the location of the next meeting of the GA.
- The Weierstrass Institute in Berlin was elected as the host of the new permanent office of IMU, starting its operation in January 2011.
- The members of the IMU Executive Committee, the Committee for Developing Countries and the IMU members of the International Commission on the History of Mathematics for the term 2011-2014 were elected. Ingrid Daubechies was electedç the new President.
- Montenegro became a new IMU member, Cambodia, Moldovia, Nepal and Oman became new IMU Associate Members and the Southeast Asian Mathematical Society became a new IMU Affiliate Member.

- The terms of Reference for the new Commission for Developing Countries were approved.
- A number of changes in the statutes were approved.
- The document, prepared by the Committee on Electronic Information and Communication, “Best current Practices for Journals” was approved.
- The GA approved the 21 resolutions that were proposed by the Resolutions Committee.

d. Other activities

On September 13th, a PhD day has been organized at the Palace of Academies. It was a joint initiative of the NCM and the BMS (Belgian Mathematical Society). There were about 60 participants. The PhD day was organized as an occasion for young mathematicians to present their work, either in a talk or on a poster. The best posters were awarded. The day started with the Godeaux lecture, which was delivered by Gilles Godefroy (Paris). The organizing committee consisted of F. Bastin, A. Bultheel, S. Caenepeel, P. Cara, P. Godin, S. Vaes and H. Van Maldeghem.

The Newsletter appeared five times in 2010 and was distributed both electronically and in a paper version. F. Bastin is in charge of the Newsletter.

e. Future perspectives

We intend to discuss the possibility of organizing activities related to the ambitious program “Mathematics of Planet Earth” that will be organized in 2013 by the North American Mathematical Sciences Institutes.

15. The National Committee for Mechanics

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The Committee aims to promote the Mechanical Engineering through inter-university Students and Staff exchanges, organisation of a bi-annual National Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, organisation of a Doctoral School (GrasMech), development of relationships with European and International Mechanical Engineering Institutions or Initiatives (ECCOMAS, EURASEM, IUTAM, a.o.).

b. Meetings of the Committee

Dates: March 9th, 2010, October 21st, 2010.

Main conclusions: Final report of Congress 2009, Mr. Edwin Reynders (KUL) proposed as PhD candidate for ECCOMAS, continuous evolution of PhD GrasMech School.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

(a) EURASEM:

ICEM'14 has been held on July 4th-9th, 2010.

Prof. D. Van Hemelrijck (VUB): Permanent Secretary and delegate of the Belgian Committee.

Prof. J. Degrieck (UGent): Delegate of the Belgian Committee, chairman of Technical Committee 'High strain rate and impact testing'.

(b) ECCOMAS Conferences:

-4th European Conference on Computational Mechanics (Solids, Structures and Coupled Problems in Engineering), Paris, May 17th-21st.

P. Beckers (ULg) member of the International Program committee.

S. Cescotto (ULg) member of the International Advisory Board.

Program on http://www.eccm2010.org/Document/programme_ECCM_2010.pdf.

-5th European Conference on Computational Fluids Dynamics, Lisbon, June 14th-17th.

H. Deconinck (IVK) co-chairman.

Program on <http://www.eccomas-cfd2010.org>.

(c) IUTAM.

IUTAM General Assembly July 16th-19th (next one August 2012, Beijing): participation of Prof. E. Dick (UGent), Ph. Boulanger (ULB), D. Vandepitte (KUL).

Symposium Analysis and simulation of Human movement, KUL.

d. Other activities

(a) National Congress of NCTAM.

Goal: Research activities information exchange (PhD a.o).

Attendance: 105 papers.

Closing report on March 2009; next Congress to be organized at the Royal Military Academy in May 2012.

(b) GrasMech courses.

Goals: education PhD in:

- Introduction to Computational Fluid Dynamics. *Teachers* : E. Dick, B. Merci, J. Vierendeels (UGent). *Dates* : September 20th-24th, 2010.

- Numerical linear algebra. *Teacher* : Y. Notay (ULB). *Dates* : November 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th, December 6th, 2010.

Attendance: about 10 students /course

e. Future perspectives

- (a) IUTAM: Symposium Analysis and simulation of Human movement will be organized by the KUL in 2010.
- (b) ECCOMAS 2011: call for Phd candidates.
- (c) GrasMech courses 2011, at least:
 - Computer-aided analysis of rigid and flexible multibody systems, part II Feb-March 2011, Umons;
 - Mechanics of geomorphic liquid-granular flows, Summer 2011 UCL.

16. The National Committee for Microbiology

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The Committee for Microbiology represents Belgian scientists conducting research in the field of biological sciences in the work of the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS).

b. Meetings of the Committee

The meetings of the NCM were joint meetings with the board of the Belgian Society for Microbiology (BSM), of which some members are also member of NCM and all members of NCM are involved in the advisory board of BSM.

Meetings:

Joint meeting of the BSM and NCM took place on January 13th, 2011. at the SCK (H. Debroux avenue 40, Brussels)

Agenda and report:

- (a) Evaluation Symposium Molecular Dialogue. The symposium was organised by the BSM, NCM and the Belgian Society for Biochemistry. About 180 persons attended the symposium on November 18th-19th, 2010 at the Palace of Academies in Brussels. This initiative to organise a joint meeting was a great success. Interesting discussions occurred because of the high level international lectures.

- (b) Membership BSM. It will be organised via the renewed website.
- (c) BSM Website. Proposal for the content of the new website has been approved and the website is supposed to go live in May 2011.
- (d) Topic and date & program of the next symposium (2011). Title: Life and survival of microorganisms. Date & venue: November 16th in the Palace of Academies- Brussels.
- (e) FEMS related business.
- (d) AOB.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

Symposium on 'Interfacing Systems Biology and Synthetic Biology' together with the Academy on March 25th, 2010.

e. Future perspectives

Symposium on 'Molecular Dialogue' November 18th-19th, 2011.

17. The National Committee for Oceanology

No report for 2010.

18. The National Committee for Physics

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The Belgian National Committee on Pure and Applied Physics has been created by the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB). It contributes to the promotion and coordination of Belgian activities concerning Pure and Applied Physics. At the international level it ensures Belgium's representation in IUPAP, the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics. Its activities can be followed on the website <http://www.bncphys.be>.

b. Meetings of the Committee

Meetings were held on March 4th, June 3rd and November 11th. The main interest points of these meetings were:

(a) Reshaping of the composition of the Board, following the demise of Vice-President Prof. Em. F. Brouillard on January 13th, 2010. Prof. Em. P. Herquet was elected Vice-President and Prof. A. Noels as Secretary.

(b) Updating of the composition of the NCPAP. Two new members were nominated to and approved by RASAB. They are Prof. Pierre Defrance (UCL) and Prof. Michel Tytgat (ULB).

(c) Debriefing of the 2009 Colloquium and preparation of the Colloquium 2011.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The next general Assembly of IUPAP will take place from October 31st till November 4th, 2011 at the Institute of Physics in London (UK). The NCPAP will actively prepare in 2011 the submission of Belgian representatives in the various IUPAP commissions. Attendance of the GA by the chairman, Prof. Weynants, is scheduled.

d. Other activities

The NCPAP organizes on a bi-annual basis colloquia, aiming to highlight the state of the art in a specific domain of physics. The 2011 colloquium will be organized, with the help of RASAB, in the Palace of Academies on March 19th, 2011, and is entitled “Cosmology: The Science of the Universe”. It will feature the following speakers:

- Prof. Simon White (Max-Planck-Institut für Astrophysik, München): *Recreating the cosmos in a supercomputer: the evolution of galaxies and larger scale structures* ;
- Prof. Ariel Goobar (Univ. Stockholm): *Observational Cosmology and Supernovae* ;
- Prof. Paolo De Bernardis (Univ. Roma Sapienza): *Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation and the Big Bang* ;
- Prof. Joseph Silk (Univ. Oxford): *Particle cosmology, dark matter and dark energy*.

There will also be a Poster Session with contributions from the Belgian research groups working in Cosmology and Particle Astrophysics.

The programme has been selected by a Colloquium Steering Committee, chaired by Prof. Dr. Alexander Sevrin (VUB) and further composed of Profs. M. Henneaux (ULB), J.-M. Gerard (UCL), T. Theuns (Durham), A. Noels (ULg), P. Herquet (UMons) and R. Weynants (KMS). 150 participants are expected.

e. Future perspectives

An important preoccupation in 2011 will be the replacement of Dr. H. Raeymaekers as representative from the industry (Dutch speaking branch). An other significant item will be the preparation of the preparation of the IUPAP 2011 General Assembly.

19. The National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology represents the scientists who are active in this domain in the work of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) and the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)

b. Meetings of the Committee

Unspecified.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

(a) Report of Prof. Dr. T. Godfraind on the IUPHAR general assembly meeting in Copenhagen (Denmark) :

More than 3000 pharmacologists attended the 22 meetings and 30 workshops of the IUPHAR World Conference. Emphasis was laid on focused symposia. The next meeting in 2014 will take place in South Africa.

(b) Report of Prof. Dr. R. Lefebvre reports on the EPHAR Council that was held during the IUPHAR meeting :

He reports on the change of the board. The next EPHAR meeting in 2012 will take place in Granada (Spain). The candidature of Istanbul (Turkey) was accepted for organizing the meeting in 2016.

Prof. Dr. Johan Van de Voorde has been nominated as the official representative of our Society at the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS).

d. Future perspectives

(a) National meetings:

- March 18th-19th, 2011, Liège, 1st Benelux Congress on Physiology and Pharmacology.
- Autumn 2011, Antwerpen.
- Spring 2012, UHasselt.
- Autumn 2012 FUNDP, Namur.

(b) International meetings:

- First Benelux Congress on Physiology and Pharmacology.

March 18th-19th, 2011, Liège (Belgium).

www.physpharbenelux.org

- Joint Conference of European Human Pharmacological Societies and the 20th Anniversary of the Association for Applied Human Pharmacology (AGAH).

March 31st – April 1st, 2011 Berlin (Germany).

http://www.intercomkongresse.de/secure/conreg_agah2011/registration/default.asp?varSessionID=631683206446331

- 10th Congress of the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics “From Drug Research to Therapy for the Benefit of Patients”.

June 26th-29th, 2011, Budapest (Hungary).

www.eacpt2011.org

- 3rd International Brussels Pancreatic Islet Symposium, “Pancreatic islet research from fundamental to clinical aspects Organisation: K. Louchami (ULBruxelles) – e-mail: kloucham@ulb.ac.be / kloucham@hotmail.com

June 30th – July 3rd, 2011, Brussels (Belgium).

<http://www.ulb.ac.be/medcine/hormex>

- The Joint FEPS and Turkish Physiological Society Scientific congress 2011

September 3rd-7th, 2011, Istanbul (Turkey).

www.feps2011.org

- European Congress of Pharmacology (EPHAR)

July 17th-20th, 2012, Granada (Spain).

www.epharm2012.org

- IUPS – 37th Congress of the International Union of Physiological Sciences

July 21st-26th, 2013, Birmingham (U.K.).

www.iups2013.org

(c) Miscellaneous:

The organisation of the 1st Benelux Congress of Physiology and Pharmacology is now well advanced. Three meetings with the Dutch colleagues (in Oss, Brussels and Liège) have led to the final programme. The congress website (www.physpharbenelux.org) will be on-line very soon. The Assembly wonders about the rather low registration costs and asks if this can cover all congress costs. Sponsoring will be asked to the Belgian Governmental Agencies, such as “Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen (FWO)”, “Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS)”, “Royal Academy of Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB)”. Financial support from the industry is very welcome and herewith we call our members to search for these sources. It is decided that the yearly working budget of RASAB can be used to cover some costs. Therefore, the assembly approved the request of transferring the residual amount of the 2010 budget to the 2011 budget.

One member mentions that the poster sessions of our meetings are not very satisfactory. Everyone agrees with this. It is suggested to organize a “guided poster tour”. Depending on the number of posters, four or more senior Society members will make a guided poster session, actively involving the poster presenters. With such an organisation, the bullet session can be cancelled, which would save time for the poster session. It is decided that this will be implemented at the next national meeting (Autumn 2011).

20. The National Committee for Psychological Sciences

a. Presentation, mission, goals

The National Committee for Psychological Sciences represents the Belgian scientists who are active in this domain in the work of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS).

b. Meetings of the Committee

The Committee held two meetings in 2010: The first took place on April 17th; the second on December 4th.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010. The Scientific Union will meet in 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa.

d. Other activities

The Committee organizes bi-annual symposia. The last symposium was organized by Committee members Prof. Bernard Rimé and Prof. Dirk Hermans on October 23rd, 2009, and was entitled “Changing Emotions”. The event attracted an exceptional 130 participants with a substantial number of international delegates. Additionally, the Committee also assists, every year, the Belgian Association for Psychological Science in selecting the recipient of its “Best Thesis Award”.

e. Future perspectives

The next symposium will be organized in 2011 by Committee member Prof. Frank Van Overwalle and will be entitled “The Social Brain”. The Committee is additionally considering launching further initiatives to establish closer links between faculties of Psychology and

Educational Sciences in Belgium. Finally, it continues to collaborate with the International Union for Psychological Science.

21. The National Committee for Radio-Electricity

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The National Committee for Radio-Electricity represents the belgian scientists who are active in the domain of the radio-electricity in the work of the International Union of Radio Science (URSI).

b. Meetings of the Committee

The Belgian URSI Committee has met three times in the facility of the Academy: on February 2nd, May 25th, and October 14th.

(a) February 2nd, 2010.

Dr. Lauwens (RMA) gave a lecture entitled “Stochastic Hybrid Simulation with Applications to Telecommunication Networks”. After his presentation the administrative part of the meeting went on with communications by the Board about a document recently edited by the RASAB and giving the composition of the national scientific committees. A voting session took place to elect two new associate members (C. Marque from ORB and D. Pissoort from UGent). Administrative tasks were also done in order to organize the 4th edition of the Benelux URSI forum.

(b) May 25th, 2010.

As new associate member, Dr. Marque gave a lecture entitled “Monitoring of the solar activity with radioastronomy techniques”. After his presentation, a debriefing has been given by Prof. Stijns about the URSI forum. It was also decided to propose Prof. Ingrid Daubechies, issued from VUB and currently professor at the Princeton University for the Booker Gold Medal 2011 for her outstanding contributions in mathematics and signal processing techniques. The President transmitted also to each university represented in the Committee the call related to the Young Scientist Program.

(c) October 14th, 2010.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Neyt (RMA) who gave a lecture entitled “Bistatic and opportunistic radars”. After his presentation the Board made a few communications. President Schweicher let us know that he would represent the Committee at the annual

meeting of the National Committees on October 27th, 2010. Dr Lauwens (RMA) was elected as a new associate member. The annual report 2010 and the budget for 2012 were finalized and presented to the Board by the Secretary, M. Piette.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

Benelux URSI Forum.

This year the Committee has organized the fourth Benelux URSI Forum at the Palace of Academies on May 18th, 2010. Fifty one people have registered for the Forum. Six lectures have been given in the “Espace Roi Baudoin” : 3 lectures from NL (by Maaskant, Oude Alink, Verhoeven) and 3 lectures from BE (by Pissoort, Schweicher, Thienpont). Thirty four posters were presented in the Atrium hall, with a significant contribution from ULg. The proceedings were diligently published by the Academies which paid also for the catering and travel costs of the speakers from abroad. It can be said that this fourth edition has been a success, thanks to the high quality of the contributions and the organisational qualities and dedication of Prof. Stijns, assistant secretary for URSI/BE Committee.

22. The National Committee for SCOPE-IGBP

a. Presentation, mission, goals

The Committee represents Belgium in SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) and IGBP (International Geosphere/Biosphere Program) of ICSU. It stimulates the participation of Belgian scientists in these programs. It also initiates activities (workshops, conferences, preparation of research plans,..) in Belgium in the domains covered by these two international programs.

b. Meetings of the Committee

Unspecified.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

No Assembly of the Scientific Union in 2010.

d. Other activities

- (a) Participation to meetings of BEES (Belgian Ecosystem Services), a BELSPO program resulting from workshops organized by the committee in previous years;
- (b) Initiation of the preparation of a scientific meeting on the management of the Soignes/Zoniën Forest in cooperation with the forestry services of the 3 regions;
- (c) On a request from the RDC (Congo/ Kinshasa) National Committee for IGBP, it was agreed that the Committee would pay the membership fee of the RDC to IGBP for the year 2011.

e. Future perspectives

- (a) Follow-up of BEES
- (b) Workshop on Soignes/Zonien forest management.

23. The National Committee for Soil Sciences

a. Introduction, mission, goals

1950: foundation of the Belgische Bodemkundige Vereniging - Société Belge de Pédologie. This later becomes the Soil Science Society of Belgium – SSSB, which is a member of the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS). As of the year 2002 the SSSB is introduced to RASAB and the National Committee for Soil Science (NCSS) is formed and accepted by RASAB. Consequently, the SSSB is required to evolve so as to integrate SSSB & NCSS boards, according to RASAB rules.

b. Meetings of the Committee

(a) Meeting of the National Committee of Soil Science, February 23rd, 2010.

The Royal Academies of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Ockeghem room, Brussels.

Present: Georges Hofman, Patrick Engels, Georges Stoops, Rudi Dudal, Bas van Wesemael, Martin Geypens, Gilles Colinet, Jean Poesen, Roger Langohr, Eric Van Ranst, Jean Chapelle, Seppe Deckers, Sofie Bruneel.

1. Review report of previous Board meeting (December 2nd, 2009).

The report was found to be well-written and comprehensive. There was a small discussion on how to report on those board members or honorary SSSB Presidents – excused or absent. It was decided to report on those who are actually present. All the others are by default excused. The report was adopted unanimously.

2. Review of the Board/ Committee of Soil Science.

As Eric Van Ranst will be leaving as President of SSSB, there is room for a Flemish professor to take his place. It was proposed to attract somebody from the high schools so as to strengthen the link between SSSB and the high schools. Eric Van Ranst proposes Geert Baert of the Faculty of Biosciences and Landscape Architecture, University College Ghent. This is unanimous accepted. Eric will request Geert to join the Board/Committee.

3. Annual excursion 2010 to Italy postponed.

Upon request of Prof. Dazzi and Prof. Ermanno Zanini, University of Torino, Italy, the annual excursion to the Alps and the Pô area in Northern Italy is postponed to September 2011.

Seppe will travel to Torino in September 2010 so as to make the necessary preparations.

As alternative it is suggested to do part of the excursion which was organized for the German Soil Science Society in September 2009. Patrick Engels accepts to spearhead this initiative and proposes to visit in the Condroz (Laurent Bock, Jean Chapelle and Vincent Hallet) and the quarry of Transinne (Johan Jans, Roger Langohr). As there is very much to see in the quarry of Transinne, at least three hours should be scheduled in the program. This 1-day excursion will take place on Tuesday September 7th, 2010.

4. Status of SSSB members and financial situation.

The good news is that the number of members is increasing – at present 167 paying members are registered. The less good news is that we did not sufficiently remind the members to pay their dues in 2009. Hence we have a rather poor financial situation at present. The treasurer and Sofie Bruneel will make a special effort of encouraging registered members to pay as soon as possible. Upon suggestion of Roger Langohr, as of now the following clausal will be added to outgoing Pedologie Info messages so as to ensure receiving members that they get value for paying their membership.

You'll receive this mail as:

- paying member of the Soil Science Society of Belgium,
- or as an unwaged student in Soil Science.

For more information on the Society, its activities or to become member, please consult our Website: <http://www.bbv-sbss.ugent.be>

5. Activity calendar of SSSB for 2010 and 2011.

- Annual excursion 2010: Tuesday September 7th, 2010, organization: Patrick Engels, Jean Chapelle, Johan Jans.

- Thematic Day 2010: Wednesday December 1st, 2010, organization: Roel Merckx on Soils research in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. This will be seen as an important activity to mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of Congo. Eric Van Ranst will co-organize.
- On 24/11/2010 Laurent Bock, Region of Wallonia and Patrick Engels are organizing a day in Gembloux on the theme “Digital Soil Mapping in Wallonia”. He is inviting participation from SSSB members whom are all invited.
- The 2011 Young Scientists Day of SSSB: Wednesday 23/02/2011.
- International excursion 2011: Tuesday September 6th till Saturday September 11th – pending confirmation Prof. Dazzi, University of Torino.
- Thematic Day 2011: Wednesday 7/12/2011; organization Bas Van Wesemael on “Evaluation of Soil Resources”.

6. SSSB website.

The SSSB website is functioning very well since its establishment at the Department of Geology and Soil Science. Numerous new members have already been attracted thanks to the web-based inscription form.

Eric Van Ranst is now exploring the possibility of scanning the comprehensive Pedologie Journal for putting it as a literature resource for the wider public on the SSSB website. This is really a laudable initiative and it seems that it could have been done for a reasonable price (less than € 1000).

7. Miscellaneous.

Future excursions: Jean Poesen is proposing:

- On June 18th, 2010 the Belgian Association of Geomorphologists (BAG) will organize an excursion in Namur under the guidance of Prof. Henri Halet. Members of SSSB are warmly welcome to join.
- For a future excursion in Flanders: South Limburg: landslides, mega-dolines in chalk...
- International excursion: Almeria in Southern Spain.

It is noted that EGU meetings are very active in organizing multidisciplinary congresses where Soil Sciences have a venue. This is seen as an unwanted competition with regular IUSS meetings we should not forget that the IGU meetings have the advantage of being organized annually. Furthermore the multidisciplinaryity is another major bonus.

Belgian representation at the IUSS meeting at Brisbane: Seppe Deckers will represent the SSSB at the IUSS council meeting in Brisbane. Eric Van Ranst will also participate. Jean Chapelle is not yet sure of his participation. It is argued that his presence is important in view of his chairmanship of the Committee on Statutes of IUSS.

(b) Meeting of the National Committee of Soil Science, Wednesday December 1st, 2010.

Royal Academies of Science and the Arts, Stevin room, Brussels.

Present: Eric Van Ranst, Jean Chapelle, Seppe Deckers, Sofie Bruneel, Patrick Engels, Michel Penninckx, Stefan Deneve, Bas van Wesemael, Esther Goidts, Karl Stahr, Jean Poesen, Gilles Colinet, Pascal Boeckx, Maarten Geypens, Georges Stoops, Roger Langohr, Joseph Dufey, Roel Merckx, Martine Swerts.

Excused: all the other board members.

The President first welcomes Prof. Karl Stahr from Stuttgart University, who has come for the occasion of handing over the Guy Smith Medal to Prof. Rudi Dudal. He is invited to join the National Committee for Soil Science meeting which is organized during the work lunch.

1. Adjustment of the Agenda.

2. Report of the Board meeting of February 23rd, 2010.

The report is approved with the following minor corrections:

- Annual excursion 2010: Tuesday September 7th, 2010, organization: Patrick Engels, Jean Chapelle, Johan Yans, Antoine Bouhon.
- On November 24th, 2010, Laurent Bock, Walloon Region (PCNSW) and Patrick Engels are organizing a day in Gembloux on the theme “Digital Soil Mapping in Wallonia”. He is inviting SSSB members to participate.
- It is noted that EGU is very active in organizing multidisciplinary congresses where Soil Science has a venue. This may be seen by some as an unwanted competition with regular IUSS meetings, however, we should not forget that the IGU meetings have the advantage of being organized annually. Furthermore the multi-disciplinarity is another major bonus.
- Item 5: Thematic day: the Section of Natural and Medical Sciences of the Royal Academy of Overseas Sciences has been invited to co-organize, but other activities were already scheduled. The members have been invited by E-mail.

3. News from the SSSB website: <http://www.bbv-sbss.ugent.be/index.php>.

The meeting gives its highest appreciation to Eric Van Ranst and Kurt Blom, for punctually following-up on the SSSB website. It was noted that the website is very regularly consulted. It is used for e-registration for our regular meetings. Last but not least, the web-application for attracting new members has proved its effectiveness with an extra 10 members joining the society over the last year through the web. However improved, more info could be provided: it is asked of members to contribute more actively. To stimulate this a ‘Members’ area’ could be created.

4. Feedback from the annual excursion in Wallonia, September 2010.

This excursion, which took place as a replacement for the cancelled Torino excursion, was a great success with a total of 35 participants! Thanks to a subsidy from the SSSB for the bus, the prize of the excursion was kept low with a result that numerous young soil scientists have been able to participate.

5. Digitalization of the Pedologie journal.

Eric Van Ranst points out that all volumes of Pedologie (over 70 000 pages) plus 4 monographs (R. Maréchal, J. Deckers, R. Steffens, and L. de Leenheer & M. Van Ruymbeke) have been scanned and will be made available on the SSSB-website. This is an incredibly valuable asset, which will prove a major literature resource on soil resources also of interest for developing countries. VLIR will be approached to provide a small sum for multiplying the CD-ROMS for the purpose of sending them to university libraries of countries of the South. Project leaders of agricultural projects devoted to Southern countries are requested as well to allow small parts of their budget to multiply and distribute CDROMs to the project stakeholders. Similar tasks have been undertaken by Eric Roose (Montpellier); Jean Poesen will contact him to learn how a “search by subject” could be applied to the digitalized Pedology.

At present all IUSS congress reports are displayed on IUSS website.

6. Plans for 2011.

a. Day of young soil scientists, 23/02/2011

As the incoming SSSB President (B. van Wesemael) will be in Ethiopia attending the IAG conference, Eric Van Ranst and Seppe Deckers will follow-up on this initiative.

b. Preparations for the international SSSB excursion to Torino, Italy, September 2011.

Seppe Deckers went to Torino to prepare the excursion. The real cost of this excursion is estimated as follows:

Ryan Air ticket to Torino: 100/- EUR per person

Hotel: 4 nights x 40/- EUR per night = 160 EUR

4 days bus + driver at 450/- EUR per day X 4 days = 1800/- EUR divided by an estimated 30 participants = 60/- EUR per person

Farewell dinner: 50/- EUR per person

Lunches: 10/- EUR per person per day x 4 days = 40/- EUR

TOTAL: 410/- EUR.

As we may have less participants, the total is raised to 450/- EUR per person, just to cover the risk. Of course, if we provide a little subsidy as usual for the bus, the price would go down to less than 400/- EUR per person.

For that price we are getting:

- 3.5 days looking at soils and land use change in a magnificent landscape of the Upper Apennines and a periglacial outwash plain between Torino and Ormea.
- At least 4 soil (relatively shallow) profiles in the higher reaches of the Apennines – in view of the rugged landscapes with very steep slopes and strong geomorphic activity, the range of these profiles is limited to Leptosols and Cambisols.
- At least two big soil profiles in the inter-montane lowland between the Alps and the Apennines, where we can see periglacial features such as albeluvic tonguing, megamanganese and iron accumulations horizons etc...
- Half a day touristic visit to Torino town.
- Lots of fun with the Italian colleagues with good catering plus a nice farewell dinner at the end.

Some Board members have doubts whether this excursion can go ahead in view of the preparations which are not yet sufficiently advanced at Torino. On the other hand it would be a tremendous embarrassment for the Italian colleagues if we blow off this excursion, at this stage. It is suggested to launch an inquiry among the SSSB members to find out how many people would like to join us. Then depending on the number of enthusiastic reactions, a decision will be made.

In case Torino excursion is cancelled for lack of sufficient participants, two possible alternatives could be pursued:

- (1) A two-day excursion to Luxembourg
- (2) An excursion to Berlin linked to the annual meeting of the German Soil Science Society, as proposed by Karl Stahr; Bas van Wezemael adds that an additional visit (out of GSSS organisation) could be organized from Berlin 100 km southbound to lignite cuts.

c. Thematic day - Wednesday 7/12/2011; organization Bas van Wesemael on “Evaluation of Soil Resources”. Bas van Wesemael will send an abstract with the scope of this day. We may have to make the title a bit more specific in order to attract more participants.

7. Composition of the SSSB-Board and of the National Committee of Soil Science.

The composition of the Board and its management were cross-checked in view of some doubts. It appears that the total number could be 17 instead of the maximum allowable number of 16 according to the Academy rule. Jean Chapelle will sort this out as soon as possible.

Eric Van Ranst will be the out-going President as of February 2011, and Bas van Wesemael will step in as the new President. Geert Baert will join the Board as of February 2011. A new (preferably female, and necessarily from the Flemish community) new Vice-President should be identified as soon as possible.

A headcount was conducted and it seems that NOBODY present in the room was considering to take this responsibility. This was really most regrettable and a rather embarrassing situation in the presence of the Chair of Division 5 of the IUSS!

8. IUSS Guy Smith Prize for Soil Classification 2010.

Karl Stahr explains how the prize was unanimously attributed to Rudi Dudal. The Prize could not be handed over because of the present illness of Rudi Dudal. It is hoped that Rudi's health condition will improve so the ceremony can take place at the occasion of the Young Soil Scientists Day on February 23rd, 2011.

9. Eurosoil 2012.

The European Confederation of Soil Science Societies (ECSSS) is organizing its 4th International Congress Eurosoil 2012 from July 2nd-6th, 2012, at Fiera del Levante, Bari, Italy. A call for symposia is open. Any research group is free to take the lead in organizing a scientific symposium.

10. Miscellaneous.

a. Congress announcements

- Soil Science in a changing World: Wageningen, Nederland, September 18th-22nd, 2011.

- Water 2011: Mekelle, Ethiopia, September 19th-23rd, 2011:

<http://ees.kuleuven.be/water2011/index.html>.

- IAG: Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, February 2011.

The WRB project presently and jointly running in Flanders, Wallonia & GD Luxembourg will launch a Soil Profile Base, to collect and harmonize any information on soil profiles under common & similar system. Information will first be gathered from existing reference profiles, but new are welcome (thesis, research, etc.); however a scientific committee is needed to validate the new profiles before entering the dBase. The NCSS is asked to validate those as higher Belgian soil scientific corp.

A brief overview of the present SSSB finance status is given: about € 5500 are presently on the accounts, and some € 1500 will come soon from RASAB and about another € 1500 is expected from 2011 membership. The membership is presently 176, which represents a growth of 10 members. The total potential amount of $5500 + 1500 + 1500 = € 8500$ must be considered as a maximum 5 years budget (most memberships are paid for 5 years); such a figure allows an average annual budget of about € 1000 (low prevision) to € 1500 (high prevision).

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

Feedback from the IUSS Congress at Brisbane in August 2010.

· Prof. Karl Stahr provided feedback on his meetings in Division 1: Soil in Space and Time. When asked about his opinion on the newly established Working Group on a Universal Soil Classification system, he expressed concern. This move was instigated by a sudden shift of Luca Montanarella during a meeting in February 2009. The whole thing is being stirred up by some frustrated Americans who feel that USDA Soil Taxonomy is not sufficiently heard in the rather successful Working Group WRB. Erika Michelli is playing a rather double role in this evolution.

The IUSS has approved the establishment of this working group, presently lead by John Galbraith of USDA, Nebraska. A first meeting will be staged some time in June 2012 and WRB board members including Peter Schad (present chair) of WRB and Seppe Deckers (past WRB chair) will be invited. It is asked that Karl Stahr as new head of Division 1 and Erika Micheli pay special attention to the evolution of that issue. He also provides info about various activities and meetings to be held in the near future: micro-morphology course in Tübingen (03-04/2011) with Georges Stoops, INQWA meeting in Switzerland with excursions (one excursion from Berlin to Bern), commission on Paleopedology together with WRB working group in Stuttgart, paleopedology and micromorphology in Lleida (07/2012), EUROSIL in Bari (07/2012), IUSS Division 1 meeting in Ulm, 09/2013, to which everybody is invited. Prof. Karl Stahr wants to strengthen the information and the cooperation within and outside Division 1. He is willing to work for the next generation.

· Eric Van Ranst and Seppe Deckers give their impressions on the Brisbane IUSS congress.

Reference is made to the Congress Website:

<http://www.19wcsc.org.au/congress-program.php>.

Some of the salient features of the congress are summarized below:

- o With some 1900 participants it was well-attended.
- o Very interesting programme with 6 parallel sessions covering most disciplines of modern soil science. The themes of the congress were organized along the 4 Divisions of the IUSS:

- § Soil in Space and Time;

- § Soil Properties and Processes;

- § Soil Use and Management;

- § The Role of Soils in Sustaining Society and the Environment.

- o The congress was unique by the fact that interdisciplinarity was at the forefront every day with every congress day beginning with a 1.5 hour plenary session with keynote speakers giving their vision on cross-cutting themes in soil science such as:

- § Dr. Robert Zeigler on Rice and food security;
- § Dr. Will Steffen on Climate change – global environment impacts;
- § Dr. Andrew Ash: The impact of climate change on Australian soils and agriculture soils;
- § Dr. Bruce James: Cycling civilizations: ecosystem challenge and creative human; response in soil and water management by the Anasazi of Southwestern North America
- § Dr. Neil McKenzie: Soil and land management changes in Australia;
- § Dr. Collin Charters: Improved water and soil management, the key to future food security;
- § Dr. Luc Maene: Adapting to new driving forces and agricultural production practices: challenges to the fertilizer industry;
- § Dr. Johan Bouma: The challenge for soil research to establish creative interaction with stakeholders and policy makers.
- o Due attention was paid by the congress to the new world soil mapping initiative: the GlobalSoilMap.net project – with digital soil mapping becoming a core-business. Numerical soil classification seems to be in the forefront of these maps. Lots of research is still required to link more conventional soil classification systems and numerical soil classification systems used for these maps.
- o Soil classification was in the picture with three symposia:
 - § The World Reference Base for Soil Resources (WRB) evolution;
 - § Soil classification and information demand;
 - § Soil classification – benefits and constraints to pedology.
- o Whereas in previous congresses ‘doom and gloom’ were felt about the future of soil science discipline, in this congress optimism prevailed all over. It seems that soil scientists have rediscovered their mission for the future by engaging in world problems which can only be solved in a holistic multidisciplinary approach such as:
 - § Global change and carbon cycles in land systems;
 - § World food security;
 - § Soils in archaeological context;
 - § Soils as a patrimonial of cultural heritage;
 - § Soils as an un-tapped genetic resource.
- o The excursions were very well organized and well attended; this is due to the reasonable prices.
- o The Congress fees were expensive, but everything, including catering was included.
- o A deception is that the African continent was absent as such from the Congress.
- Report from the IUSS Board meetings:
 - o Report of the Secretary General (SG). Together with the President, the SG has worked hard to become effective and valued members of the International Council of Sciences.

They attended two ICSU Union Meetings and one General Assembly. In addition, they have forged a strong alliance with the GeoUnions group and now make submissions and responses as a group rather than as individuals. This has greatly enhanced their influence within the organization. At the request of the Council, the executive Committee was asked to revise the Statutes and Bye-Laws in order to create a presidency that was not connected to running the World Congress. The President will be recognized as a world leading scientist in the field. Another key-issue was the selection of the new Secretary-General and his/her deputy. The President and the SG have been very much involved in organizing the 19th WCSS.

- o Report of the Deputy Secretary General: Dr. Harteminck has been very active in compiling digital information and making it available via the IUSS website and through the IUSS-Alert newsletter. He was commended for a marvellous job done.

- o Report of the Treasurer – vide infra? under next ballpoint.

- o Report of the Chair of Budget and Finance: The union is not in a good financial position and the easiest way to address this is by increasing subscription. To this end, the category of each country was revised and the true number of national unions were ascertained.

- o Report of the Chair of Prizes and Awards:

- § The Guy Smith prize for soil classification is awarded to Prof. Rudi Dudal, KUL, Belgium (vide supra);

- § The IUSS Dokuchaev award is going to Dan H. Yaalon, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel;

- § The IUSS-Liebig Award: to Don L. Sparks, University of Delaware, USA;

- § The Richard Webster Medal: to J. De Gruijter, Wageningen University, The Netherlands.

- o Report of the Chair of Statutes and Structures. We spent an enormous time discussing the new statutes of the IUSS, including all the by-laws which determine all prescribe details for a well-functioning scientific union. The new chair is Dr. Donald Sparks (USA), Jean Chapelle (Belgium) is considered as a very important member of this committee. A copy of the finalized statutes of IUSS and the IUSS bye-laws are available upon request and are on the IUSS website. The new statutes are not totally free from minor errors and some points still remain unclear. Jean Chapelle will write comments about those issues to the IUSS SG and to Donald Sparks. According to IUSS demands, the statutes are accepted by the SSSB board and the hereover provided comments are sent to the IUSS.

- o Brief presentations by Switzerland, China and UK as potential hosts for the 22nd WCSS in 2022. This will be shortlisted during the forthcoming mid-term congress meeting of the Council in 2012. It should be Africa's turn to organize WCSS, but no country is willing to volunteer. It should then be a European country's turn (Switzerland).

o Report from the President on the Task Force on electing the new Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General of the IUSS from 2011 onwards. The outcome is that Dr. Alfred Hartemink (The Netherlands) will serve as SG and Prof. Alex McBratney (Australia) will act as his Deputy.

d. Other activities

- Day of the SSSB Young Soil Scientists at the Royal Academies of Belgium, February 23rd, 2010: some 50 participants attended this meeting.

e. Future perspectives

- 2 – 3 National Committee meetings.
- Many contacts & common activities with Dutch & French SSS.
- The SSSB is member/founder of European Federation of Soil Science Societies hence preparation of the forthcoming Eurosoil 2012 meeting which will be held at Bari, Italy. We are now taking initiatives to launch symposia.
- 1 international excursion to the upper Apennines in Northern Italy, hosted by the Italian Soil Science Society and the University of Torino.

24. The National Committee for Space Research

a. Introduction, mission, goals

The main task of the committee is to organize the Belgian participation in COSPAR, which has held its 38th Scientific Assembly in Bremen on July 17th-25th, 2010.

b. Meetings of the Committee

Because most active members of the committee frequently meet during the numerous meetings which bring together space scientists in Belgium, among them the meetings of the national committees for astronomy and for geodesy, it has not been felt necessary to organise formal meetings of the committee.

c. General Assembly of the Scientific Union

The COSPAR Council meetings were organized on July 17th-25th. Prof. G.-F. Bignami (I) was appointed as the new COSPAR President. The 39th Scientific Assembly in Mysore, India, was confirmed; the dates were fixed at July 16th-22nd, 2012. For the subsequent Scientific

Assembly in 2014 Moscow, Russia, was selected. During the next two years, much emphasis is again being put on so-called 'Capacity Building', i.e. disseminating the expertise built up towards emerging countries as well as on improving the impact of the various publications issued by COSPAR.



d. Other activities

At the Bremen Scientific Assembly dr. Valentina Shevtsova (ULB) acted as Chair of the Scientific Commission G on 'Material Sciences in Space', dr. Daniel Heynderickx as Vice-Chair of the Panel on 'Space Weather' for the period 2008-2012. Dr. Christoffel Waelkens (KUL) was appointed as Vive-Chair of Sub-Commission E1 'Galactic and Extragalactic Astrophysics' for the period 2010-2014. At Bremen, the latter organized Event E14, an IR session with focus on the Herschel and Planck missions was launched in 2009.

e. Future perspectives


During 2011, when no Scientific Assembly is planned, the Committee will meet to finalise its restructuration.

APPENDIXES

RASAB

The Royal Academies
for Science and the Arts of Belgium



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Welkom op de website van RASAB


De vzw "The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium" werd in 2001 opgericht door de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten (KVAB) en de Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique (ARB). De vereniging is gevestigd in het Troongebouw van het Paleis der Academiën in Brussel.

De Koninklijke Academiën werden opgericht in de 18de eeuw door Keizerin Maria-Theresia, ter bevordering van de wetenschap en kunst in België. Om hieraan tegemoet te komen organiseren de Academiën wetenschappelijke en culturele activiteiten, trachten ze de interuniversitaire samenwerking in België te stimuleren, zorgen ze voor vertegenwoordiging in internationale organisaties en fora, trekken ze buitenlandse vorsers aan, formuleren ze adviezen aan de regering, industrie, onderwijs- en onderzoeksinstellingen en reiken ze prijzen uit aan talentvolle vorsers en kunstenaars.


Voor al deze initiatieven rekenen de Academiën op hun leden, eminente vertegenwoordigers uit de wetenschappelijke, industriële en culturele wereld.

RASAB is verantwoordelijk voor de coördinatie van de activiteiten op nationaal en internationaal niveau van de twee Academiën, zoals de nationale wetenschappelijke comités en de vertegenwoordiging van België in de federaties van academiën zoals IAP, EASAC en ALLEA.


Laatste Nieuws




De derde Atlas van België, gemaakt door het Nationaal Comité voor Geografie en het Federaal Wetenschapsbeleid, is verschenen.
22/05/11
[Lees meer... >>](#)




Prof Rudi Dudal, erelid van het Nationaal Comité voor Bodemkunde, heeft de Guy Smith Award ontvangen
29/03/11
[Lees meer... >>](#)





De Klassen van Wetenschappen van de KVAB en de ARB hebben nieuwe benoemingen binnen de Nationale wetenschappelijke comités goedgekeurd.
21/03/11
[Lees meer... >>](#)





Belqua Workshop 2011 : programma
15/03/11
[Lees meer... >>](#)



Internationaal Jaar van Scheikunde 2011: Belgische activiteiten
21/02/11
[Lees meer... >>](#)





Visitez le Site internet de l'Académie royale de Belgique

Bezoek de Website van de Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België

LAATSTE NIEUWS	KOMENDE ACTIVITEITEN	MEEST GELEZEN ARTIKELN
<p>Artikel Atlas van België</p> <p>Rudi Dudal - Guy Smith Award</p> <p>Nationale Comit�s: Benoemingen van februari 2010</p> <p>BELQUA workshop 2011</p> <p>Intenationaal Jaar van de Chemie</p>	<p>Vergadering van het Nationaal Comit� voor Biomedical Engineering</p> <p>Vergadering van het Nationaal Comit� voor Psychologische Wetenschappen</p>	<p>Voorstelling van RASAB</p> <p>De Nationale Comit�s</p> <p>ALLEA</p> <p>Algemene vergadering</p> <p>Nationale Raad van de Wetenschappelijke Unies</p>


[RSS](#)

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De Nationale Comit  s

De opdracht van de Nationale Comit  s is de bevordering en co  rdinatie voor Belgi   van de studie van verschillende wetenschappelijke disciplines die binnen hun bevoegdheid liggen, hoofdzakelijk vanuit een internationaal standpunt.

De voorwaarde voor de oprichting van een Nationaal Comit   is het bestaan van een internationale wetenschappelijke unie aangesloten bij I.C.S.U. of van een wetenschappelijk orgaan van I.C.S.U. (Wetenschappelijke Comit  s, Speciale Comit  s ...) in dezelfde wetenschappelijke discipline.

RASAB is verantwoordelijk voor de financi  le en logistieke ondersteuning van de Nationale Comit  s, zowel bij de dagelijkse werking, als bij de organisatie van wetenschappelijke evenementen door de Nationale Comit  s in het Paleis der Academi  n.

De Nationale Wetenschappelijke Comit  s :

1	Antarctisch Onderzoek	http://www.naturalsciences.be/amphi/cnbra.htm
2	BELQUA	
3	Biochemie en Molaculaire Biologie	
4	Biofysica	
5	Biologische Wetenschappen	
6	Biomedical Engineering	
7	Bodemkunde	
8	CODATA	
9	Fysiologie & Farmacologie	
10	Geodesie & Geofysica	http://bncgg.oma.be/
11	Geografie	
12	Geologische Wetenschappen	http://www2.ulg.ac.be/geolsed/GB/com_nat.htm
13	Kristallografie	
14	Logica, Geschiedenis en Filosofie der Wetenschappen	
15	Mechanica, theoretische en toegepaste	http://www.grasmec.frs-fnrs.be/
16	Microbiologie	
17	Natuurkunde, zuivere en toegepaste	
18	Oceanologie	
19	Psychologische Wetenschappen	
20	Radio-Electriciteit	http://www.ursi.be/
21	Ruimteonderzoek	
22	Scheikunde, zuivere en toegepaste	
23	SCOPE-IGBP	
24	Sterrenkunde	http://www.bnca.be/
25	Wiskunde	

DE NATIONALE COMITES

- Antarctisch Onderzoek
- BELQUA
- Biofysica
- Biochemie & Molaculaire Biologie
- Biologische Wetenschappen
- Biomedical Engineering
- Bodemkunde
- CODATA
- Fysiologie & Farmacologie
- Geodesie & Geofysica
- Geografie
- Geologische Wetenschappen
- Kristallografie
- Logica, geschiedenis en filosofie der wetenschappen
- Mechanica, theoretische en toegepaste
- Microbiologie
- Natuurkunde, zuivere en toegepaste
- Oceanologie
- Psychologische Wetenschappen
- Radio-Electriciteit
- Ruimteonderzoek
- Scheikunde, zuivere en toegepaste
- SCOPE-IGBP
- Sterrenkunde
- Wiskunde

LAATSTE NIEUWS

- Artikel Atlas van Belgi  
- Rudi Duda - Guy Smith Award
- Nationale Comit  s: Benoemingen van februari 2010
- BELQUA workshop 2011
- Internationaal Jaar van de Chemie

KOMENDE ACTIVITEITEN

- Vergadering van het Nationaal Comit   voor Biomedical Engineering
- Vergadering van het Nationaal Comit   voor Psychologische Wetenschappen

MEEST GELEZEN ARTIKELN

- Voorstelling van RASAB
- De Nationale Comit  s
- ALLEA
- Algemene vergadering
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Appendix 2

Reports of the international conferences :

InterAcademy Panel on Taking Inquiry-Based Science Education into secondary Education. University of York, U.K., National Science Learning Centre, October 27 – 29 (noon) and The ALLEA Working Group on Science Education Same place, on Friday Oct. 29, 14.00 – 19.00 h.

Following an invitation by Dr Jorge Allende, of the Chilean Academy of Sciences, RASAB was invited to send a representative to the above meetings. If the National British Center for Science Education was particularly fitted for such meetings, the city of York (no airport in the vicinity) and the chosen hotel (at 3 miles from the university buildings) raised some difficulties to the participants.

The so-called « Inquiry-Based Science Education (IBSE) » was first implemented in Chilean primary schools under the auspices of the Chilean Academy of Sciences by Dr Jorge Allende. This method should obviate the difficulties of learning presently science to contemporary children. The idea is that teaching sciences from blackboard is not very successful and that children become rapidly bored in the classroom. Instead, IBSE proposes that children manipulate science objects, make some simple experiments and then deduce from their results ideas on concepts of the science taught. It should however be remarked that this method has been applied for over hundred years already at least in Europe and Northern America, the difference being that the experiments were carried on, more or less successfully by the teacher and that scientific laws were then mentioned to the students, which were not especially annoyed by such methods. One may also wonder whether the children who are « bored » by such a way of teaching science are not equally bored by lessons on mathematics, history, geography etc.

Nevertheless, having some practical implication of the children and developing their skill may really interest them into science, which is the purpose of the new methodology , since for instance in the European Community countries, a deficit of no less of fifteen thousands of university-level engineers is foreseen in 2020 if the number of science-minded students is not increased in the very next years.

Various solutions have been proposed and even put into practice for instance in France, where the youngsters have an « integrated teaching » of physics, chemistry and biology for 90 minutes each week, followed two days after by 90 minutes of practical work where students actually carry experiments by themselves. This requires of course appropriate equipment . If the experiments in the primary schools are rather general and elementary, introducing such methods in secondary education requires another type of methodology,

since physical, chemical and biological laws have to be extracted from the experimental results.

The participants to the meeting came from all over the world and Asia was especially well represented (see annex 1, pp. 96-103) . After general explanation of the principles on science education (see annexe 2) , the participants were divided into four or five groups, depending on the subject and each participant had to explain his views on the subject and criticise the ideas, after what a plenary session was resumed and a secretary of each group explained the conclusions, after which a general discussion took place.

The general conclusions were that :

1. There is an overwhelming case for taking IBSE in the secondary school. The method leads students developing understanding through using inquiry skills of observation, posing questions, planning and conducting investigations and reviewing evidence in the light of what was already known, drawing conclusions and communicating results.
2. The long term aim of IBSE implementation will imply deep curriculum changes (as in France, under the initiative « La main à la pâte », started by the late Nobel Prize Georges Charpak).
3. Effective implementation of IBSE is made especially more difficult in the secondary level than at the primary level for the following specific reasons :

A : overcrowded curricula mainly oriented to factual knowledge;

B: the limitations of teacher's knowledge across all scientific disciplines;

C: the lack of understanding of the value of IBSE by the current tradition of science education;

D: the need for developing and acquiring specific instrumentation tools in sufficient quantities for experimentation by all students;

E: In order to make progress in the implementation of IBSE, it is recommended that schools involved should be free of constraints of current curriculum and assessment requirements.

I shall personally add security problems, especially in chemistry. Experiments with chemical substances by children or youngsters has already proved dangerous, especially in schools where appropriate laboratories are far from fully equipped for this type of actions.

I also made the remark at discussion groups that it is illusory to think that all students will profit of this method at the same pace. It should not prevent best students to go ahead in their conclusions of experiments and to express them in a more formal format, applying mathematics whenever needed. I emphasize the method of individualisation of learning where students can use computer-based programs where, after the main notions have been explained, exercises immediately follow to evaluate the degree of understanding of the students and eventually repeat the main principles until each student masters sufficiently the concepts.

ALLEA WG on Science Education (29 October, 14-19 hours)

Attendance: 25 european academies had sent representatives (see annex 3). The meeting was chaired by Dr Allende and Prof. Pierre Léna, from the Académie des Sciences (Paris). It started by a « tour de table », where all delegates presented the situation of science teaching in their country. For Belgium, I had prepared a short powerpoint presentation from data collected among administrations and from interviews of students in the 6th grade in the three communities.

I explained the situation in Belgium and mentioned successively the programs in

1. Vlaamse Overheid;
2. Communauté française de Belgique;
3. Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens.

The three programs are somewhat different, as well as the possible options for science courses. IBSE is not in practice in communities 2 and 3. In Flanders, the high school education is organised in three phases, each of two years, as in the two other Communities. However, from September 2010 there is some initiation to physics, chemistry and biology in the first phase, although until now only biology was taught during this first phase. There are some initiatives for stimulating the high school students in science and technology through some hands on experimentation under the supervision of the RVO society of IMEC (see www.rvo-society.be) There exists a Technopolis Science center for experimenting in Mechelen. Also there is a reform of the high school system under way, with an emphasis on extra skills in sciences and mathematics.

After a lengthy discussion during which Dr Rüdiger Klein, Director General of ALLEA explained the interactions of ALLEA with the cabinet and Bureau of European Policy Advisors of Commission President Barroso and the European Commission Directorates (DG RTD, DG EA), and also the follow up to interministerial meeting under the Belgian EU Presidency, it was decided that each participating academy should interact with national authorities in sending a letter (for model see annex 4).

Furthermore, the conclusions of the ALLEA WG meeting would be sent in November to Mrs Marie-Dominique Simonet, current chairman of the Interministerial Conference for Education of the 27 countries of the EU. This letter would be prepared by Dr R. Klein and Prof. Pierre Lena, with copies to the involved academies. It seems that possibilities do exist for obtaining European funding for IBSE under the Framework Program 8.

I would like to thank Prof. Joos Vandewalle (KUL) for providing me with the future developments of science education in the Vlaamse scholen.

Léo Houziaux, RASAB representative

Appendix 3

ALLEA Consultative workshop "Towards Young Academies across Europe"

Instituto de España, Madrid, 08-09 February 2010

Wetenschappelijk verslag Dominique Willems (voorzitter KVAB).

Op uitnodiging van ALLEA, en gezien mijn interesse voor de uitbouw van een Jonge Vlaamse Academie aan de KVAB, nam ik deel in Madrid aan deze tweedaagse workshop, specifiek gericht op de voorstelling en balans van de bestaande *Young Academies* in Europa en de wenselijkheid tot verdere uitbouw van een Europese *Young Academy*.

De eerste dag was volledig gewijd aan de voorstelling van de bestaande Jonge Academies, hun structuur, projecten, financieringsmodaliteiten en perspectieven. Deze eerste dag was voor mij bijzonder informatief en verrijkend: het was in het bijzonder zeer interessant de bestaande modellen te vergelijken en de voor- en nadelen van ieder model af te wegen (bv. Duitsland /v/ Nederland). Niet alleen de presentaties, maar ook de gesprekken met de vertegenwoordigers van de verschillende landen was bijzonder boeiend. Ik mocht ook even de plannen van de KVAB voorstellen en had de eer als chairwoman op te treden voor de namiddagsessie.

De tweede dag was gewijd aan de voorstelling en balans van de "European Young Academy", een initiatief van de ALLEA. Dit was voor mij wat minder overtuigend: ik ben van mening dat vooral de nationale jonge academies moeten uitgebouwd worden en dat een netwerk van deze nationale academies waarschijnlijk een vruchtbaarder initiatief is dan het creëren van een Europese Jonge Academie.

Deze workshop heeft mij ook versterkt in mijn idee om ook binnen de KVAB een jonge academie op te richten: het enthousiasme van de talrijke aanwezige jonge academici was werkelijk aanstekelijk.

Met dank aan de KVAB voor deze opportuniteit.

Prof. D. Willems
Ere-voorzitter KVAB

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