

Present:

1. CEI Members

Permanent members:

President General (M. Thio), B. O'Reilly, J. Spiewak, L. Fitzpatrick, T. Wilson, J. Lee, M-F Salesiani-Payet, Sr Maureen McGuire.

Ex officio members:

Australia (A. Thornton represented by C. Victory), Brazil (M.G. Ferreira), England & Wales (A. Abel), France (B. Ousset), India (V.M.J Balaswamy represented by J. Pandian), Italy (C. Nodari), Ireland (G. Meagher, represented by M. Bushnell), USA (S. Gilbert), Zambia (C. Chanda).

Appointed members:

Canada (J.-N. Cormier), Ghana (F. Vittor), Portugal (A. Correia Saraiva), Scotland (J. McKendrick), Thailand (C. Vaivutivet).

Apologies:

S. Gramajo.

2. Members of the Permanent Section (other than CEI members):

B. Ondigui Fouda, J. Pandian, J. Makwinja, T. Tan, A. Zoghbi, E. Keane, R. Lima de Oliveira, J.A. Gonzalez Kuehne, L. Even, E. Tigla, D. Williams, T. Muir.

3. Interpreters:

A. de Viu Echevarria, A. Reis, S. Vasconcelos, B. Parsons, M. Carbajo and E. Vargas.

4. Secretary

CH. de Parseval.

AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, 11 June 2013 -**
- B. ORDINARY GENERAL IEC MEETING**
- C. RESOLUTIONS OF THE CEI**
- D. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The President General opened the meeting.

14 of the member countries of the CEI were present or represented, and the permanent members were almost all present (8/9). Over 30% of voting members were present, so the decisions ratified by the International Executive Committee will be valid.

The Secretary General delegated the task of minute secretary to Claire-Hélène de Parseval.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, 11 JUNE 2013, ROME

The minutes were approved unanimously.

B. ORDINARY GENERAL IEC MEETING

President General's report 2013 (Dr. Michael Thio)

Every year, the President General sends the Holy See a report of the work of the International Council General during the year.

- **International Commission for Aid and Development (CIAD)**

Through this commission, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul has been able to provide immediate help to countries directly affected by natural disasters: floods (Bangladesh, Tanzania, Malawi, Madagascar, Mexico, etc.), typhoon (Philippines), earthquake (Pakistan, Guatemala) and following humanitarian crises resulting from civil war (refugees from Syria to Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and so on). It has funded rehabilitation projects (we are still funding reconstruction projects in India following the tsunami of 2004) in the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Burkina Faso and the Dominican Republic, as well as development projects for education and training of children and adults, to help them live with dignity. In Haiti, it has funded education, micro-credit, fish-farming, poultry farming and market gardening projects, a horticultural project in Mozambique, a cybercafé in Cameroon, training centres in Senegal, Lebanon and Jerusalem, a clothing and knitting production centre in Uganda.

- **Youth**

The World Youth Days held in Brazil brought together over 1200 young people from different branches of the Vincentian family, around the Holy Father, Pope Francis. The young people first met for a few days before at Belo Horizonte where they follow a catechesis and formation programme on the subject of: "New forms of poverty - Love God: Love your neighbour". Young Vincentians are developing a network of charity via the social media (Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter), through which they share their faith, their spirituality and their charism as Vincentians.

- **International training programme**

The cascade training programme initiated by the International Council General has given around a hundred National Presidents the opportunity for training on spirituality, the history of the Society and also in leadership and development.

- **Opening of Lent by Pope Benedict XVI**

The Society was privileged to be invited to the opening of Lent by the Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. The Society's mission and work for evangelisation is indisputably close to the Pope's message of faith and charity. The President General was interviewed on this occasion by the Vatican's press office.

- **Celebration of the Bicentenary of the birth of Blessed Frédéric Ozanam**

In order to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frédéric Ozanam, the Society organised talks, exhibitions, tours of places linked to Saint Vincent de Paul, Blessed Sister Rosalie Rendu and Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, in Paris from 19 to 21 April 2013. The celebrations ended with Mass in Notre Dame Cathedral, at which a message to Vincentians from Pope Francis was read. Many groups around the world also organized their own ceremonies to mark the event.

- **International meetings**

The Society attended the following meetings: the meeting of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum in Rome, in January, the subject of which was "Charity, Christian anthropology and the new global ethics"; the meeting of the Pontifical Council Cor Unum in Rome in June, on developments in the Syria crisis, and an individual meeting with the Holy Father, Pope Francis; the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Vincentian Family in Paris in January. It organized: meetings of the International Executive Committee and the Permanent Section, in Rome, in June 2013; regional

-Lisbon, Portugal-

meetings for the international structure took place in Burundi for Africa 3, in England and Austria for Western Europe and in Brazil and the Antilles for America.

- Visits by the President General

In the exercise of his role, the President General visited: Canada, England, Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Sri Lanka, India, Hong Kong and New Zealand. He also attended meetings in New York with the United Nations liaison office, several NGOs (mainly Catholic and with Archbishop F. Chullikatt, Permanent observer of the Holy See. During his travels, he spoke to members of the society, to the hierarchy, donors, politicians and government members, and visited charitable projects (opening of schools, homeless shelters, night shelters, crèches and kindergartens).

- Changes to the Board of the International Council General

Julien Spiewak is the new Secretary General and Karl Michael Hila is the new International Vice-President for Youth. Both were appointed in September 2013.

Administrative report 2013, from Secretary General (Julien Spiewak)

Julien Spiewak, Secretary General, presented his administrative report for 2013.

- Life of the Society

Karl Michael Hila, new International Vice-President for youth, appointed to the International Board in September 2013 has a Commission consisting of Sebastian Steinmeyer (Chile), Jason Hunt (Canada) and Adrien de Vreeze (Belgium). Our new Webmaster Hélène Afriat, with the help of a committee and the Ayaline company (hoster) has set up a new internet site for the CGI. It was launched in 2013 in three languages (French, English, Spanish). Portuguese and Chinese versions have been available since November 2013.

Together with the National Council of France and the Departemental Council of Paris, the International Council General organised worthy celebrations for the Bicentenary of Frédéric Ozanam. It was decided to group events around two main lines: the birth and the death of Frédéric Ozanam: respectively 19, 20 and 21 April 2013 for a scientific conference and 07 September 2013 for a study day.

We shared the services of Emmanuelle Duthu with the Council of France, to prepare for the Bicentenary.

Our Executive Director, Jean Tirado, has retired after 13 years of loyal and devoted service. He was replaced by Catherine Bonnet.

- Membership and Aggregations

Growth in membership and the number of conference aggregations is one of the essential tools for measuring the health of our association.

During 2013, we aggregated 301 conferences in 15 different countries (including 116 in India), and 5 zone councils (3 in Ireland and 2 in the United States). This is an increase of 0.6%. It is a respectable increase, given the age of our association.

- Maintenance of Head Office

During 2013, we had to carry out maintenance work on the roof of the 3rd floor, and some repairs to the chimney. We also discovered a water leak on the new restored façade. After making a claim to our insurance company, we are waiting for an inspection by an assessor to take the necessary steps. Finally, mainly for safety reasons, it was considered necessary and urgent to do some major work on the building's heating system. Just before the winter, it was found that one part of the system was no longer working correctly, so we had to change almost the whole of the system, with the Board's agreement.

- Meetings in Rome

-Lisbon, Portugal-

In June 2013, meetings of the International Board, the International Executive Committee and the Permanent Section took place in Rome. Julien Spiewak thanked specially the National Council of Italy for their welcome and their assistance and arranging the audience with the Holy Father.

Financial report 2013, from Treasurer General (Liam Fitzpatrick)

Liam Fitzpatrick, Treasurer General, gave a report on the accounts.

In 2013, total income reached 1,115,000€, almost €21k ahead of budget.

Contributions from member countries reached 1,053,000€ exceeding budget by €18k. A big thanks to the Concordat countries and also to the countries that are not part of the Concordat. These latter donations are very welcome, because they sometimes require great effort on the part of those who make them. Thanks to all these contributions, the Council General can operate efficiently.

Realised Investment gains came to €42k, some €2k more than we expected.

Our income from the rent on the 3rd floor has increased, since we now can offer our tenants the option of using the conference rooms on the ground floor.

As regards overall expenses, we spent €46k over budget, which is disappointing. This negative variation is mainly explained by the cost of the Bicentenary, which was €27k more than what was initially planned. Although these events were a success, the financial burden was greater than anticipated. The General Office costs of the CGI were significantly increased due to extra expenses of maintenance and renovation work that was needed in the CGI premises and equipment which totalled €47k. Personnel costs exceeded budget by €30k, due to a number of factors including an understatement of the original budget, provision for staff food vouchers and mandatory provision for untaken leave.

As regards other cost centres, which include meetings and travel for all members of the International Structure the total expenditure was within budget.

Liam Fitzpatrick thanked all involved for their valuable help.

- **Balance Sheet Summary at 31 December 2013**

The summary shows the results are all satisfactory for CGI, with a solid cash situation and liquid assets.

The negative difference of the General Reserves since Dec. 2012 is the result of transfers of €50k to other reserves, as approved at our meeting in Rome. We now have a total of €340k in our staff fund. In addition, €90k have been set aside for the next plenary meeting in 2016.

The total of our cash in hand, bank deposits and investments comes to €2,919k more than enough to cover our reserve funds of €1,963k and is enough for CGI's current needs.

The generous and continuous support from member countries, the 16 committed to the Salamanca Concordat of 2008 and other countries, has been a vital factor in the recovery of CGI's finances in the last five years. It is vital that this support continues, because without it, CGI cannot function.

Suggestions/answers to questions from the floor:

Q. How do our Staff Salaries compare with the market ?

A. Our information is that we are in line with our salaries at the top but our salaries below that need to be verified, which we intend to do.

Q. Do we have a target for our General Reserves ?

A. We have an aim to reach €1m during the lifetime of this Council but it is not cast in stone.

Q. Are the budgets compiled to line up with the Strategic Plan ?

A. Not so much with the Strategic Plan as with the Operational plans which are finalized at the beginning of each year, at which stage the preliminary budgets are adapted to take account of the final Operational Plans.

Liam Fitzpatrick then read the auditor's report.

- **Final Budget for year 2014**

Every year, for these meetings, we produce a provisional budget for the coming year, but it is very difficult to predict costs and income up to 18 months in advance. Hence we have a review in December, which is then validated by the members of the International Board.

Total income for 2014 is budgeted lower than the 2013 figures, but is €15k higher than our original budget. As for expenses, our final budget total is €18.3k higher than the preliminary figure which is entirely attributable to two new items: €10k for SSVP development and €20k as a contingency for unforeseen expenditure which would not be covered under any existing line. This latter expense may not be required and may only be drawn by a decision of the Executive Committee.

- **Preliminary budget 2015**

Liam Fitzpatrick submitted the budget for 2015, stressing again the difficulty of predicting figures accurately at this point. This budget will be adjusted at the end of this year and presented in its final form at next year's CEI meeting. Our Income projection has been dropped slightly as we expect there may be a fall in contributions, but apart from this there are no major changes. Nor are there any real changes in expenses. At this point we are budgeting for a surplus of €55k.

In conclusion, Liam Fitzpatrick thanked all the affluent countries for their continuing goodwill and generosity. Without them, we could not continue to work as we do at the moment. He also expressed his appreciation to Liliane Monteiro in the Paris office for her help and dedication in administering the finances and maintaining the records.

Amendments to the International Statutes

On the subject of the proposed amendments to Article 3.4: Duration of the term of office (of the President General) and Article 3.5: Age limit (of the President General) this was discussed and it was considered that this matter be referred to the Plenary General Assembly (PGA) in 2016 for discussion and decision by members. Hence it would not be necessary to convene the Extraordinary General Assembly (EGA) on 15 June 2015 to address this subject as previously proposed.

C. RESOLUTIONS OF THE CEI

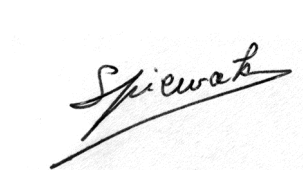
1. The CEI unanimously approved and supported the choice of the President General to appoint the following 5 new countries for two years 2015 & 2016: Canada, Scotland, Philippines, South Africa and Peru.
 2. The CEI unanimously approved the report of activities for 2013 as proposed by the Secretary General.
 3. The CEI unanimously approved the accounts for 2013 as proposed by the Treasurer General.
 4. The CEI unanimously approved the budget for 2014 as proposed by the Treasurer General.
 5. The CEI unanimously approved the provisional budget for 2015 proposed by the Treasurer General.
 6. The Concordat member countries present or represented agree to renew their commitment for further 3 years (2015, 2016, 2017).
- All Resolutions were unanimously approved.

D. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The President General, Dr Michael Thio, concluded the meeting of the International Executive Committee by thanking all those present for their good work. Much information has been exchanged, but there is still much to accomplish. According to a United Nations survey, one third of the world's population live below the poverty threshold. This is alarming and a huge challenge for all humanitarian associations across the world. The Society, as a lay apostolate and Catholic organisation, must continue to serve the poor and the vulnerable, sharing God's love and compassion with them. Saint Vincent said: "Let our radiance of Charity be a beaming light in our Faith in action". Similarly, Blessed Frédéric said: "Let us go to the poor. We must not only speak, but act and affirm by our action the vitality of our Faith". The messages of Pope Francis are often centred on these two great commandments of God: love God, and love your neighbour as yourself. In his letter on the occasion of the Bicentenary of Blessed Frédéric, he encourages us to nourish our service of the poor at the well of God's love, using Jesus Christ our Lord as model. Pope Francis calls us to a New Evangelisation. How should we Vincentians reply to this call? One of the key elements of our Vincentian spirituality is to develop and deepen our own relationship with Jesus and we help others to encounter Christ. Saint Vincent said: "Give me a man of prayer, and he is capable to do anything". There is so much to do. But together with God, everything is possible. We believe in God, and we serve in hope. Our motto: "Serving in Hope"

Dr. Michael Thio thanked all that were present in Lisbon, for their time, commitment and involvement. He encouraged us to pray and inspire each other and continue our Vincentian mission fervently and passionately for the greater glory of God. Thank you to the National President of Portugal, Antonio Correia, his team and the staff for their kind hospitality and their effort in preparing and hosting this meeting.

The meeting closed with a prayer led by Sr. Maureen McGuire.



Julien Spiewak
Secretary General



Dr. Michael Thio
President General