



2012

ANNUAL REPORT



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 2012

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contact information	3
RASAB vzw/asbl	4
Introduction	4
Governance	4
National Scientific Committees	6
Introduction	6
Annual meeting of the National Committees	6
Activity reports	6
List of the National Scientific Committees	7
List of the International Scientific Unions	7
National Relations	9
International Relations	10
ALLEA	10
EASAC	11
Euro-CASE	14
International Human Rights Network	15
IAP	15
ICSU	16
UAI	17
Belgian Liaison Office	19
UAI General Secretariat	21
Appendixes	22
List of Belgian Delegates in Federations of Academies (2012)	23
Invitation to the annual meeting 2012 of the national committees	25
Report of the Euro-Case Board meeting (May 2012, by Prof. Migeot)	26

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium (RASAB) vzw/asbl

Address Hertogsstraat 1 Rue Ducale
1000 Brussels
Belgium

Fax +32 2 550 23 78

E-mail info@rasab.be

Website www.rasab.be

- - -

Team

Sofie Vanthournout (NL) sofie.vanthournout@rasab.be

+32 2 550 23 32

Vzw/asbl, international relations, Belgian Liaison Office

Laurent Hansen (FR) laurent.hansen@rasab.be

+32 2 550 22 47

National Committees, international relations, UAI, website

THE ROYAL ACADEMIES FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS OF BELGIUM

1. Introduction

The association 'The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium' (vzw/asbl) was founded in 2001 by the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique¹ (ARB) and the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten (KVAB)². 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 19 April 2001.

2. Governance

The General Assembly is composed by the Chairmen, the Permanent Secretaries and one representative for each of the four classes of the academies, for a total of 12 members.

The annual presidency of RASAB is held alternately by the chairman of the academies. In 2012 RASAB was chaired by Mr. Pierre Bartholomée, President of the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique.

¹ www.academieroyale.be

² www.kvab.be

Board of Directors 2012

ARB	KVAB
Chevalier Pierre Bartholomée <i>Chair</i>	Ludo Gelders <i>Chair</i>
Hervé Hasquin <i>Permanent Secretary</i>	Ridder Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle <i>Permanent Secretary</i>

General Assembly 2012

ARB	KVAB
Chevalier Pierre Bartholomée <i>Chair</i>	Ludo Gelders <i>Chair</i>
Hervé Hasquin <i>Permanent Secretary</i>	Ridder Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle <i>Permanent Secretary</i>
Jean Mawhin <i>Classe des Sciences</i>	Freddy Dumortier <i>Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>
Monique Boussart <i>Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques</i>	Barones Els Witte <i>Klasse van de Menswetenschappen</i>
Chevalier Philippe Samyn <i>Classe des Arts</i>	André Laporte <i>Klasse van de Kunsten</i>
Jean-Pierre Contzen <i>Classe Technologie et Société</i>	Dirk Frimout <i>Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

1. Introduction

The missions of the Belgian scientific committees are the promotion and coordination of various scientific disciplines in Belgium, mainly seen in an international context.

The conditions for the foundation of a National Committee is the existence of an international scientific union which is a member of ICSU or a member of a scientific institution of ICSU (scientific committees, special committees, etc.) in 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, gathered in RASAB which is responsible for the financial and logistic support of the National Committees, as well for its daily activities, as for the organisation of scientific events by the National Committees in the Palace of the Academies.

2. Annual meeting of the national scientific committees

In 2012 RASAB organized the annual meeting of the national scientific committees on 2 February at the Palace of the Academies³. Our guest speaker was Mr. Carthage Smith, Deputy Executive Director of the International Council for Science – ICSU⁴, who presented a lecture entitled *ICSU, Latest Developments and Opportunities*. His speech was preceded by the presentations of four national committees: Radio-Electricity, Quaternary Research (BELQUA), Logic, History and Philosophy of Sciences and Geography. Forty representatives of the committees attended the meeting.

3. Annual Activity Reports

Each year, the Belgian scientific committees published their annual activity reports with the help of RASAB. For clarity, these reports are not directly integrated into the RASAB annual report. They are available in a separate volume downloadable on our website⁵.

³ See invitation (Dutch version) on page 25.

⁴ More information about ICSU on page 16.

⁵ www.rasab.be

4. List of the National Scientific Committees

- 1) Antarctic Research
- 2) Astronomy
- 3) Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- 4) Biological Sciences
- 5) Biomedical Engineering
- 6) Biophysics
- 7) Chemistry
- 8) Crystallography
- 9) Geography
- 10) Geodesy and Geophysics
- 11) Geological Sciences
- 12) Logics, History and Philosophy of Science
- 13) Mathematics
- 14) Mechanics
- 15) Microbiology
- 16) Oceanology
- 17) Psychological Sciences
- 18) Physiology and Pharmacology
- 19) Physics
- 20) Quaternary Research (BELQUA)
- 21) Radio-Electricity
- 22) SCOPE-IGBP
- 23) Soil Science
- 24) Space Research

5. List of the International Scientific Unions

The conditions for the foundation of a National Committee is the existence of an international scientific union which is a member of ICSU or a member of a scientific institution of ICSU (scientific committees, special committees, etc.) in the same scientific discipline. All Belgian national committees are members of one or more international organizations in which they represent Belgium.

- Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) www.cosparhq.cnes.fr
- International Astronomical Union (IAU) www.iau.org
- International Geographical Union (IGU) www.igu-net.org
- International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) www.igbp.net
- International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE) www.ifmbe.org
- International Mathematical Union (IMU) www.mathunion.org
- International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM) www.iupesm.org
- International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) www.inqua.org
- International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB) www.iubmb.org
- International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) www.iubs.org
- International Union of Crystallography (IUCr): www.iucr.org
- International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) www.iugg.org
- International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) www.iugs.org
- International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS),
 - Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS-DHST)
 - Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS-DLMPS) www.dlmps.org
- International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS) www.iums.org
- International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR) www.iuphar.org
- International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS) www.iups.org
- International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) www.iupsys.net
- International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB) www.iupab.org
- International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) www.iupac.org
- International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP) www.iupap.org
- International Union of Radio Science (URSI) www.ursi.org
- International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) www.iuss.org
- International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM) www.iutam.net
- Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR) www.scor-int.org
- Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE) www.scopenvironment.org
- Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics www.yorku.ca/scostep
- World Climate Research Programme www.wcrp-climate.org

NATIONAL RELATIONS

In collaboration with Open Access Belgium, the FWB, Belspo and EWI, RASAB organised an event for the promotion of Open Access to Belgian publicly funded research at the Academies' Palace on October 22nd. This event included keynote speeches, a panel discussion, an overview of Open Access activities in Belgium and the signing of a Brussels Declaration on Open Access, which has been endorsed by Ministers Magnette, Nollet and Lieten⁶.

⁶ <http://openaccess.be/2012/10/22/brussels-declaration-on-open-access/>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. ALL European Academies – ALLEA⁷

a. Introduction

ALLEA, the federation of All European Academies, was founded in 1994 and currently brings together 55 Academies in more than 40 countries from the Council of Europe region. Member Academies operate as learned societies, think tanks and research performing organisations. They are self-governing communities of leaders of scholarly enquiry across all fields of the natural sciences, the social sciences and the humanities. ALLEA therefore provides access to an unparalleled human resource of intellectual excellence, experience and expertise.

Independent from political, commercial and ideological interests, ALLEA's policy work seeks to contribute to improving the framework conditions under which science and scholarship can excel. Jointly with its Member Academies, ALLEA is in a position to address the full range of structural and policy issues facing Europe in science, research and innovation. In doing so, it is guided by a common understanding of Europe bound together by historical, social and political factors as well as for scientific and economic reasons.

b. Belgian representation

General Assembly⁸

On the 11th and 12th of April, the annual General Assembly was organised in Rome. RASAB was represented by Prof. Benoît Macq (ARB) and Prof. Géry van Outryve d'Ydewalle (KVAB). During this General Assembly, a new vision and future strategy for ALLEA was discussed and a new president was elected.

Working Groups

In 2012 the Belgian Academies are represented in 3 Standing Committees or Working Groups of ALLEA:

1. **Intellectual Property Rights** (permanent working group): Prof. Carine Doutrelepont (ARB) is the Belgian representative in this committee, which was

⁷ <http://www.allea.org>

⁸ Program of the General Assembly 2012: <http://bit.ly/13RBph2>.

founded in 2010. She attended the meeting of the committee on 12-14 February 2012.

In September 2012 this committee published a *Statement on Patentability of Inventions Involving Human Embryonic Pluripotent Stem Cells in Europe of May 2011 and the Judgment of the Court of European Communities (Grand Chamber) of 18 October 2011 in Case C-34/10*⁹.

2. **Science Education** (working group): Science Education: Prof. Léo Houziaux (ARB) is the Belgian representative in this committee since 2011. He was put in contact with Prof. Joos Vandewalle (KVAB), to assure a good knowledge of the complete Belgian situation. The committee published the report *A renewal of science education in Europe. Views and Actions of National Academies*¹⁰ in May 2012.
3. In July 2012 ALLEA published comments on the European Commission's Communication *A reinforced European Research Area Partnership for excellence and growth*¹¹. Several members of the Belgian Academies have participated in the discussions that led to this publication¹².

2. European Academies Science Advisory Council – EASAC¹³

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. It thus provides a means for the collective voice of European science to be heard. Its mission reflects the view of academies that science is central to many aspects of modern life and that an appreciation of the scientific dimension is a pre-requisite to wise policy-making. This view already underpins the work of many academies at national level. With the growing importance of the European Union as an arena for policy, academies recognise that the scope of their advisory functions needs to extend beyond the national to cover also the European level. Here it is often the case that a trans-European grouping can be more effective than a body from a single country.

⁹ See the statement on <http://bit.ly/11aA2YY>.

¹⁰ See the report on <http://bit.ly/14OMNJw>.

¹¹ See on <http://bit.ly/163OXrY>.

¹² Mrs. Dominique Willens (KVAB, Klasse van de Menswetenschappen) and Mr. Pierre de Maret (ARB, Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques) attended to the meeting of this working group held in Brussels in March 2011.

¹³ <http://www.easac.eu>

The academies of Europe have therefore formed EASAC so that they can speak with a common voice with the goal of building science into policy at EU level. Through EASAC, the academies work together to provide independent, expert, evidence-based advice about the scientific aspects of public policy to those who make or influence policy within the European institutions. Drawing on the memberships and networks of the academies, EASAC accesses the best of European science in carrying out its work. Its views are vigorously independent of commercial or political bias, and it is open and transparent in its processes. EASAC aims to deliver advice that is comprehensible, relevant and timely. EASAC covers all scientific and technical disciplines, and its experts are drawn from all the countries of the European Union. It is funded by the member academies and by contracts with interested bodies. The expert members of project groups give their time free of charge. EASAC has no commercial or business sponsors. EASAC's activities include substantive studies of the scientific aspects of policy issues, reviews and advice about policy documents, workshops aimed at identifying current scientific thinking about major policy issues or at briefing policymakers, and short, timely statements on topical subjects. The EASAC Council has 28 individual members - highly experienced scientists nominated one each by the national science academies of every EU Member State that has one, the Academia Europaea and ALLEA. It is supported by a professional secretariat based at the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina. The Council agrees the initiation of projects, appoints members of project groups, reviews drafts and approves reports for publication.

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 May 10th-11th in Dublin and on November 8th-9th in Vilnius.

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.

The Belgian Academies were represented in 3 working groups in 2012, one of which published a report in 2012. The other 2 reports are to be published in 2013.

Working groups:

- **Sustainable Biofuels:** Prof. Leo Michiels (KVAB)
- **Carbon Capture and Storage:** Prof. Rudy Swennen (KVAB) and Dr. Ben Laenen (VITO)
- **Genetically modified organisms:** Prof. Nathalie Verbruggen (ARB)

EASAC published 5 reports and statements in 2012:

- *Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;*
- *Direct-to-consumer genetic testing for health-related purposes in the European Union: the view from EASAC and FEAM;*
- *Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change: an aide memoire for policy makers;*
- *EASAC statement on the need for more emphasis on systems approaches to inform EU policy making;*
- *The current status of biofuels in the European Union, their environmental impacts and future prospects.*

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*¹⁴.

In 2011 and 2012, 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 18-19 September, where she represented RASAB, but additionally gave input from her experience as liaison officer by giving an active learning session on 'Reaching the public'.

c. RASAB hosting

The Belgian Palace of Academies is well appreciated by European academies and there federations as a meeting place in Brussels, facilitating a close interaction with European policy makers.

RASAB hosted and helped organising meetings of EASAC's Bureau, its Steering Panel for Environment and of several of its working groups.

Through RASAB's mediation, the Academies' Palace also became a highly estimated meeting place of organisations as Acatech and the European Commission.

¹⁴ <http://bit.ly/JXvwoC>

3. Euro-CASE¹⁵

a. Introduction

The European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering is an independent non-profit organisation of national academies of Engineering, Applied Sciences and Technology from 21 European countries. It was founded in 1992 upon French initiative by the members of CADAS (Conseil pour les Applications de l'Académie des Sciences). The Executive Committee meets four times a year. The Board meets twice a year. Euro-CASE acts as a permanent forum for exchange and consultation between European Institutions, Industry and Research. Through its Member academies, Euro-CASE has access to top expertise (around 6,000 experts) and provides impartial, independent and balanced advice on technological issues with a clear European dimension to European Institutions, national Governments, companies and organisations.

b. Belgian representation

Prof. Jean-Louis Migeot (ARB) attended to the board meeting of Euro-CASE on 14-15 May 2012 in Dublin¹⁶.

c. Termination of membership

Belgian participation in Euro-CASE is problematic for many years. Following the recurring discussions about the amount of the Belgian dues, relative to the real contribution of Euro-Case in our works, it was decided to terminate our membership in this association at the end of 2012.

4. International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies¹⁷

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

¹⁵ <http://www.euro-case.org>

¹⁶ See his report on page 26.

¹⁷ http://www7.nationalacademies.org/humanrights/CHR_044113.htm

Rights (UDHR). It also promotes human rights consciousness-raising and institutional commitment to human rights work among national academies and scholarly societies worldwide.

b. Belgian representation

To answer to the demands set by the network, the Royal Academies of Belgium have created a committee: the Committee for the Free Practice of Science and Arts.

Composition

ARB	KVAB
Jean-Marie Frère <i>Classe des Sciences</i>	Irina Veretennicoff <i>Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>
Baron Paul Smets <i>Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques</i>	Marie-Claire Foblets <i>Klasse van de Menswetenschappen</i>
Chevalier Pierre Bartholomée <i>Classe des Arts</i>	Willem Elias <i>Klasse van de Kunsten</i>
Carine Doutrelepontx <i>Classe Technologie et Société</i>	Derrick Gosselin <i>Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>

5. InterAcademies Panel – IAP¹⁸

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.

¹⁸ <http://www.interacademies.net>

6. ICSU¹⁹

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.

The mission of ICSU is to strengthen international science for the benefit of society. To do this, ICSU mobilizes the knowledge and resources of the international science community to:

- Identify and address major issues of importance to science and society.
- Facilitate interaction amongst scientists across all disciplines and from all countries.
- Promote the participation of all scientists—regardless of race, citizenship, language, political stance, or gender—in the international scientific endeavor.
- Provide independent, authoritative advice to stimulate constructive dialogue between the scientific community and governments, civil society, and the private sector."^[1]

Activities focus on three areas: International Research Collaboration, Science for Policy, and Universality of Science.

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, the members of which were elected by the academies. One of the members of this management group is Prof. Freddy Dumortier (KVAB), who is also president of the National Council of the Scientific Unions²⁰ and the representative of Belgium in ICSU. The Management Group met on May 21st-22nd in Helsinki. EU-ICSU had its annual meeting on October 2nd-3rd in Helsinki.

¹⁹ <http://www.icsu.org>

²⁰ This council is made up of Permanent Secretaries of the two academies, and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of National Scientific Committees.

7. Union Académique Internationale - UAI²¹

a. Introduction

The UAI is the global organization of national academies in the fields of the humanities and social sciences. Its aims are to initiate, recognize, foster and fund basic long-term international research projects. Created in 1919 in Paris with a general secretariat established in Brussels²², the UAI comprises at the moment more than a hundred academies from 63 countries from all continents. Recognizing that many substantial projects in humanities and social sciences cannot be realized within a short time span, the UAI prides itself on being willing to support significant long-term projects.

The UAI already sponsored more than 3,000 books. Many of them are fundamental reference tools, such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, and text editions, some of which are disseminated on the web. The UAI is constantly launching new international projects, most recently the transformation of Mediterranean cities throughout history. Projects adopted by the UAI are expected to be based on cooperation between several national academies. In order to achieve its aims, the UAI relies on funding from private and public sources.

The UAI advocates for the role of the humanities and the social sciences in a changing world.

b. Belgian representation

The 86th General Assembly of the Union was held in New Delhi from 22 to 28 January 2012²³ at the invitation of the Sahitya Akademi, the Indian Academy of Letters. Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB) represented the Belgian Academies. No delegates of the Flemish academy were able to attend to this meeting.

As founder members, the Belgian Academies and their members are involved in many projects patronized by the UAI:

- *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*, (Project 1): This project, founded in 1919, is the older one of the UAI. More than 300 volumes have already been published in its collections. Prof. Jean-Charles Balty (ARB) is the director of the Belgian Committee for the CVA. Four volumes of the CVA have been published in 2012, but none by the Belgian Committee.

²¹ <http://www.uai-iaa.org>

²² More information about the UAI General Secretariat on page 20.

²³ See the report of this General Assembly on <http://bit.ly/116gywi>.

- *Alchimic texts* (Project 2): The project is directed by the Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux Arts de Belgique (Prof. Anne Tihon, UCL, is the director of the project). The last volume of this project has been published in 2011. Two volumes are in preparation (one for 2014).
- *Aristoteles Latinus, Corpus Philosophorum Medii Aevi* (Project 9.2): Prof. Carlos Steel (KVAB) is the International Director of the project. Two volumes have been published in 2011. Eight volumes are in preparation.
- *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. Two volumes are in preparation, one for 2013 and one for 2015.
- *Lexicon Iconographicum Mythologiae Classicae - LIMC - & Thesaurus Cultus et Rituum Antiquorum - ThesCRA -* (Project 28): Prof. Jean-Charles Balty (ARB) is a member of the responsible committee of this project. The last volume (tome VIII) of this thesaurus has been published in 2012.
- *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.
- *Iusti Lipsi Epistolae* (Project 70) : The project is directed by the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten. One volume has been published in 2012.
- *Papyrus-Archives. Edition and Studies* (Project 72): Prof. Willy Clarysse (KVAB) is the Director of the project. One volume has been published in 2012. One is in preparation for 2013.
- *Corpus Rubenianum Ludwig Burchard* (Project 73): Prof. Carl Van de Velde (KVAB) is the Director of the project.

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.

As ALLEA has renewed its strategy and is aiming for more interaction with the European Institutions, mainly in the field of science policy, it is likely that there will be a closer collaboration of RASAB's liaison office with ALLEA in the future. A good contact with ALLEA's secretariat and president was already established.

During the year 2012, the liaison office continued working on its network at the European commission. Several meetings with policy officers were arranged, more specifically with the directorate-generals of Agriculture, Sanco and Climate Action.

After signing the declaration of intent with the Joint Research Centre in 2011, EASAC continued and increased its dialogue with the European Commission, by organising on 16 October a high-level meeting between commissioner Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, director-general for Research Robert-Jan Smits, Chief Scientific Advisor Anne Glover and representatives of the different DG's of the European Commission on the one hand and the presidents of EASAC's member academies on the other hand, where it was discussed how the input of scientific advice into European policy can be improved and organised. It was decided that Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor to Barroso, will follow up on this, by establishing a framework for the collaboration with EASAC.

The liaison office assists EASAC in the distribution of its reports and increasing their visibility, by:

- assembling distribution lists for reports ;
- representing EASAC at various seminars and conferences in Brussel ;
- improving EASAC's general communication, which includes creating LinkedIn and Twitter accounts and by designing a newsletter, which was launched in January 2013 ;

- organising launch events and workshops in Brussels. In 2012, the following events took place:
 1. Launch of the report 'Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture' in a collaboration with Edelman|the Centre on June 6th.
 2. On 3 december EASAC report on 'Direct-to-consumer genetic testing' was discussed with the European Commission and the European Parliament in a workshop which took place in the European Parliament. The workshop was co-organised with STOA, the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel.

RASAB's liaison office also manages the input received from STOA and the Joint Research Centre on activities of the European Institutions and disseminates this information among EASAC collaborators and member academies.

UAI GENERAL SECRETARIAT

Since its foundation in 1919 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 (ARB) is in charge of the secretariat of the UAI. The Permanent Secretary of the Académie royale de Belgique is de facto the General Secretary of the Union.

By its experience at the international level, RASAB is involved in the organization of activities of the UAI and participates in the management of the General Secretariat of the Union (organization of the meetings, contact with the academy members, website, etc.)

1. Organization of the meetings

In 2012, the UAI held three meetings:

- 86th General Assembly, held in New Delhi, from 22 to 28 January 2012, at the invitation of the Sahitya Akademi, the Indian Academy of Letters. Representatives of fifty member academies attended to his General Assembly, in which all projects of the UAI were evaluated. A one-day symposium, entitled *Nature, Philosophy and Diffusion of the Indian Literature*, was organized during this assembly.
- Board meeting, held in Paris, from 2 to 4 May 2012, at the invitation of the Institut de France.
- Standing Committee meeting, in Prague, from 5 to 7 October 2012, at the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

Mr. Laurent Hansen, scientific counsellor of RASAB, attended to these three meetings as officer of the General Secretariat. He is responsible, among other things, of the contact with the member academies and their representatives, of the organization of the different meetings and conferences and of the communication through new technologies.

2. New members and new projects

In 2012 the UAI did not accept any new members. However, discussions are ongoing with the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, the Royal Society of New Zealand and the Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d'Afrique et des Diasporas Africaines (ASCAD) of Ivory Coast.

In 2012 the UAI has accepted to patronize one new project proposed by the South Korean Academy: the English translation of *The annals of Joseon Dynasty of Korea*.

3. Others activities

In 2012, the UAI organized and patronized:

- An International Conference on the *Sources for African history in African languages*, held at the University of Maputo (Mozambique) from 15 to 19 April 2012;
- A conference of the *Corpus Vasorum Antiquorum*, held in Paris at the Institut de France.

APPENDIXES

LIST OF BELGIAN DELEGATES IN FEDERATIONS OF ACADEMIES (2012)

ALLEA

General Assembly	Benoit Macq <i>ARB, Classe Technologie et Société</i>
	Ridder Géry Van Outryve d'Ydewalle <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Menswetenschappen</i>
Intellectual Property Rights <i>Permanent Working Group</i>	Carine Doutrelepon <i>ARB, Classe Technologie et Société</i>
Science Education <i>Working Group</i>	Léo Houziaux <i>ARB, Classe Technologie et Société</i>

EASAC

Council	Ridder Géry Van Outryve d'Ydewalle <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Menswetenschappen</i>
Sustainable Biofuels <i>Working Group</i>	Leo Michiels <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>
Carbon Capture and Storage <i>Working Group</i>	Rudy Swennen <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>
Genetically modified organisms <i>Working Group</i>	Nathalie Verbruggen <i>ARB, Classe des Sciences</i>
Biosciences <i>Steering Panel</i>	Marc Van Montagu <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>

Euro-Case

Board	Jean-Louis Migeot <i>ARB, Classe Technologie et Société</i>
--------------	--

ICSU

EU-ICSU	Freddy Dumortier <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>
----------------	--

UAI

General Assembly	Pierre Jodogne <i>ARB, Classe des Lettres</i>
-------------------------	--

INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING 2012 OF THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

UITNODIGING



The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

Jaarlijkse Vergadering van de Nationale Wetenschappelijke Comit  s

Donderdag 2 februari 2012

De Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor
Wetenschappen en Kunsten
en
L'Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique

hebben het genoegen om u uit te nodigen op de

JAARLIJKE VERGADERING VAN
DE NATIONALE WETENSCHAPPELIJKE COMIT  S

Donderdag 2 februari 2012, om 15u
Paleis der Academi  n | Hertogsstraat 1, 1000 Brussel

Gelieve te antwoorden voor 30 januari 2012, via email, aan Dhr. Laurent Hansen : secretariat@rasab.be

	Programma
15:00-16:00	Welkom door Dhr. Freddy Dumortier, Voorzitter van de Nationale Raad van de Wetenschappelijke Unies
	Voorstelling van enkele Nationale Comit��s
16:00-16:30	Koffiepauze
16:30-17:30	Uiteenzetting door Dhr. Carthage Smith , Deputy Executive Director of the International Council for Science (ICSU) :
	<i>ICSU: latest developments and opportunities</i>
17:30	Receptie



ACAD  MIE ROYALE
des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts
DE BELGIQUE



Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie
van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten



ICSU
International Council for Science



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

Euro-CASE Board Meeting

14 et 15 mai 2012, Dublin

Compte-rendu de M. Jean-Louis Migeot

Introduction

J'ai participé, au nom du RASAB, à la réunion du Board de Euro-CASE (European Council of Academies of Applied Sciences, Technologies and Engineering) à Dublin les 14 et 15 mai dernier.

Euro-CASE regroupe les académies de technologies de 29 pays européens mais toutes n'étaient pas représentées à la réunion du board.

Ce compte-rendu est divisé en trois parties :

- compte-rendu de la réunion proprement dite ;
- compte-rendu des discussions avec Lena Treschow-Torell (présidente) et Jacques Lucasik (secrétaire-général) au sujet de la cotisation de la Belgique ;
- recommandations quant à la participation future du RASAB à Euro-CASE.

Compte-rendu

La réunion a consisté en une présentation des activités récentes et futures d'Euro-CASE. Celles-ci sont décrites en détail dans les pièces jointes à la convocation. En résumé :

- Aspects financiers :
 - 70% du budget d'Euro-CASE est constitué du salaire de la secrétaire.
 - L'Autriche vient de se retirer d'Euro-CASE car son Académie des Sciences estime ne pas être représentative du secteur industriel et technologique autrichien ; des contacts ont été pris avec d'autres associations qui pourraient prendre la place de l'Académie des Sciences comme membre autrichien d'Euro-CASE.
 - Outre les cotisations, les membres ont été invités à contribuer à un fonds de réserve ; la Belgique n'a jamais contribué à ce fond.
- Contacts avec les institutions européennes :
 - Euro-CASE cherche à se positionner comme un interlocuteur privilégié des institutions européennes (Commission et Parlement) en matière de technologie et d'innovation.
 - Ce positionnement répond bien sûr à l'importance légitime de l'innovation dans les politiques européennes et au lien évident qui existe entre technologie et innovation mais il est aussi le reflet des centres d'intérêt personnels de la présidente, Lena Treschow Torell, qui a dirigé, jusque dans un passé récent, les Joint Research Center (JRC).
 - De nombreux contacts ont été noués récemment par Euro-CASE avec :
 - la DG recherche et innovation ;
 - la DG énergie ;

- la direction des JRC ;
- le STOA (European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment).
- Communication :
 - publication d'un rapport annuel ;
 - mise à jour profonde du site web.
- Participation au programme Frontiers of Engineering :
 - Forum d'échange entre jeunes scientifiques européens et américains sur des thèmes technologiques d'avenir. Ce forum aura lieu du 20 au 23 novembre 2013 à Paris.
- Plate-formes Euro-CASE :
 - La plate-forme sur les transports a remis son rapport.
 - Une plate-forme (groupe de travail) sur l'innovation a été mise en place et tiendra une réunion à Bruxelles (?) les 29 et 30 mai prochain.
- Conférences annuelles d'Euro-CASE :
 - Les 12 et 13 novembre 2012 à Paris sur le thème « Energy Independence for Europe ».
 - La conférence 2013 aura lieu à Lisbonne.
 - Euro-CASE lance un appel à candidature pour l'organisation de la conférence 2014.
- Divers :
 - Une révision des statuts d'Euro-CASE semble nécessaire. Le secrétaire général fera sous peu une proposition en ce sens.

Discussions sur la cotisation belge

La cotisation payée en 2012 par le Danemark a été imputée par erreur à la Belgique dans les comptes d'Euro-CASE. L'erreur n'a été identifiée qu'après la fin de la réunion de Dublin. Pensant que le RASAB avait finalement payé, par erreur, la cotisation complète pour 2012, le problème du montant de cette cotisation et la lettre du RASAB annonçant le paiement d'une cotisation réduite n'a pas été discuté en séance (il avait toutefois été discuté en comité exécutif la veille mais je ne fais pas partie de ce comité et n'étais donc pas présent).

Il ressort toutefois des discussions avec M^{me} Treschow-Torell et M. Lucasik que :

- Euro-CASE fonctionne avec un personnel considéré comme minimum et dans le cadre d'un budget jugé incompressible (ils ont néanmoins pu faire face au retrait de l'Autriche sans avoir à revoir en profondeur leur programme).
- Euro-CASE refuse fermement d'ouvrir un débat sur notre cotisation, principalement par peur d'un effet de contagion qui déforçerait l'association en réduisant ses moyens.
- Le message est donc sans ambiguïté : Euro-CASE nous demande de choisir entre un paiement de la cotisation complète ou un retrait pur et simple comme vient de le décider l'Académie autrichienne.

Je regrette le quiproquo sur la cotisation, exclusivement imputable au secrétariat d'Euro-CASE, qui m'a empêché de faire valoir mes arguments en séance. J'aurais voulu chercher le soutien d'autres membres, certainement soumis aux mêmes difficultés budgétaires, et proposer une réduction drastique du budget de fonctionnement de l'association permettant une réduction équivalente des cotisations.

Conclusions et proposition de décision

Euro-CASE existe depuis 20 ans et la participation belge (BACAS puis RASAB) est hésitante et problématique depuis au moins 10 ans. Le conflit récurrent sur la cotisation nous empêche de participer pleinement aux activités d'Euro-CASE ou d'y exercer des responsabilités et d'influencer sa stratégie. On peut, à l'inverse, justifier nos tentatives de réduire notre contribution, par l'absence ou la faiblesse des « services rendus » par Euro-CASE.

Suite à la réunion de Dublin mon sentiment personnel est le suivant :

- Nos classes KTW et CTS sont très différentes de la plupart des autres membres d'Euro-CASE. Dans beaucoup de pays en effet, les « Academies of Technology » ou « Academies of Engineering » se rapprochent plus de la FABI ou de la KVIV (associations professionnelles d'ingénieurs francophone et flamande) que d'une réelle Académie au sens où nous l'entendons à l'ARB-KVAB. Simplement en terme d'effectifs, et pour ne citer que ces deux exemples, l'Académie finlandaise compte plus de 600 membres et l'Académie suédoise entre 2.000 et 3.000 ... Elles sont donc représentatives à la fois du secteur industriel et de la communauté des ingénieurs de leur pays ce qui ne me paraît pas être le cas de KTW et, encore moins, de CTS. L'Académie autrichienne s'est retirée exactement pour cette raison de manque de représentativité : elle ne se sentait pas à sa place dans Euro-CASE et ne pouvait d'ailleurs s'y investir.
- Euro-CASE me paraît par ailleurs souffrir d'un réel problème d'identité par rapport à CAETS (son équivalent au niveau mondial) mais aussi, et surtout, à ALLEA et à EASAC. Vu nos moyens limités, budgétairement mais aussi en terme de temps disponible pour s'investir dans ces associations, il me semblerait opportun de se fixer des priorités.
- La cotisation demandée, et le budget qu'elle alimente, me paraissent disproportionnés par rapport aux activités d'Euro-CASE qui se limitent à quelques groupes de travail, une conférence annuelle et, plus récemment, un travail de lobbying vis-à-vis des institutions européennes (mais ce travail vise plus à donner une légitimité à Euro-CASE qu'à réellement faire avancer la cause de la technologie !).

En conséquence je dois recommander au RASAB de suivre l'une des deux voies suivantes :

- soit assurer une présence belge élargie au sein d'Euro-CASE en contactant la KVIV, la FABI, la SRBII ou d'autres associations similaires pour les associer à la participation du RASAB à Euro-CASE dans le double but de répartir le poids financier sur plus de têtes et de garantir une plus grande représentativité du monde technologique belge au sein d'Euro-CASE ;
- soit abandonner purement et simplement notre participation à Euro-CASE sachant qu'une cotisation réduite, même si elle est finalement acceptée, nous maintiendra dans un statut intermédiaire, un pied dedans, un pied dehors, peu compatible avec une contribution active et dont nous ne pourrions attendre aucun « juste retour ».