



International Society for Labour and Social Security Law

Société internationale de droit du travail et de la sécurité sociale

Sociedad Internacional de Derecho del Trabajo y de la Seguridad Social

Executive Committee Meeting

Charles University, Carolinum – Patriotic Hall,

Prague, 20 September 2017

On 20 September 2017, the Executive Committee of the ISLSSL met at the Charles University, Carolinum – Patriotic Hall, Prague (Czech Republic) on the occasion of the XII European Regional Congress (20-22 September 2017).

1. Attendance

The following National Associations were present: Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Bolivia (after being accepted), Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic (after being accepted), Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland (after being accepted), Taiwan/China, Turkey, Uruguay, Venezuela.

In addition to President Tiziano Treu, Secretary-General Giuseppe Casale, Treasurer Janice Bellace, Honorary Presidents Adrian Goldin, Jean Micheal Servais, Kazuo Sugeno, Vice-Presidents Ludwik Florek, Steven Van Eck, Stephen Kang, Mijke S. Houwerzijl, Adolfo Ciudad, Rolando Murgas Torrazza and ILO Section of the ISLSSL representatives, Humberto Villasmill and Angelika Muller, participated in the meeting.

2. Opening of the meeting by the President

President Prof. Tiziano Treu opened the meeting, thanked the Czech colleagues for the organization of the Congress and gave the floor to the Secretary-General, Giuseppe Casale who introduced the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting.

3. Report on the activities by Secretary-General

The Secretary-General gave a brief report of the activities carried out by the ISLSSL since the XXI World Congress held in Cape Town, South Africa on 15-18 September 2015.

Congresses

The X American Regional Congress took place in Panama City on 26-30 September 2016 and

was very well attended with fruitful discussions on the various topics of the Congress. Some of the papers presented at the American regional congress will soon be published. The current XII European Regional Congress of Prague which is organised by the Czech Society for Labour and Social Security Law, and the XXII World Congress which will be held in Turin, Italy, 4-7 September 2018. In this respect, he presented briefly the themes that will be presented and discussed at the XXII World Congress and that are the result of the seven international research groups created for this event. They are: 1) Informal workers; 2) Migrant workers; 3) Global trade and labour; 4) Organization, productivity and well-being at work; 5) Transnational collective agreements; 6) New forms of social security; 7) The role of the State and industrial relations. He also remarked that these international research groups are still opened to everyone who would like to take part in them.

Seminars

The ISLSSL continued to support both the Graduate Seminar on International and Comparative Law “Isla de Margarita” which exceptionally took place in Cordoba (Argentina) on May 7-15, 2017 on “Decent work, precarious work and vulnerable sectors” and the Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law (4th edition) which took place at the University of Ca’ Foscari on “Global Trade and Labour Rights” held in Venice (Italy) on 18-24 June 2017. In addition, and for the first time, a very intense comparative debate took place at the Seminar: “Identifying Major Labour Policy Issues in Contemporary World of Labour” held in Tokyo on 27-29 March 2017, organized by the Japan Institute of Labour. The Secretary-General took the occasion to personally thank the organizers, especially Honorary President Prof. Kazuo Sugeno and Prof. Takashi Araki, for having provided to the participants from Asian countries and outside Asia an opportunity to learn about the different degrees of development in the areas of labour law, social security and industrial relations.

Fellowships

The ISLSSL continues with the consolidated practice of offering fellowships to young scholars in labour and social security law. Fellowships have been provided to a good number of young scholars for participating in congresses and seminars. The criteria for granting fellowships had already been approved by the Executive Committee.

Young Legal Scholars Section

The initiative of the Young Legal Scholars Section continues to grow and attract the participation of brilliant young researchers. A meeting of the Latin American Labour Law Young Scholars was held in Santiago (Chile) on 27-28 April 2017. At the 4th Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law of Venice, on the 23rd of June 2017 a full day was dedicated to the presentations and discussion of the papers prepared by the Young Legal Scholars. A Meeting of the European Labour Law Young Scholars on “Organization,

productivity and well-being at work” took place at Gdansk (Poland) on 5-7 July 2017 and a new meeting was about to take place at Charles University, Faculty of Law on the occasion of the XII European Regional Congress in Prague.

Website

The website is being updated constantly. Lately, there have been some difficulties with the French and Spanish web pages, and they are working on it to fix it as soon as possible. The Secretary-General thanked Jeffrey Sack and the colleagues of the Canadian Association for the full support in running the web site, in particular the Lancaster House of Canada.

Discussion was opened and Honorary President Prof. Jean Michel Servais reiterated the importance of the international dimension of the Society and therefore the use of the all official languages namely English, French and Spanish for all the activities of the ISLSSL. He also emphasised that English should not replace the others.

President Treu took the floor and agreed with the remarks of Prof. Servais. He will continue to strive for having more active participation from French and Spanish speaking colleagues in the activities of the Society, including the international research groups.

The Secretary-General wrapped up the discussion and asked to all the EC members to send him accurate information concerning the changes in the composition of the respective national associations with a specific attention to the email addresses.

4. Admission of new members to the ISLSSL

After the intervention of the Secretary-General, the Executive Committee unanimously approved the admission of Bolivia, Slovak Republic and Switzerland as Members of the ISLSSL.

5. Financial Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer presented the financial report of the International Society and gave the list of the Members who were entitled to vote.

6. Election of the President-Elect 2018-2021

The Secretary General called for the election of the President Elect for 2018-2021 and recalled that in conformity with the Society’s by-laws and statutes, last February, he wrote to all the national associations of the ISLSSL asking them to put forward candidatures for the Presidency before 19 June 2017. In reply to that call, the nominations of Prof. Janice Bellace (USA) and Prof. Rolando Murgas Torrazza (Panama) were received. They were supported by the US Branch of the ISLSSL and the Academia Panameña de Derecho del Trabajo, respectively.

Since there were two candidates it was necessary to proceed to a secret ballot vote. To that end, the Secretary-General thanked Honorary Presidents Jean-Michel Servais and Kazuo

Sugeno for their availability in assisting him in the process of the election as returning officers and informed the Executive Committee that the results of the vote would be announced immediately after the vote counting was concluded. Prof. Murgas and prof. Bellace addressed the EC presenting their own respective programmes for the Society if elected. After their interventions, several EC members took the floor with a view to supporting the candidature of Prof. Murgas or Prof. Bellace. The Secretary General then called each member for the vote. 38 members had the right to vote. After the scrutiny, Prof. Bellace was elected President-Elect with 21 votes out of 38. The new President-Elect took the floor and thanked the Executive Committee members for the trust in her presidency stating that she was looking forward to working closely with all national associations with a view to further strengthening the international and comparative labour law research and network.

8. Information of the XII European Regional Congress, Prague, 20-22 September 2017

Prof. Jan Pichrt, Chairperson of the organizing committee of the 12th European Regional Congress, congratulated Prof. Bellace for her election and welcomed all the EC members to Prague. He informed that more than 250 participants had registered in representation of 38 countries. He was confident that everything was ready from an organisational and technical point of view for having a successful event.

9. Information on the XXII World Congress, Turin, 4-7 September 2018

Prof. Alessandro Bellavista, on behalf of the Italian Association for Labour and Social Security Law (AIDLASS), gave a presentation on the organization of the forthcoming XXII World Congress which will be held in Turin on 4-7 September 2018.

President Treu took also the floor and informed on all the technical aspects dealing with both the organizational part as well as the themes which will be discussed at the Congress. In particular, he emphasised the work of the 7 international research groups. He said that all the coordinators of the 7 groups have submitted their respective outline papers which should facilitate the discussion among the participants in the study groups and to make easier the preparation of the different inputs. Very soon a dedicated web page of the Turin Congress will be made available. The registration for the XXII World Congress will start by the end of October 2017 (www.islssltorino2018.org). He also encouraged the national associations to disseminate information about the World Congress and about the forthcoming Call for Papers which is open to all those who are interested in participating in the XXII World Congress. The Call for Papers will be done in the three official languages of the Society so as to encourage more active participation from French and Spanish speaking colleagues. Finally, he invited and encouraged the newly admitted Members of the ISLSSL to share the information about the seven international research groups with their national colleagues and students in universities and academic circles, by inviting them to take an active part in such groups.

10. Venue and Agenda of the XI American Regional Congress, 2019

The Secretary-General informed the EC on the proposal of the Argentinian Association to host the XI American Regional Congress and gave the floor to the President of the Argentinian Association, Prof. Hector Omar Garcia. He formally submitted the proposal to the EC and showed a promotional video about the city of Cordoba where the American Regional Congress is going to take place on 4-6 September 2019. The EC approved the venue of the XI American Regional Congress. The Secretary General invited the colleagues of the Argentinian Association to share the technical items and the Agenda of the American regional as early as possible.

11. Venue of the XIII European Regional Congress, 2020

The representative of the Slovenian Association, Greg Strban presented on behalf of the University of Gent the proposal to hold the next XIII European Regional Congress of 2020 in Gent (Belgium) on administrative and criminal procedures in labour law and labour administration. The EC took note and asked the Belgian Association to put forward the formal request at the next EC meeting. The Secretary General invited also other European associations to put forward proposals for the next EC meeting.

12. Venue of the IX Asian Regional Congress

The Secretary General informed the EC members that Dr. Pravin SINHA, Executive President of the NLLA of India had put forward the candidature of India for hosting the IX Asian Regional Congress either in 2019 or 2020. The EC took note that the formal request of the Indian Association should be discussed at the next EC meeting. Vice-president Kang (Taiwan/China) proposed that in case the Asian Regional Congress could not be organised in India, it will be organised in Taiwan/China. The EC took note of this proposal.

13. Venue of the African Regional Congress

The South African Representative, Prof. Van Eck, proposed to organise an African Regional Congress probably in Johannesburg in 2019 or 2020 with an active participation of Southern African Countries. A formal proposal will be submitted at the next EC meeting.

14. Venue of the XXIII World Congress, 2021

The President of the Peruvian Association, Prof. Daniel Ulloa, formally proposed to organise the XXIII ISLSSL World Congress in Lima (Peru) in September 2021 adding that the event will coincide with the national ceremony of the 200 years of independence of Peru. In this regard, the World Congress had already received full support by the government of Peru. Prof. Ulloa promised to send to the Officers a draft agenda with the technical items to be discussed at the XXIII World Congress.

15. Other issues

The Portuguese representatives raised the issue of lowering the registrations fees for Young Scholars and asked what should be the criteria to apply for considering a colleague as young scholar. It was also suggested 40 years as the age limit. Honorary President, Prof. Adrian Goldin clarified that there are no strict criteria to be applied for being considered young scholars and that this should be left to internal considerations of the National Associations. President-Elect. Prof. Bellace observed that the intention was to provide an opportunity for those in the early years of their career to take part more actively in the works of the Society.

On behalf of the ILO section of the ISLSSL, Ms Muller informed the EC that the ILO and in particular the Governance and Tripartism Department (GOVERNANCE) is keen to work closely with the national associations with a view to deepening research and knowledge sharing in the areas of common interest.

President Treu took the floor and thanked once again the organizing committee of the XII European Regional Congress for the excellent organization. He said goodbye to all the EC members by saying: "I will see you all soon in Torino!"

No other issues were raised and the Secretary-General closed the meeting at 12.30.