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The Secretary General's report from January 1 to December 31, 2023

1. Reminder: contact between FIEC and affiliated associations

There are currently 76 associations of Classical studies affiliated to FIEC. In order to enable us to stay in touch with all of you, please send us a regular update of your contact address (postal, e-mail and URL of website if available, to be sent to: thomas.schmidt@unifr.ch).

2. Payment of yearly fee

All affiliated associations are reminded that the annual membership fee is € 110.-, to be paid as soon as possible. The resources of FIEC are very scarce; any contribution above the minimal amount of € 110.- will be deeply appreciated. FIEC is entirely dependent on its membership fees, so we kindly ask all associations to make sure that the fee is indeed paid. If there are any difficulties with the payment, please contact the Treasurer. FIEC's bank account is based in Switzerland (labelled in euros). Instructions for payment are to be found on the Treasurer's invoice. Please DO NOT send a check!

3. FIEC website

Please remember to check FIEC's website at www.fiecnet.org. If the information displayed needs any changes, please let us know (by email to the Secretary General). FIEC is also on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FIECnews/>) and X (<https://twitter.com/FIECnews>). All important information about FIEC can also be found on [Wikipedia](#). FIEC's social media profiles have been maintained over the past year with the help of Émilien Genoud (Fribourg), who deserve our warmest thanks for the work.

4. FIEC Congress 2025

The XVIIth FIEC Congress (July 7-11, 2025) will be hosted in Wrocław by the Polish Philological Association. For further information as well as the call for papers, see the dedicated website at fiec2025.ptf.edu.pl.

The submission deadlines for FIEC 2025 are:

31st May 2024 for double panels proposals, and

15th July 2024 for single panels and posters proposals.

To submit a panel/poster proposal you can either use the Submission Form (in the “Call for Panels” tab) or send an email to fiec2025@ptf.edu.pl.

5. FIEC Congress 2028: call for applications

FIEC renews its call for candidacies for the 2028 Congress. We would be very grateful if you could circulate the attached call among the members of your association.

Any association or institution interested in hosting the FIEC International Congress in 2028 is kindly asked to contact the undersigned, Secretary General of the FIEC.

The organization and financing of the Congress is the responsibility of the local organizers, but the FIEC Board offers logistical collaboration and a modest contribution to the costs of organizing the Congress.

6. Recent FIEC activities

In 2023, the FIEC Board held three online meetings (on Febr. 20, May 29, and Oct. 18) to discuss various matters, particularly the organization of the lecture series celebrating the 75th anniversary of FIEC (see below).

The Board members have the following activities to report on.

CIPSH (Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines):

Jesús de la Villa (FIEC President and delegate to CIPSH) continued to represent FIEC on the board of CIPSH for the year 2023.

CIPSH held its biennial General Assembly in Tokyo in August 2023, which Jesús de la Villa attended on-line. At the assembly, the results of the different projects developed by CIPSH were presented: Chairs (six, at this moment in different universities around the World); World Logic Day; Global History of Humankind; the Bridges program, promoted by UNESCO, to build bridges in teaching and research between the Humanities and other scientific fields, in particular those of the experimental sciences; CIPSH Academy on the relationship between Chinese and Western cultures (with two conferences in the last two years, one in Lisbon on the contacts of

art and culture through the Pacific in the 17th century, and another one on global ethic, in Stockholm).

The General Assembly approved to create a task force to analyze the situation of the Humanities in education at all levels; Jesús de la Villa, as a member of the CIPSH Executive Committee, was charged with initiating the development of this initiative.

Finally, a new CIPSH Board was elected; Jesús de la Villa was elected Treasurer, continuing a tradition whereby the FIEC representative was also treasurer of the CIPSH.

SIBC (Société Internationale de Bibliographie Classique):

Fausto Montana (FIEC Vice-President and delegate to SIBC) represented the FIEC at the annual meeting of SIBC held in Lille (France) on Oct. 13-14, 2023. The first day was dedicated to the International Conference “L’Antiquité en réserve. Livres, collections, bibliothèques, institutions”. On Oct. 14, the annual SIBC General Assembly was held. The President (Pierre Chiron), the members of the board, and the Director of *L’Année Philologique* (Pedro Pablo Fuentes Gonzales) reported on both the financial viability of SIBC and the excellent results achieved in the editorial work for the APh. This positive trend was also confirmed by the representative of the publisher Brepols (Chris Vanden Borre). It was announced that the next SIBC Conference and General Assembly (November 2024) will be held in Granada (Spain).

EASSH (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities):

André Lardinois (FIEC Board member and delegate to EASSH) recalls that EASSH is an advocacy and science policy organisation for the social sciences and humanities with over 65 member organisations, including FIEC. It was closely involved in negotiations about the funding of the Horizon Europe (HE) research program that will last till 2027. In part through the efforts of the EASSH, this program offers more opportunities for SSH disciplines than ever before.

In February 2023 it participated in the midterm evaluation of the HE program. As a result, it was invited to contribute to a small task force that sets guidelines for a new funding scheme (FP10) for research and development to make Europe more durable and resilient. In all these cases it has argued for the necessity of including SSH disciplines in the funding programs if the EU wants to reach the goals it set for these programs.

EASSH welcomed the news about the deal that was struck last summer between the United Kingdom and the European Union about its participation in Horizon Europe. The UK is rejoined on 1 January 2024 as a non-EU member, but UK-based scientists will have access to the funding program on terms which maintain the privileges they enjoyed in the days of EU membership.

On December 7 and 8, 2023, the EASSH General Assembly was held. Plans for the update of Horizon Europe's Strategic plan 2025-2027, which has not been published yet, were discussed and several workshops were held, including one on how to secure data. Throughout the year EASSH organizes webinars on this and other topics that can be followed online and it is worth checking its website for upcoming events (see <https://eassh.eu>).

7. Lecture series celebrating FIEC's 75th anniversary

2023 marked the 75th anniversary of FIEC (founded in 1948 in Paris). To commemorate this event, the FIEC Board decided to organize a series of on-line lectures on the present and future of our disciplines by highly distinguished and internationally recognized scholars. Among the numerous proposals received from our member associations, 6 speakers were selected for the first series of lectures, which were held in November and December 2023 with the following program:

Thursday 16 November 2023 19h00 CET

Prof. Franco Montanari (Genoa/Italy)

L'evoluzione della filologia ed erudizione antica da Zenodoto alle raccolte antiquarie

Thursday 23 November 2023 19h00 CET

Prof. Charlotte Schubert (Leipzig/Germany)

Die Zukunft der Altertumswissenschaften: Hermeneutik und Digitalität

Thursday 30 November 2023 12h00 (Chicago time)

Prof. Sofía Torallas (Chicago/U.S.A.)

Material Vessels of Ancient Magic: a case study in the transmission of Classical knowledge

Thursday 7 December 2023 20h00 (New York time)

Prof. David Konstan (New York/U.S.A.)

Anger, Revenge, and Community: The Importance of Respect

Wednesday 13 December 2023 15h30 (UK time)

Prof. Arlene Holmes Henderson (Durham/U.K.)

Classics in schools: past, present and future

Thursday 21 December 2023 15h00 (Argentinian time)

Prof. Darío P.R. Maiorana (Rosario, Argentina)

Prospección de los Estudios Clásicos en el siglo XXI

The abstracts of the papers, as well as full recordings of the lectures in their original language (with English subtitles), will shortly be accessible on the FIEC website (www.fiecnet.org).

The lecture series will be continued in 2024. Further information will follow.

Moreover, as a continuation of this celebration, the FIEC Board will organize a special session at the 2025 FIEC Congress in Wrocław (July 7-11, 2025). The aim of this session will be to take stock of what FIEC has achieved over the past 75 years and what remains for the future, not only for FIEC, but for Classical Studies as a whole. More details about this session will be provided in due course.



The Secretary General: Thomas SCHMIDT

Fribourg, February 5, 2024