



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

Virtual Meeting,
Lisbon, 5 May 2021

On 5 May 2021, the Executive Committee of the ISLSSL met virtually at 12:00 Lisbon time.

1. Attendance

The following National Associations were present: Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela.

In addition to President Janice Bellace, Secretary-General Giuseppe Casale, Treasurer Rolando Murgas Torrazza, Honorary Presidents Arturo Bronstein, Adrian Goldin, Jean-Michael Servais, Kazuo Sugeno, Tiziano Treu, and the President of ILO Section-ISLSSL, Humberto Villasmil, participated in the meeting.

2. Opening of the meeting by the President

President Prof. Janice Bellace opened the meeting, thanked the Portuguese colleagues for the organization of the Congress. In her opening remarks, she observed that the issue of the geographical rotation with regard to the president had arisen during the past year and led to confusion. She commented that while the current practice of the Society calls for geographical rotation, there is no specific direction as to what is meant, nor how it should be achieved. She further stated that there is no express provision regarding geographic regions, although by tradition some are recognized. Despite this, there is no agreed listing of which countries belong in which region. Predicting that this issue will arise again in future, she stated that she

would be appointing a small committee, consisting of the regional vice presidents, to study the geographical rotation mandate, and to make preliminary recommendations that would be discussed at the Executive Committee in September 2021 on the occasion of the world congress in Lima. She then gave the floor to the Secretary-General, Giuseppe Casale who asked the members of the Executive Committee for permission to record the meeting. As it was the first time that the Executive Committee meeting of the ISLSSL was conducted virtually, the SG explained that the recording was necessary to overcome possible technical problems due to the digital platform utilised for the virtual meeting and that the recording would be used exclusively for internal purposes, especially for the process concerning the election of the President-Elect of the Society and the conduct of the ballot itself. The Executive Committee gave its consent to the recording. The Secretary-General introduced the agenda of the Executive Committee meeting.

3. Report by the Auditor

The Auditor, Prof. Stein Evju, presented the audit report of the International Society.

4. Financial Report by the Treasurer

The Treasurer, Prof. Rolando Murgas Torrazza, presented the financial report of the International Society and gave the list of the Members who were entitled to vote.

5. Election of the President-Elect 2021-2024

The Secretary General called for the election of the President Elect for 2021-2024 and recalled that in conformity with the Society's by-laws and statutes, in February 2020, he wrote to all the national associations of the ISLSSL asking them to put forward candidatures for the Presidency before 1st June 2020. In reply to that call, the nominations of Prof. Darcy du Toit (South Africa) and Prof. Maria Emilia Casas Baamonde (Spain) were received. The candidates were supported by the South African Society for Labour Law and the Spanish Association of Labour Law and Social Security, 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 Prof. Adrian Goldin and Tiziano Treu for their availability in assisting him in the supervision of the voting procedure. The Secretary General went to explain the new online voting procedure to be followed for the election of the President-Elect-2021-2024. According to the procedure, the vote was scheduled to take place online between 12:15 pm and 12:45 pm. After this time, the system would no longer allow anyone to cast votes. The Secretary-General informed the EC members that the results of the vote would be announced

immediately after the counting of the vote was concluded. Prof. Jaime Cabeza and Prof. Maria Emilia Casas Baamonde of the Spanish Association of Labour and Social Security Law and Prof. Stefan Van Eck (on behalf of Prof. Darcy du Toit) of the South African Society for Labour Law 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. Casas Baamonde or Prof. du Toit.

During the discussion on the candidates, questions were raised by Uruguay, Peru and Guatemala about the ability to hear from one of the candidates or to know his program (Darcy du Toit). The President stated that because this election being conducted virtually and because secrecy of the voting required encrypted communication, it was not possible to give online access to persons who were not the person casting the ballot for their national association. In this regard, the President stated that she will put forward at the next EC meeting with a view a specific recommendation to introduce a practice according to which every time there is an election on the president elect, the candidates should be invited into the EC meeting in order to have the opportunity to present their respective programs in front of the EC members and to answer questions. The candidates would then leave the EC meeting before the discussion on their candidacy begins.

The Secretary General then called for the vote. Unfortunately, the procedure did not go as planned. Many delegates were unable to vote because they did not receive the email containing the voting link and instructions in time and, at 13:00, the election was invalidated. At that point, the Organising Committee of the XIII ISLSSL European Regional Congress managed to organise a second vote through a new platform to be carried out between 14:00 and 14:30 (Lisbon Time). In the meantime, the Secretary General apologised for the inconvenience and moved on to the next items on the agenda. At 13:56, the Secretary General after having completed all the items on the agenda, invited the members of the Executive Committee to check the new instructions sent by email by the Organising Committee and to login in to the new platform in order to vote. At 14:30, the election was completed and the Organising Committee notified the Secretary General of the outcome of the vote. After the scrutiny, Prof. Maria Emilia Casas Baamonde (Spain) was elected President-Elect with 25 votes out of 44 participating to the vote. Honorary President Prof. Adrian Goldin endorsed the procedure of the vote. The new President-Elect took the floor and thanked the Executive Committee.

6. Report on the activities by Secretary-General

The Secretary-General gave a brief report of the activities carried out by the ISLSSL.

Congresses

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, several events had to be postponed. In this regard, the II ISLSSL African Regional Congress which was to take place on 27-28 March 2020 in Gaborone, Botswana on the following theme: “Decent Work in Modern and Developing Countries: Contemporary Legal and Social Challenges”, was postponed on 23-24 November 2020. In addition, the XIII European Regional Congress, originally scheduled to take place in September 2020 in Lisbon, will be held on May 5-7, 2021. Since the last Executive Committee Meeting of Turin, September 2018 <http://islssl.org/world-congress/> we had the XI American Regional Congress, Cordoba (Argentina), 6-7 September 2019 <https://islssl.org/regional-congresses/>. We are now participating in the XIII European Regional Congress, Lisbon, 5-7 May 2021, <https://lisbon2020congress.com/?lang=en> and we will further assist in the organisation and promotion of the XXIII World Congress, Lima, Peru, 7-10 September 2021 <http://islssl.org/world-congress/>, which due to the health emergency originated by Covid-19 pandemic will take place online.

In light of the preparation of the above-mentioned events, and more specifically for the World Congress, our President, Janice Bellace, has proposed to follow the initiative formally introduced by Honorary President Tiziano Treu on the establishment of seven international research (or study) groups as a means for promoting collaborative research focused on a specific topic also for the organisation of the XXIII ISLSSL World Congress in Lima in 2021. The themes and coordinators for each group are the following ones:

- 1. Transformation of Work: Challenges to Labour Law:** Alberto Pizzoferrato (Italy) pizzoferrato@studiopizzoferrato.it and Sergio Torres Teixeira (Brazil) sergiotteixeira@nol.com.br
- 2. Migrant Workers:** Petra Herzfeld-Olsson (Sweden) petra.herzfeld-olsson@juridicum.su.se and Helga Spadina (Croatia) helga.spadina@gmail.com
- 3. Non-Standard and Informal Workers:** Pamihidzai Bamu (Zimbabwe) pamhidzai.bamu@gmail.com and Roberto Fragale (Brazil) roberto.fragale@gmail.com
- 4. Global Trade and Work:** Wilfredo Sanguineti Raymond (Peru) wsr@usal.es and Marley Weiss (USA) mweiss@law.umaryland.edu
- 5. Equality at Work:** Monika Schlachter (Germany) schlacht@uni-trier.de and Maria Luisa Molero Maranon (Spain) luisa.molero@urjc.es
- 6. The State and New Forms of Collective Voice:** Tomas H. Natividad Sanchez (Mexico) tomas@natividad-abogados.com.mx and Bernd Waas (Germany)

waas@jur.uni-frankfurt.de

7. **New challenges of social security:** Kurt Paerli (Switzerland) kurt.paerli@unibas.ch and Masaiko Iwamura (Japan) iwamura@j.u-tokyo.ac.jp

Seminars

Our Society continues to support the Tokyo Seminar on Comparative Labour Policy, the Graduate Seminar on International and Comparative Law “Isla de Margarita” and the Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law of Venice. Unfortunately, due the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic those events have been rescheduled, postponed or even cancelled. The 4th JILPT (The Japan Institute for Labour Policy and Training) Tokyo Seminar on Comparative Labour Policy and the XI International Seminar on Comparative Labour Law “Isla de Margarita” were rescheduled and conducted online. The 4th JILPT Tokyo Comparative Labour Policy Seminar took place on 9 November 2020 and the XI International Seminar on Comparative Labour Law “Isla de Margarita” took place on 2 November – 5 December 2020. The 7th International Seminar on International and Comparative Labour Law (usually organised in Venice, scheduled for 2020, had to be cancelled. It will now be held virtually in June 2021.

Fellowships

As in the past practice, a limited number of fellowships were funded with a view to contributing to the participation of young scholars to the events carried out online.

Composition of the Executive Committee

The list of the Executive Committee members is available at <http://islssl.org/home/executive/>. We thank all of you who have constantly written to us for updating the list. We continue to encourage you to do the same. Such information is essential for keeping the Society’s members updated.

Young Legal Scholar Section initiatives in different countries

Due to the Covid-19 crisis, many of activities organised by the Young Legal Scholars had to be postponed including the event organised in Mexico City.

Website and Facebook group

The website of our Society is running in a very efficient manner. We take this opportunity to thank, once again, our colleagues of the ITCILO for the full support in editing and running the web site. The information in the web site is provided in English, French and Spanish.

Since 2018, the Society has a Facebook page, which is a way by which individuals can

communicate items of interest. This Facebook group supplements the information found on the ISLSSL's official website. This is a “closed” group, where a person must ask to join the group and must be approved. At present, the group has 395 members.

7. Information of the XIII European Regional Congress, Lisbon, 5-7 May 2021

Prof. Maria do Rosario Palma Ramalho, President of APODIT and chairperson of the organizing committee of the 13th ISLSSL European Regional Congress, presented the programme and showed a virtual tour of the various virtual rooms dedicated to the several sessions of the Congress and how to participate in them. The navigation was very easy and user friendly. In addition, she informed the EC members that, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 500 participants had registered to the Congress. She explained that the organization of the Congress in virtual mode, at the end, turned out to be much more expensive than the normal, face-to-face organisation. She took the occasion to thank the President and the Secretary General for supporting the organisation of the congress by promoting the participation in it. Finally, she thanked all registered participants and supporters and wished everyone a good congress with the hope of meeting everyone in person as soon as the Covid 19 epidemic has passed.

8. Information on the XXIII World Congress, Lima, 7-10 September 2020

Prof. Estela Ospina Salinas of the Peruvian Association of Labour Law and Social Security updated on the progress made in the organisation of the next XXIII World Congress, which will be probably be held on a hybrid modality.

9. Venue and Agenda of the XII American Regional Congress, 2022

The Secretary-General informed the EC on the proposal of the Brazilian Academy of Labour Association to host the XII American Regional Congress and gave the floor to Prof Luiz Carlos Robortella of the Academy who presented the candidature for hosting the XII American Regional Congress in October 2022 in São Paulo.

10. Venue of the XIV European Regional Congress, 2023

Prof. Alexander De Becker, President of the Belgian Society for Labour and Social Security Law informed on the progress made in the organisation of the XIV European Regional Congress to be held on 6-8 September 2023 in Ghent, Belgium. The website is under construction and will be launched soon. The Secretary General then invited other European

associations to put forward proposals for the next European Regional Congress at the EC meeting in Lima.

11. Venue of the IX Asian Regional Congress

The Secretary General informed the EC members that for the time being there were no candidacy for the organisation of the IX Asian Regional Congress. Prof. Takashi Araki, President of the Japanese Society for Labour and Social Security Law and Vice-President of the ISLSSL clarified that no discussion had been taken yet and requested that this be put on hold.

12. Venue of the III African Regional Congress

The Vice President of the ISLSSL, Prof. Van Eck informed the EC members that there was one proposal to organise the next African Regional Congress in Kenya and that he will inform us promptly about the next steps in the organisation of such an important event for the Society.

13. Venue of the XXIV World Congress, 2024

The SG asked the members of the Executive Committee if there was any national association among them interested in organising the next World Congress. No one present expressed an interest and, as such, the SG proposed to bring this issue up again on the agenda of the next EC meeting to be held on 7 September 2021 on the occasion of the XXIII World Congress in Lima.

14. Membership Update

The SG informed the EC that some members have never replied to his e-mails. From this, it can be concluded that they de-facto no longer participate in the Society's activities and express no interest in so doing. Hence, decisions need to be taken on the following members:

National members: India (dues outstanding 5 years), Morocco (outstanding 9 years), Philippines (outstanding 7 years).

Individual members: Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Luxembourg, Paraguay and Tunisia, all for more than 9 years.

The Secretary General emphasised that according to the Statutes & Bylaws of the Society, it is the Executive Committee that has to determine when a member can no longer participate in the Society and therefore he called for a decision in this respect.

President Prof. Bellace asked to wait until the next World Congress before taking a final

decision and asked the Secretary General to contact those members by email or other means to see if they want to be members still. Honorary President Prof. Servais agreed with the President to postpone the decision. Vice-President Prof. Araki promised to contact the dormant associations in Asia and inform the SG. Prof. Humberto Villasmil, President of the ILO Section, informed the EC that in Paraguay there is an active group of young scholars which is trying to set up a new association, but the COVID had stopped the procedures. He will follow up on this.

Many EC members will share some contact points in the countries, which had not responded so far. During the discussion, Prof. Stein Evju noted that some members had been struck off the list “administratively” – without consulting the EC. He also noted that Thailand had been “readmitted” at the informal EC meeting in Cordoba. However, the decision should be made by the EC in a formal meeting. On the “readmission”, the SG informed that according to Art. 7 paras 1, 2 and 3, a formal decision was not required for the readmission of a former national association. However, such an issue should be re-examined by the EC since there are lacunae in the present Statutes & Bylaws.

15. Other issues

The Norwegian President Stein Evju raised the issue of the Call for Interest of Secretary General and for the Treasurer of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law (ISLSSL) for the period 2021-24 asking for news on candidatures and deadlines. The Secretary General recalled that the Call for Interest was sent out on 5 March 2021 and that the deadline for nomination is set on 4 June 2021. He reported that so far, he had not received any nomination. In addition, the SG reminded that he will step down at the end of the XXIII World Congress of Lima. This was already announced during the EC meeting of Turin in September 2018.

At 14:30 EC members received from the Organising Committee the email with link and instructions to cast their votes. At 14:45, President Bellace and SG Casale reopened the EC meeting, which was suspended for permitting the vote, and the SG announced that: 44 EC members took part in the vote. Prof. Maria Emilia Casas Baamonde (Spain) was elected President-Elect with 25 votes. (See point 5 above)

No other issues were raised and the Secretary-General closed the meeting at 15.00.