

RASAB ANNUAL REPORT 2011

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contact information	3
RASAB vzw/asbl	4
Introduction	4
Governance	4
International Relations	6
Allea	6
EASAC	7
H.R. Network	8
IAP	9
ICSU	9
UAI	10
Belgian Liaison Office	12
National Scientific Committees	15
Appendixes	16
List of Belgian Delegates 2011	17
List of Belgian Delegates 2012	18
Reports :	
- Commissie voor vrije beoefening van Wetenschappen en Kunsten, 7 april 2011	19
- Commission pour la libre pratique de la Science, des Lettres et des Arts, 7 avr. 2011	21
- 2011 ALLEA General Assembly, by Prof. Macq	23
- 2011 ICSU General Assembly, by Prof. Dumortier	26

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THE ROYAL ACADEMIES FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS OF BELGIUM VZW/ASBL

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 offer a platform for researchers to formulate recommendations to the government, industry, education and research.

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 EASAC, ALLEA, etc.

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

2. Governance

General Assembly 2011

ARB	KVAB
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bartholomé P., 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 Arts) • Contzen, J.-P. (Classe Technologie et Société) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacobs P. Chair • van Outryve d'Ydewalle Ridder G., Permanent Secretary • Dumortier F. (Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen) • Witte Barones E. (Klasse van de Menswetenschappen) • Laporte A. (Klasse van de Kunsten) • Frimout D. (Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen)

Board of Directors 2011

ARB

- Bartholomée P., Chair
- Hasquin H., Permanent Secretary

KVAB

- Jacobs P. Chair
- van Outryve d'Ydewalle Ridder, G., Permanent Secretary

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. ALLEA

a. Introduction

All European Academies – ALLEA – is a 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 March 31st, ALLEA's Interest Group "Social Sciences and Humanities" (SSH), lead by the British Academy, met in the Belgian Academies' Palace, to discuss the future role of the SSH in Europe and in European Research and Innovation with representatives of the European Commission. RASAB was represented by Prof. Pierre De Maret (ARB) en Prof. Dominique Willems (KVAB).

On the 12th and 13th of April, the annual General Assembly was organised in Amsterdam. RASAB was represented by Prof. Benoît Macq (ARB), supported by Sofie Vanthournout of the RASAB secretariat¹. Preceding the General Assembly, there was a meeting of the Science Policy Task Force, which was also attended by RASAB, being the Academy of a European presidency country.

Resulting from these meetings, ALLEA submitted a position paper to Horizon 2020, the EU's research funding framework (<http://bit.ly/JbwQJg>).

The Belgian Academies are represented in 3 Standing Committees or Working Groups of ALLEA:

- Intellectual Property Rights: Prof. Carine Doutrelepon (ARB) is the Belgian representative in this committee which was founded in 2010. She attended the meetings of the committee on 6th June 2011. The IPR committee published 3 statements in 2011: '**Patenting of Inventions Involving Human Embryonic Pluripotent Stem Cells in Europe**', '**ALLEA Statement on the Future Patent System of the**

¹ Report on page 25.

European Union’ and ‘ALLEA Statement on Opportunities and Risks in the Digitization of Books and the Google Book Settlement’.

- Science and Ethics: Prof. Marcel Storme (KVAB) has been the Belgian representative for several years. Prof. Storme wasn't able to attend the meetings of the committee in 2011. The committee published '**The European Code of Conduct on Research Integrity**' in 2011.
- 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 the Belgian Academies' Palace on 22 June.

2. EASAC

a. Introduction

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

EASAC's Council meets twice a year in the land which will hold the European presidency 6 months later. RASAB is represented in the Council by Prof. Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle, who attended the Council meetings on June 16th-17th in Denmark and on December 8th-9th in Athens (since there is no national Science Academy in Cyprus).

Marc Van Montagu (KVAB) is the Belgian member of EASAC's Biosciences steering panel, which decides 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. This panel convened on 15 February 2011.

EASAC published 6 reports and statements in 2011:

- *Synthetic Biology: an introduction;*
- *European public health and innovation policy for infectious disease: the view from EASAC;*

- *Impact of Engineered Nanomaterials on Health: Considerations for Benefit-Risk Assessment* (joint EASAC-JRC report);
- *Infectious diseases and the future: policies for Europe*;
- *Concentrating solar power: its potential contribution to a sustainable energy future*;
- *Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change*;

To help its member academies strengthen the quality of their science-policy dialogue, EASAC initiated a project in 2010 resulting in a Good Practice Guidance for Academies (<http://bit.ly/JXvwoC>).

In 2011, this project was 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, especially the Network of African Science Academies NASAC. Sofie Vanthournout, scientific counsellor of RASAB and responsible for RASAB's liaison office, played an active role in a workshop organized in the framework of this project on 20-21 October.

c. RASAB hosting

EASAC's report on the Impact of Engineered Nanomaterials on Health was launched on 18 October in the Belgian Academies Palace. On this occasion EASAC and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission signed an agreement towards closer cooperation, in the name of the common goal to support policy making through independent scientific research.

RASAB hosted and helped organizing an event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of EASAC on November 7th, where also the latest report of EASAC 'Concentrating solar power: its potential contribution to a sustainable energy future' was presented. This event was held in the Palace of Academies and included speeches by the German minister of Education and Research Annette Schavan, and Lord May of Oxford, former Chief Scientific Adviser to the British Government. 181 people attended the event, including 8 Members of European Parliament and at least 15 officials from the European Commission.

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 set by the network, the Royal Academies of Belgium have created a joint committee: the Committee for the Free Practice of Science and Arts. The committee had a start-up meeting on 7 April².

Composition

ARB	KVAB
• Frère J.-M. (Classe des Sciences)	• Veretennicoff I. (Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen)
• Smets P. (Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques)	• Foblets M.-C. (Klasse van de Mensenwetenschappen)
• Bartholomée P. (Classe des Arts)	• Elias W. (Klasse van de Kunsten)
• Doutreloup C. (Classe Technologie & Société)	• Gosselin D. (Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen)

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,

² Report on page 21 (NL) and 23 (FR).

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

To increase the impact of EU-ICSU, the European subsection of ICSU, a European Secretariat was established in 2010, hosted by the Delegation of the Finnish Academies. Moreover, a Management Group was founded, composed of Hungary, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Belgium is represented by Prof. Dumortier (KVAB, President of the National Council of the Scientific Unions³). The Management Group met on February 24th-25th in Paris. EU-ICSU had its annual meeting on April 7th-8th in Budapest.

EU-ICSU organized a Rio +20 Regional Workshop for Europe on 12-14 October in Helsinki, in cooperation with ICSU and UNESCO. The aim of the Rio +20 Regional Workshop for Europe was to bring together prestigious natural scientists, social scientists, and engineers from Europe to discuss the main themes of Rio +20 Summit from the point of view of the European scientific and technological community. The final objective of the workshop was to prepare joint positions and concerted input into the European intergovernmental Regional Preparatory Meeting, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1 to 2 December 2011. The recommendations can be found at <http://bit.ly/IRMgNV>.

On September 26th-30th ICSU organized its general assembly with associated meetings and related events in Rome, attended by Prof. Freddy Dumortier⁴.

³ This council is made up of Permanent Secretaries of the two academies, and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of National Scientific Committees.

⁴ Report on page 28

6. UAI

a. Introduction

The Union Académique Internationale is a federation of 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. With an increasing number of projects and by its willingness to accommodate more member Academies, the International Union of Academies aims to represent the principle of excellence that animates it.

The Union Académique Internationale's missions are:

1. Encouraging cooperation between National Academies (and comparable institutions) whose activities are mainly or partly linked to 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, etc/) as well as 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 that they are convinced of the rightfulness and the advantages of this solidarity and international cooperation.

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

b. Belgian representation

The 86th General Assembly of the Union was held in Bruxelles on 8-13 May 2011 at the invitation of the Académie royale de Belgique. The Belgian Academies were represented by Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB), Prof. François de Callataÿ (ARB), Prof. Carlos Steel (KVAB) and Prof. Carl Van de Velde (KVAB).

The Belgian Academies and their members are involved in many projects sponsored by the UAI:

- *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*, (Project 1): Prof. Jean-Charles Balty (ARB) is the director of the Belgian Committee.
- *Alchimic texts* (Project 2): The project is directed by the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux Arts de Belgique.
- *Aristoteles Latinus, Corpus Philosophorum Medii Aevi* (Project 9.2): Prof. Carlos Steel (KVAB) is the International Director of the project.
- *Avicenna Latinus, Corpus Philosophorum Medii Aevi* (Project 9.3): The project is directed by the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux Arts de Belgique. Prof. Hervé Hasquin (ARB), Prof. André Allard (ARB) and Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB) are members of the board of this project.
- *Corpus Vitrearum* (Project 16): Prof. Yvette Vanden Bemden (ARB) and Prof. Anna Bergmans (KVAB) are members of the Belgian Committee.
- *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae - LIMC - & Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum - ThesCRA* - (Project 28): The Project is directed by Prof. Jean-Charles Balty (ARB).
- *Sylloge Nummorum Graecorum - SNG* - (Project 26): Prof. François de Callataÿ (ARB) is the director of the Belgian Committee.
- *Corpus des Astronomes Byzantins* (Project 41): The project is directed by the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux Arts de Belgique.
- *Corpus des Antiquités phéniciennes et puniques* (Project 44): Prof. François de Callataÿ (ARB) is a member of the Belgian Committee.
- *Papyrus-Archives. Edition and Studies* (Project 72): Prof. Willy Clarysse (KVAB) is the Director of the project.
- *Corpus Rubenianum Ludwig Burchard* (Project 73): Prof. Carl Van de Velde (KVAB) is the Director of the project.

c. General Secretariat

Since its formation, the Union Académique Internationale has its seat in the Palace of the 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 and the Permanent Secretary of the Académie royale de Belgique is *de facto* the Secretary General of the UAI.

BELGIAN LIAISON OFFICE

In 2010, 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 European 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 2011, the office used its experiences from its initial year to develop a strategy and a communication plan to increase the visibility of EASAC. This was used on a strategy meeting of EASAC in July, where the role of RASAB's liaison office as EASAC's official Brussels office was further defined. Because of the limited resources, it was decided that the Brussels office should focus on networking and follow-up of EASAC's work in the European community in Brussels.

This resulted in:

- a close collaboration with STOA (Science and Technology Options Assessment), an official organ of the European Parliament, responsible for the input of expert advice on the various scientific or technological options for the European Parliament. EASAC has now a representative at each meeting of the STOA Panel and is a likely candidate to become a framework contractor of STOA.
- an official Letter of Intent with the Joint Research Centre -the European Union's scientific and technical research laboratory- was signed. It was agreed that each year one or two joint reports will be published, in domains of common interest.
- several meetings with officials of the EU commission, to discuss ongoing projects of EASAC or the possibilities of scientific input of EASAC in general.
- a successful distribution of new reports among all relevant policy makers and other stakeholders, on a European as well as a national level.
- several successful events organised in the Belgian Academies palace (discussed in section 2.c).

- good links to other organisations that are active in European policy, such as the League of European Research Universities – LERU –, The Lisbon Council, European Water Partnership – EWP –, Vlewa,...
- general representation of EASAC on stakeholder meetings and consultations of the European Commission and on relevant conferences.

On a Belgian level, contacts were established with the permanent representation office of Belgium to the EU, which has invited EASAC to present its work in general to its collaborators. RASAB used this experience to advise other European Academies on their contacts with their respective permanent representation offices.

From its experience on a European level, RASAB has advised the Belgian national academies on their national contacts and the distribution of their scientific policy statements.

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

1. Introduction

The National Scientific Committees' missions are the promotion and coordination of various scientific disciplines in 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.

The National Scientific Committees work under the patronage of the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique and the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten, which are gathered in RASAB.

The committees are subject to regulations adopted by the Belgian Academies of Sciences and Arts. (<http://bit.ly/Jx9RFt>).

2. Annual Activities Reports

Each year, the Belgian Scientific Committees send their annual activity reports to RASAB. These reports can be found on its website (www.rasab.be).

Appendixes

LIST OF BELGIAN DELEGATES 2011

ALLEA

- Prof. Carine Doutrelepon (ARB), Standing Committee Intellectual Property Rights
- Prof. Léo Houziaux (ARB), Working Group Science Education
- Prof. Marcel Storme (KVAB), Standing Committee Science and Ethics
- Prof. Pierre de Maret (ARB) & Prof. Dominique Willems, Interest Group “Social Sciences and Humanities” (SSH)

Prof. Benoit Macq (ARB) and Prof. Géry van Outryve d’Ydewalle (KVAB) represented the Belgian Academies in ALLEA’s General Assembly.

EASAC

- Prof. Géry van Outryve d’Ydewalle (KVAB), EASAC’s Council
- Prof Mac van Montagu (KVAB), Biosciences Steering panel
- Prof. Leo Michiels (KVAB), Sustainable Biofuels Working Group
- Prof. Rudy Swennen (KVAB) and Dr. Ben Laenen (VITO), Carbon Capture and Storage Working Group

Euro-CASE

- Prof. André Preumont (ARB)

ICSU

- Prof. Freddy Dumortier (KVAB)

UAI

- Prof. François de Callatay (ARB)
- Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB)
- Prof. Carlos Steel (KVAB)
- Prof. Carl Van De Velde (KVAB)

LIST OF BELGIAN DELEGATES 2012⁵

ALLEA

- Prof. Carine Doutrelepon (ARB), Standing Committee Intellectual Property Rights
- Prof. Marcel Storme (KVAB), Standing Committee Science and Ethics
- Prof. Pierre de Maret (ARB) & Prof. Dominique Willems, Interest Group “Social Sciences and Humanities” (SSH)

Prof. Benoit Macq (ARB) and Prof. Géry van Outryve d’Ydewalle (KVAB) represented the Belgian Academies in ALLEA’s General Assembly.

EASAC

- Prof. Géry van Outryve d’Ydewalle (KVAB), EASAC’s Council
- Prof Mac van Montagu (KVAB), Biosciences Steering panel
- Prof. Nathalie Verbruggen (ARB), GM Crops Policy Working Group
- Prof. Samuel Furfari (ARB), Breakthroughs in Low Carbon Energy Working Group

Euro-CASE

- Prof. Jean-Louis Migeot (ARB)

ICSU

- Prof. Freddy Dumortier (KVAB)

UAI

- Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB)
- Prof. Carlos Steel (KVAB)
- Prof. Carl Van De Velde (KVAB)

⁵ Last update : 15 May 2012



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

Commissie voor vrije beoefening van Wetenschappen en Kunsten

Verslag

Donderdag 7 april 2011

Aanwezig: Mevrouw C. Doutrelepont (partim), mevrouw M.-C. Foblets, de heren J.-M. Frère, D. Gosselin en P. Smets en mevrouw I. Veretennicoff.

Afwezig met kennisgeving: De heren P. Bartholomé en W. Elias.

Mevrouw M.-C. Foblets brengt verslag uit van de vergadering van het International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies in Rabat, waar zij in 2009 aan heeft deelgenomen. Zij verklaart heel enthousiast te zijn over de organisatie en hoopt dat via deze commissie de Belgische academiën een actieve rol kunnen gaan spelen. De overige leden van de commissie delen haar enthousiasme, maar hebben nog vele vragen en dringen aan op voorzichtigheid. Mevrouw M.-C. Foblets stelt voor om een ervaringsdeskundige, bijvoorbeeld iemand van een soortgelijke commissie van de Koninklijke Nederlandse Academie voor Wetenschappen (bijv. Pieter Van Dijk), of iemand van de organisatie zelf uit te nodigen (bijv. directeur Carol Corillon), om een antwoord te krijgen op onderstaande vragen.

- Wat is de structuur van het HR Network (budget, voorwaarden voor lidmaatschap,...)
- Hoe komt het netwerk aan zijn informatie over specifieke gevallen?
- Wat zijn de criteria voor het goedkeuren van een dossier? Hoe wordt het beoordeeld en door wie?
- Hoe wordt de informatie gecontroleerd? Dergelijke zaken zijn soms moeilijk na te trekken, er is een risico op gemanipuleerde informatie.
- Is er een risico op politieke implicaties? Onze academiën worden gefinancierd door de overheid, waardoor de overheid zou kunnen ter verantwoording geroepen worden omwille van acties van de academiën.
- Wat is de rol van de academiën die lid zijn van het land waar problemen zijn?
- Wat houdt het engagement in de commissie in? Hoeveel activiteit zal er vereist zijn van de leden?

Indien beslist wordt, op basis van verdere informatie, om dit engagement op te nemen, wordt de volgende werkwijze voorgesteld:

Per dossier wordt een rapporteur aangesteld, die het vertrouwen krijgt van de andere leden van de commissie. Deze rapporteur trekt het dossier na en schrijft desgewenst een brief.

Aangezien het voor geen van de leden evident is om regelmatig naar Brussel te komen voor een vergadering, zal alle onderlinge communicatie zoveel mogelijk op afstand gebeuren.

Gemaakt door S. Vanthournout – 14-4-11



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

Commission pour la libre pratique de la Science, des Lettres et des Arts

Rapport

Jeudi 7 avril 2011

Sont présents: Madame C. Doutrelepon (partim), Madame M.-C. Foblets, Messieurs J.-M. Frère, D. Gosselin et P. Smets et Madame I. Veretennicoff.

Sont excusés: Messieurs P. Bartholomé et W. Elias.

Mme M.-C. Foblets fait un résumé de la réunion de l'International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies qui s'est tenue à Rabat en 2009. Mme Foblet se dit très enthousiaste par rapport à cette organisation et espère que ce nouveau comité créé par les académies belges pourra y jouer un rôle actif. Les autres membres du comité partagent son enthousiasme mais ont encore beaucoup de questions et appellent à la prudence. Mme M.-C. Foblets suggère qu'une personne expérimentée, quelqu'un du comité équivalent de l'Académie royale néerlandaise des Sciences (par exemple, Pieter Van Dijk), ou quelqu'un du réseau lui-même (par exemple, Carol Corillon) soit invité lors d'une prochaine réunion pour obtenir des réponses aux questions suivantes :

- Quelle est la structure du HR Network (budget, conditions d'adhésion, ...) ?
- Comment parviennent au réseau les informations sur des cas spécifiques ?
- Quels sont les critères d'approbation d'un dossier ? Comment est-il évalué et par qui ?
- Comment l'information est-elle vérifiée ? Certains cas sont parfois difficiles à vérifier, il existe un risque que des informations soient manipulées.
- Y a-t-il un risque de conséquences politiques ? Nos académies sont financées par le gouvernement qui pourrait être tenu responsable des mesures prises par les académies.
- Quel est le rôle des académies des pays où des problèmes se posent ?
- Quel est l'engagement de la commission ? Quelle charge de travail sera exigé des membres ?

S'il est décidé, sur la base de ces informations complémentaires, de prendre un engagement, la procédure suivante est proposée:

Chaque cas aura un rapporteur désigné, qui aura la confiance des autres membres du comité. Ce rapporteur traitera le dossier et écrira une lettre si nécessaire.

Comme aucun des membres n'est régulièrement disponible sur Bruxelles pour une réunion, un maximum de communication se fera à une distance.

Par S. Vanthournout - 14-4-11



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

Assemblée générale d'ALLEA 2011

Rapport de M. Benoit Macq

12-13 avril 2010 : General Assembly of ALLEA (All European Academies)- Amsterdam

Prof. Benoit Macq, Académie royale de Belgique, Classe Technologie et Société

12 avril, 11h: Task Force "European Policy"

Le but de cette réunion de la Task Force était de préparer le débat au sein de l'Assemblée Générale au sujet du « Green Paper » de la Commission Européenne sur le « Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation funding » qui sera le cadre de référence pour l'Europe après le FP8.

Ce « Green Paper » émet des propositions et propose de collecter des questions et des propositions sur ce document de référence pour la recherche européenne.

L'approche d'ALLEA est de collecter des idées auprès des académies dans le but de constituer un document commun de ALLEA avec Academia Europaea et EASAC (the European Academies Science Advisory Council).

ALLEA a cependant une spécificité propre par rapport aux autres organisations qui est le fait de ne pas se limiter aux sciences exactes mais d'inclure des académies « complètes » qui traitent aussi des sciences humaines (« social sciences and humanities »), voire pour certaines des arts.

Le sentiment général est que le Green Paper définit correctement les défis sociétaux de l'Europe pour 2020 mais est faible sur un certain nombre de points dont :

- La promotion d'approches de recherche holistiques incluant les sciences humaines
- La promotion d'une diffusion vers le grand public et la promotion vers les écoles partout en Europe d'un intérêt accru pour les sciences et pour l'industrie, notamment au sujet des

technologies aux frontières des connaissances qui demandent un débat démocratique telles que les cellules souches ou le nucléaire

- D'avantage de place pour la recherche libre guidée par la curiosité.

Le fonctionnement de notre classe « Technologie et Société » et le concept de balises pour les pouvoirs publics tels que celles produites par notre classe ont retenu l'attention. Notre livre blanc sur la « désindustrialisation » était connu de plusieurs participants de la Task-Force.

12 avril 14H15 : General Assembly

L'assemblée générale a commencé par la présentation d'une série d'initiatives inter-académies dont la plus significatives est l'EASAC. Un certain nombre de participants se sont plaint de la présence d'un trop grand nombre d'initiatives inter-académies ce qui affaiblit le rôle d'ALLEA. La présentation de l'EASAC montre des activités dans un certain nombre de domaines très concrets (par exemple la biologie de synthèse).

Les pays de la nouvelle Europe (Montenegro, Serbie, ...) manifestent beaucoup de volonté d'accentuer la mobilité des chercheurs et leur intégration dans le concert des académies.

L'assemblée générale s'est poursuivie par un tour de table élargi au sujet du « Green Paper ». De nombreuses interventions sont venues renforcer les points évoqués le matin avec un accent complémentaire sur l'importance de la mobilité « bidirectionnelle » des chercheurs.

J'y ai fait une intervention pour l'Académie Royale de Belgique en expliquant que notre académie couvre un grand nombre de domaine :

- Les sciences, technologies et médecine
- Les sciences humaines
- Les arts

Cela permet à notre académie de développer des approches multidisciplinaires en particulier au sein de notre classe « technologie et société ». J'ai brièvement exposé nos travaux sur l'innovation et la créativité et sur la désindustrialisation ainsi que sur les aspects liés à la culture scientifique.

J'ai insisté sur la place nécessaire des sciences humaines dans les recherches promues par le « Green Book » et sur le rôle qu'ALLEA peut jouer au niveau européen sur le développement d'une culture scientifique en Europe.

Un document de synthèse des discussions sera produit par Riediguer KLEIN, le directeur opérationnel de l'ALLEA.

13 avril, 9H

Le rapport d'activité présenté par le Directeur Opérationnel montre une activité très large de participation à de nombreux forums mais sans « deliverables » spécifiques à ALLEA.

La présentation des comptes 2010 montre un déficit de 30 Keuros dû à la diminution des prestations pour tiers.

Le non-renouvellement du soutien de l'Académie Néerlandaise, le KNAW, à ALLEA va poser un problème à partir de 2012.

La fin du mandat du président actuel offre une opportunité pour repenser en profondeur le positionnement d'ALLEA. Le délégué Suisse et le délégué Ecossais font des propositions pertinentes à ce sujet.

La mise à disposition d'une infrastructure d'accueil pour ALLEA à Bruxelles par une institution universitaire est évoquée au cours de discussions informelles.

Ma recommandation est de travailler avec le futur président à la redéfinition d'un projet plus clair et plus mobilisateur pour ALLEA. Des contacts ont été pris avec Geoffrey Boulton à cet effet.

Les propositions concrètes devraient émerger pour l'été de manière à être proposée à la prochaine réunion d'ALLEA qui aura lieu en Octobre.

Ma participation à la réunion a été largement facilitée par la présence de Sofie Van Thournout qui était bien documentée sur les différents sujets abordés et avec qui nous avons eu une concertation efficace.



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

30th ICSU General Assembly, September 2011

Prof. Dumortier's report

Highlights from the 30th General Assembly in Rome

The ICSU membership made a number of important decisions that will influence the directions and conduct of international science for the benefit of society over the next few years.

Two major new international interdisciplinary initiatives were strongly endorsed. The first of these, the Earth System Sustainability Initiative is still in the planning phase and is designed to bring together different scientific disciplines and other societal stakeholders to address five Grand Challenges for sustainability, which have been identified through a broad consultation exercise. One of the unique features of ESSI is that it is being co-designed by an Alliance of scientific organisations, funders and UN policy bodies. It will build on the strengths of the existing global change programmes that are currently co-sponsored and supported by members of this Alliance. The main focus will be on mitigation, adaptation and new pathways to sustainable development. The urgency of the need for new knowledge in this area was reflected in the debate at the Assembly.

The second new initiative relates to urban health and wellbeing. The Assembly approved a science plan laying out a new conceptual framework for addressing the complexity of factors that influence health and wellbeing in the urban environment. Again the initiative aims to bring different disciplines together around common urban problems to generate practical knowledge that can be used by local decision makers. It was reported at the Assembly that scientists are already actively working on the implementation of this science plan in the Asia and Pacific region.

With regard to the conduct of science, there was an animated debate on the proposed re-wording of the Principle of Universality (ICSU Statute 5), which previously focused on the freedoms or rights of scientists. The new wording that was endorsed by the Assembly

introduces explicit reference to responsibilities with regard to the conduct and communication of science ([Press release](#)). By embracing this change, all the Member organizations of ICSU agree to uphold and promote these responsibilities.

At the end of the Assembly, the new Officers and members of the Executive Board were elected for the next three years. The President-elect, Professor Gordon McBean from Canada, is an internationally recognized meteorologist and climate change expert ([Press release](#)). In three years' time, he will take over the presidency from Professor Yuan Tseh Lee ([Press release](#)), whose inaugural speech in Rome focused on the critical role that science must play in leading the transformation towards sustainable development.