

# 2013

## 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 2013

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National Committees, International Relations, UAI

# 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 Belgique<sup>1</sup> (ARB) and the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten (KVAB)<sup>2</sup>. 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 2013 RASAB was chaired by Prof. Ludo Gelders, President of the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.academieroyale.be](http://www.academieroyale.be)

<sup>2</sup> [www.kvab.be](http://www.kvab.be)

*Board of Directors 2013*

<b>ARB</b>	<b>KVAB</b>
Jean-Louis Migeot <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 2013*

<b>ARB</b>	<b>KVAB</b>
Jean-Louis Migeot <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 2013 RASAB organized the annual meeting of the national scientific committees on 30 November at the Palace of the Academies<sup>3</sup>. The guest speaker was **Mrs Margarida Freire**, Head of Department 'Federal, Interfederal en International Coordination' of the Belgian Science Policy Office (**BELSPO**), who presented a lecture entitled *The contribution of BELSPO to the creation of interscientific networks*. Her speech was preceded by the presentations of four national committees: Psychological Sciences, Physics, Geodesy & Geophysics and Biological Sciences. Forty-five representatives of the national committees attended the meeting.

## 3. Annual Activity Reports

Each year, the Belgian scientific committees publish 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 website<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> See invitation (Dutch version) on page 25.

<sup>4</sup> [www.rasab.be](http://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)	<a href="http://www.cosparhq.cnes.fr">www.cosparhq.cnes.fr</a>
▪ International Astronomical Union (IAU)	<a href="http://www.iau.org">www.iau.org</a>
▪ International Geographical Union (IGU)	<a href="http://www.igu-net.org">www.igu-net.org</a>
▪ International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP)	<a href="http://www.igbp.net">www.igbp.net</a>
▪ International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE)	<a href="http://www.ifmbe.org">www.ifmbe.org</a>
▪ International Mathematical Union (IMU)	<a href="http://www.mathunion.org">www.mathunion.org</a>
▪ International Union for Physical and Engineering Sciences in Medicine (IUPESM)	<a href="http://www.iupesm.org">www.iupesm.org</a>
▪ International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)	<a href="http://www.inqua.org">www.inqua.org</a>
▪ International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)	<a href="http://www.iubmb.org">www.iubmb.org</a>
▪ International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS)	<a href="http://www.iubs.org">www.iubs.org</a>
▪ International Union of Crystallography (IUCr):	<a href="http://www.iucr.org">www.iucr.org</a>
▪ International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)	<a href="http://www.iugg.org">www.iugg.org</a>
▪ International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS)	<a href="http://www.iugs.org">www.iugs.org</a>
▪ International Union of History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS-DHST)</li> <li>○ Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS-DLMPS)</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.dlmps.org">www.dlmps.org</a>
▪ International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS)	<a href="http://www.iums.org">www.iums.org</a>
▪ International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR)	<a href="http://www.iuphar.org">www.iuphar.org</a>
▪ International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS)	<a href="http://www.iups.org">www.iups.org</a>
▪ International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS)	<a href="http://www.iupsys.net">www.iupsys.net</a>
▪ International Union of Pure and Applied Biophysics (IUPAB)	<a href="http://www.iupab.org">www.iupab.org</a>
▪ International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)	<a href="http://www.iupac.org">www.iupac.org</a>
▪ International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (IUPAP)	<a href="http://www.iupap.org">www.iupap.org</a>
▪ International Union of Radio Science (URSI)	<a href="http://www.ursi.org">www.ursi.org</a>
▪ International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS)	<a href="http://www.iuss.org">www.iuss.org</a>
▪ International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (IUTAM)	<a href="http://www.iutam.net">www.iutam.net</a>
▪ Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research (SCOR)	<a href="http://www.scor-int.org">www.scor-int.org</a>
▪ Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)	<a href="http://www.scopenvironment.org">www.scopenvironment.org</a>
▪ Scientific Committee on Solar-Terrestrial Physics	<a href="http://www.yorku.ca/scostep">www.yorku.ca/scostep</a>
▪ World Climate Research Programme	<a href="http://www.wcrp-climate.org">www.wcrp-climate.org</a>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

### 1. ALL European Academies – ALLEA<sup>5</sup>

#### 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

##### *Working Groups*

In 2013 the Belgian Academies collaborated to the following publications of ALLEA:

1. In October 2013 the **Intellectual Property Rights** committee published a *Statement on Patentability and Research Funding relating to embryonic Stem Cells (e-SCs)*. Prof. Carine Doutrelepon (ARB) is the Belgian representative in this permanent working group, which was founded in 2010.
2. In February 2013 ALLEA published a *Roadmap for embedding the Social Sciences and Humanities in Horizon 2020*. Several members of the Belgian Academies have participated in the discussions that led to this publication.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.allea.org>

## 2. European Academies Science Advisory Council – EASAC<sup>6</sup>

### 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.

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.

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<sup>6</sup> <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 (KVAB), who attended the Council meetings on June 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> in Halle (Germany).

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.

Jan Kretzschmar (KVAB) is the Belgian member EASAC's Energy steering panel.

The Belgian Academies were represented in 4 working groups in 2013.

*Working groups:*

- **Biofuels:** Prof. Leo Michiels (KVAB)
- **Carbon Capture and Storage:** Prof. Rudy Swennen (KVAB) and Dr. Ben Laenen (VITO)
- **Planting the Future (GMO):** Prof. Nathalie Verbruggen (ARB)
- **Low Carbon Energy:** Prof. Samuele Furfari (Collège Belgique)

The Belgian Academies also arranged for Tina Kyndt, member of the Young Academy (KVAB), to be part of a discussion panel at the launch of the report *Planting the Future*.

EASAC published 4 reports and statements in 2013:

- *Carbon Capture and Storage in Europe;*
- *Planting the future: opportunities and challenges for using crop genetic improvement technologies for sustainable agriculture;*
- *EASAC statement on the SET-Plan;*
- *Extreme Weather Events in Europe.*

The report *The current status of biofuels in the European Union, their environmental impacts and future prospects*, published in December 2012, was launched in 2013. The report on Low Carbon Energy is to be published in 2014.

## 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 several meetings of EASAC's Steering Panels and working groups.

On 18 and 19 February, a 2-days workshop on Nuclear Fuel Cycle took place at the Academies palace in a co-organisation with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission and the Royal Society. A report with the outcome of this workshop will be published in 2014.

On 22 May RASAB and EASAC organised the launch of the Carbon Capture and Storage report in the Academies palace.

### 3. International Human Rights Network of Academies and Scholarly Societies<sup>7</sup>

#### 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 non-violently 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.

#### 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>
Paul Smets <i>Classe des Lettres et des Sciences morales et politiques</i>	Marie-Claire Foblets <i>Klasse van de Menswetenschappen</i>
Pierre Bartholomé <i>Classe des Arts</i>	Willem Elias <i>Klasse van de Kunsten</i>
Carine Doutrelepont <i>Classe Technologie et Société</i>	Derrick Gosselin <i>Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>

<sup>7</sup> [http://www7.nationalacademies.org/humanrights/CHR\\_044113.htm](http://www7.nationalacademies.org/humanrights/CHR_044113.htm)

#### 4. InterAcademies Panel – IAP<sup>8</sup>

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.

Hendrik Van Brussel (KVAB) represented RASAB at the IAP General Assembly on 23-27 February in Rio de Janeiro<sup>9</sup>.

#### 5. ICSU<sup>10</sup>

##### 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.

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

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<sup>8</sup> <http://www.interacademies.net>

<sup>9</sup> Report on page 26.

<sup>10</sup> <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, 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 Unions<sup>11</sup> and the representative of Belgium in ICSU. EU-ICSU had its annual meeting on October 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> in Prague.

## **6. Union Académique Internationale - UAI<sup>12</sup>**

### **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 Brussels, 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.

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<sup>11</sup> This council is made up of Permanent Secretaries of the two academies, and Presidents and Vice-Presidents of National Scientific Committees.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.uai-iaa.org>

## **b. Belgian representation**

### *General Assembly*

The UAI held its general assembly in Mainz from 12 to 17 May 2013, at the invitation of the Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur of Mainz and of the German Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften. Belgium was represented by Prof. Pierre Jodogne (ARB) and Prof. Carl Van de Velde (KVAB).

### *Projects*

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

- *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 (one for 2014).
- *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. One volume has been published in 2013.
- *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.
- *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 volume has been published in 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. In 2014 ALLEA is planning to organise several activities and events in collaboration with RASAB at the Academies palace.

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

- distributing EASAC output to the policy community and other stakeholders;
- improving EASAC's general communication and outreach, which includes press contacts, maintaining LinkedIn and Twitter accounts and assembling a newsletter, which was published in January 2013 and December 2013;
- representing EASAC at various seminars and conferences in Brussels;
- advising EASAC Bureau and Council on the science-policy dialogue and on priorities in the Brussels policy community;
- organising launch events and workshops in Brussels. In 2013, the following events took place:
  1. EASAC-Joint Research Centre-Royal Society (UK) workshop on Nuclear Fuel Cycle on 18-19 February.
  2. Launch of the report *The current status of biofuels in the European Union* in collaboration with Edelman in the Centre on 24 April.
  3. Launch of the report *Carbon Capture and Storage* in the Academies palace on 22 May.

4. Launch of the report *Planting the Future: Opportunities and Challenges for Sustainable Crop Production* on 27 June at the representation of Saxony-Anhalt to the EU.
5. Launch of the report *Extreme Weather Events* in collaboration with the Norway House on 27 December.

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

During the year 2013, EASAC and the liaison office built on and maintained the well established network at the European commission.

There was a close collaboration with Anne Glover, Chief Scientific Advisor to president Barroso, who spoke at the launch of EASAC's report on Carbon Capture and Storage and attended EASAC's Council meeting in Halle (Germany). She gave input to EASAC on which topics to prioritise and on developing strategy to improve the interaction with the policy community. She strongly promoted EASAC's report *Planting the Future* in an interview with Euractiv on 26 September 2013<sup>13</sup>.

EASAC also continued its collaboration with the Joint Research Centre, with which it signed a declaration of intent in 2011. One of the outcomes was the start of a joint project on the nuclear fuel cycle, to be completed in 2014. Sir Brian Heap, president of EASAC, chaired several meetings of the JRC.

In 2013, RASAB's liaison office started working on the improvement of EASAC's interaction with the European Parliament. Since the European Parliament with its 751 individual members is a very challenging target when trying to establish a broad visibility and outreach, the main goal for 2013 was to develop a strategy for the development of an effective dialogue with the European Parliament. For this purpose, meetings were arranged with various Members of the European Parliament and workshops in the European Parliament were attended. EASAC's Steering Panels, whose members are scientists with some policy or societal experience, also contributed by sharing their experiences and discussing ideas.

<sup>13</sup> <http://www.euractiv.com/science-policymaking/eu-chief-scientist-unethical-use-interview-530692>

Finally, RASAB's liaison office drafted an application for a framework contract between EASAC and the STOA Panel of the European Parliament in 4 different lots: Energy, Agriculture, Environment and Biotechnology. The results of this competition will be announced in 2014.

## 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 2013, the UAI held three meetings:

- 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, held in Mainz from 12 to 17 May 2013, at the invitation of the Akademie der Wissenschaften und der Literatur of Mainz and of the German Union der deutschen Akademien der Wissenschaften. Fifty-five representatives of member academies attended to his General Assembly, in which all projects of the UAI were evaluated. A one-day symposium, entitled *The Scytho-Sarmatian World: recent discoveries*, was organized during this assembly.
- Board meeting, held in Paris, from 6 to 8 February 2013, at the invitation of the Institut de France.
- Standing Committee meeting, in Bucarest, from 8 to 9 September 2013, at the invitation of the Academia Româna.

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 2013 the UAI has accepted three members:

- the Mongolian Academy of Sciences;
- the Royal Society of New Zealand;
- the Académie des Sciences, des Arts, des Cultures d'Afrique et des Diasporas Africaines (ASCAD) of Ivory Coast.

In 2013 the UAI has accepted to patronize two new projects:

- *Correspondance d'Hévélius*, proposed by the Académie internationale d'Histoire des Sciences;
- *Fontes inediti Numesmaticae Antiquae*, proposed by the Académie royale de Belgique and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

## 3. Other activities

In 2013, the UAI organized and patronized:

- An International Conference on the *Latin in Medieval Britain: sources, language, and lexicography*, held at the Oxford University from 12 to 14 December 2013.

## APPENDIXES

## LIST OF BELGIAN DELEGATES IN FEDERATIONS OF ACADEMIES (2013)

### ALLEA

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

### EASAC

<b>Council</b>	Géry Van Outryve d'Ydewalle <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Menswetenschappen</i>
<b>Sustainable Biofuels</b> <i>Working Group</i>	Leo Michiels <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>
<b>Carbon Capture and Storage</b> <i>Working Group</i>	Rudy Swennen <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i> Ben Laenen <i>Nominated external expert (VITO)</i>
<b>Genetically modified organisms</b> <i>Working Group</i>	Nathalie Verbruggen <i>ARB, Classe des Sciences</i>
<b>Low Carbon Energy</b> <i>Working Group</i>	Samuele Furfari <i>ULB, Collège Belgique</i>
<b>Biosciences</b> <i>Steering Panel</i>	Marc Van Montagu <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>



<b>Energy</b> <i>Steering Panel</i>	Jan Kretzschmar <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>
<b>IAP</b>	
<b>General Assembly</b>	Hendrik van Brussel <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Technische Wetenschappen</i>
<b>ICSU</b>	
<b>EU-ICSU</b>	Freddy Dumortier <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen</i>
<b>UAI</b>	
<b>General Assembly</b>	Pierre Jodogne <i>ARB, Classe des Lettres</i>
	Carl Van de Velde <i>KVAB, Klasse van de Kunsten</i>

# INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING 2013 OF THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

UITNODIGING

The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

**Jaarlijkse Vergadering van de Nationale Wetenschappelijke Comitès**

**Woensdag 30 oktober 2013**



**Programma**

14:30-15:30	Welkom door Dhr. Freddy Dumortier, Voorzitter van de Nationale Raad van de Wetenschappelijke Unies
	Voorstelling van enkele Nationale Comitès
15:30-16:00	Koffiepauze
16:00-17:00	Uiteenzetting door Mevr. <b>Margarida Freire</b> , Diensthoofd "Federale, interfederale en Internationale coördinatie" van het <b>Federaal Wetenschapsbeleid (BELSPO)</b> :
	<i><b>De bijdrage van BELSPO tot netwerkvorming onder wetenschappers</b></i>
17:00	Receptie

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

**Jaarlijkse Vergadering van de Nationale Wetenschappelijke Comitès**

Woensdag 30 oktober 2013, om 14:30  
Paleis der Academiën | Hertogsstraat 1, 1000 Brussel

Gelieve te antwoorden voor 25 oktober 2013, via e-mail,  
aan : [secretariat@rasab.be](mailto:secretariat@rasab.be)



**ACADÉMIE ROYALE**  
des Sciences, des Lettres et des Beaux-Arts  
**DE BELGIQUE**



Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie  
van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten



**belspo**

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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

Report on the attendance by Prof. em. Hendrik Van Brussel

Of IAP Conference *Grand Challenges and Integrated Innovations: Science for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development* and 7th IAP General Assembly

On 24-26 February 2013 in Rio de Janeiro

### IAP Conference

92 participants were registered from 76 academies and 8 observer organisations (AASSA, EASAC, GYA, IAC, IAMP, IANAS, ICSU, NASAC).

During two very interesting days, following subjects were discussed in multi-speaker presentations and in “challenge labs”:

1. The role of science in coping with the Grand Challenges facing humanity
2. Challenge labs in subgroups with reporting to the plenary session, on
  - a. Improving science literacy
  - b. Promoting global food security
  - c. Improving global health
  - d. Enhancing access to safe water and sanitation
  - e. Coping with climate change
  - f. Towards a sustainable energy future
3. Science academies working together to tackle the grand challenge of poverty eradication and sustainable development
4. Grand challenges and integrated innovation: lessons from experience
5. Bridging Grand Challenges and integrated innovations with poverty eradication and sustainable development

Some observations:

- Engineering academies are absent in IAP (except as part of science academies, like KTW/KVAB), although for most of the challenges their contribution can be tremendous, e.g. NAS (US National Academy of Sciences) is present, but NAE (US National Academy of Engineering) is not. This reduces the visibility of engineering as a scientific discipline in the science-oriented IAP environment. I made an appeal to IAP to promote the inclusion of engineering academies in IAP. This appeal was supported by many participants.
- The ‘young academies’ are very visible in IAP, through the Global Young Academy (GYA) ([www.globalyoungacademy.net](http://www.globalyoungacademy.net)). They make very interesting contributions, e.g. by developing teaching material for rural areas. Also the Dutch Young Academy is very active in this respect. The recently established young academy of KVAB can find much inspiration from the enthusiasm of the GYA.
- The African academies are well represented in IAP. They have original ideas to promote sustainability in African societies (“How can Africans respect nature if they don’t understand and aren’t taught about the issue of sustainability?”)
- It was agreed that the private sector should be more involved in project funding on poverty eradication and sustainable development. Actions will be taken by IAP to stimulate this.
- Organisations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, USAID were very visibly present at the IAP conference and showed their impressive involvement in poverty

eradication and sustainable development.

- Prof. Asma Ismail made a strong statement with the Malaysian experience: ‘stop playing catching up and turn around the way to do business’, by applying the ‘blue ocean strategy’ and measuring the real impact rather than useless impact factors of journals. The showcase was the development of medical diagnostics products for low-resource settings. “Instead of ‘from brain to business’ they want ‘from brain to business to happiness’”.
- “For poverty eradication you must give the funding to people who know what poverty is”.

As a conclusion of the conference, a ‘Letter from Rio’ was drafted and endlessly discussed. To me this was not the highlight of the conference, but the many good ideas that emerged. These will hopefully be bundled in the conference proceedings.

### 7th IAP General Assembly

Some main recommendations from IAP2013 were:

- Identify young scientists in less developed countries
- Science literacy is a common challenge where science academies can contribute
- Specialized academies (like engineering and medical academies) should be included in IAP
- The private sector should be addressed for funding
- The influence of science in international forums should be increased (e.g. in the World Economic Forum, Davos)

IAP includes now 106 member academies; some new applications are pending.

The Global Young Academy presented their activities and plans ([www.globalyoungacademy.net](http://www.globalyoungacademy.net)).

A fundraising campaign will be started on behalf of IAP by Genovese, Vanderhoef & Associates.

The following affiliated networks presented their progress report:

- AASSA (Association of Academies and Societies of Sciences in Asia)
- EASAC (European Academies’ Science Advisory Council)
- GYA (Global Young Academy)
- IAC (InterAcademy Council)
- IAMP (InterAcademy Medical Panel)
- IANAS (InterAmerican Network of Academies of Science)
- ICSU (International Council for Science)
- NASAC (Network of African Science Academies)

My observation here is that CAETS (International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences Inc.) is not but should eventually become an affiliated network of IAP.

The strategic priorities for the period 2013-2015 have been approved. These are:

- Positioning IAP as a recognized and independent provider of high quality global science advice
- Championing science education
- Promoting accurate and effective science communication
- Strengthening existing academies and establishing new ones
- Strengthening IAP operation and fund-raising strategy
- Strengthening partnership with other organisations

The IAP statutes and rules of procedure have been revised and the (minor) changes approved.

Two IAP co-chairs have been elected, one from an industrialised country and one from a developing country. The result of the vote was:

- Prof. dr. Volker ter Meulen, Germany
- Prof. Mohamed H.A. Hassan, Sudan, re-elected as co-chair

The GA elected 11 members of the Executive Committee (EC), 5 from an industrialised country, and 6 from

a developing country. Elected are:

Industrialised country:

- The Royal Society of Canada (RSC) The Academy of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada
- Académie des Sciences (France)
- Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (Italy)
- Science Council of Japan
- US National Academy of Sciences

Developing country:

- Brazilian Academy of Sciences
- Chinese Academy of Sciences
- Cuban Academy of Sciences
- The Indian National Science Academy
- Mexican Academy of Sciences
- Academy of Science of South Africa

Leuven, 18/03/2013

Hendrik Van Brussel  
Member KTW/KVAB