

Fédération internationale  
des associations d'études classiques

# FIEC

International federation  
of associations of classical studies

Secretary General :  
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## The Secretary General's report from January 1 to December 31, 2020

### 1. Reminder : contact between FIEC and affiliated associations

There are currently 75 associations of Classical studies affiliated to FIEC. Staying in touch with all of them remains a difficult task. It is therefore of the utmost importance that associations send us a regular update of their contact address (postal, e-mail and URL of website if available, to be sent to : [sabine.huebner@unibas.ch](mailto:sabine.huebner@unibas.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.

### 3. FIEC website

Please remember to check our FIEC website: [www.fiecnet.org](http://www.fiecnet.org) which includes a blog (<http://fiecnets.blogspot.ch>), to which all can contribute. If the information displayed needs an update, please let us know. Please also follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FIECnews/>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/FIECnews>). FIEC's social media profiles are being maintained with the help of Audric Wannaz (Basel), who deserves our warmest thanks for the work. Please send her any relevant information that would be useful to Sabine Huebner, FIEC secretary general ([sabine.huebner@unibas.ch](mailto:sabine.huebner@unibas.ch)).

#### 4. Recent FIEC activities

FIEC is the umbrella organization representing Classical Studies worldwide. Over the course of 2020, the FIEC Board has been making efforts to support Classical studies in several parts of the world by promoting Classical studies in international events and organizations. In addition, FIEC has contacted governmental authorities in several countries where a closing or downsizing of Classical Studies was being considered. Furthermore, FIEC has endorsed the request of several international institutions of approaching publishers to increase their open-access offers to digital tools and online subscriptions (e.g. a petition launched by Italian libraries and universities), which have been of utmost importance for scholars who are experiencing extreme difficulties with the pandemic outbreak and the global lockdowns.

In 2019 the FIEC board had intervened with the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research who had plans to exclude ancient history from its school curricula. In August 2020, Sabine Huebner received a letter from the Swedish Minister for Education, Anna Ekström. She informed us that the Swedish government decided on revised course and subject syllabuses on 13 August 2020 but chose to retain Ancient History as part of their core curriculum.

FIEC also supported together with the Spanish Society for Classical Studies the campaign in favor of Ancient Greek and Latin at secondary schools in Spain and send a request to the Spanish Ministry of Education and to the deputies in the parliament, asking them to assure the effective presence of Classical languages in the new Law for Secondary Education.

In 2017 FIEC sent a letter of support – together with the Society of Greek Philologists – to the Greek Minister of Education for the teaching of Latin Language and Literature in Greek secondary education and the re-inclusion of Latin among the subjects examined in University entry examinations for students of the Humanities. According to a 2020 legislation, it has been decreed that Latin will be taught in the last two years of the lyceum and will be one of the subjects examined in university entry examinations for students of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Gunhild Viden, FIEC president, responded to the appeal for help from the University of Salzburg (Austria) which does not plan to refill the chair of Latin philology which will become vacant in 2022/23. Giving up the only chair of Latin philology in Salzburg would be a deep loss not only for the entire university but particularly for the department of classics and the CSEL project which was transferred from the Austrian Academy of Sciences to the University of Salzburg a few years ago and is firmly connected with the respective chair of Latin.

On the suggestion of André Lardinois, FIEC board member and delegate to the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH), FIEC supported– together with learned societies, scientific organizations, and individual researchers and other actors from education, research and innovation - the campaign launched by the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE), an independent platform of European Learned Societies and Research Organizations, to advocate for a higher budget for Horizon Europe by putting pressure on national governments.

FIEC also formally supports the World Logic Day, proclaimed by the 40th General Conference of UNESCO, which will be celebrated on January 14, 2021. CIPSH was charged with the coordination of these global celebrations of logic, critical thinking, and rationality to which FIEC contributed a public recognition (<http://wld.cipsh.international>).

FIEC continues to endorse the ongoing fundraising campaign for *papyri.info* launched by the Association Internationale de Papyrologues (AIP) and the American Society of Papyrologists (ASP). The call for donations is available via this website (<https://www.supportpapyri.info/>) and is directed to all individuals, institutions and funding agencies, asking them to help us to ensure that scholars and students in papyrology and related disciplines can continue to benefit from this important resource over the coming decades.

Jesús de la Villa (FIEC Vice-President), the FIEC delegate to CIPSH (Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines), took part in a virtual international meeting on Humanities and Health convened by CIPSH, together with the Asian New Humanities Network (ANHNN) and the College of Public Health of the National Taiwan University, on April 16 and 17, 2020. This conference also addressed the responses from the Humanities to the current pandemic crisis, imposed by COVID-19. Next to physical and mental health, History, Philosophy, History of religions, and Literature, Classical Studies were identified as one of the five main fields in which the relationship of the Humanities with human health can be analyzed.

The FIEC board also endorsed the nomination of Jesús de la Villa as a member of the CIPSH executive committee and we are very happy that Jesús de la Villa was elected to the executive committee at the CIPSH's General Assembly held via Zoom on 14/15 December 2020. On December 16, the first meeting of the new CIPSH executive committee took place. An extraordinary CIPSH general assembly in Odense (Denmark) is planned for June 7/8, 2021, followed by an international conference, organized by CIPSH and the South Denmark University, with the general title: *The Humanities, the SDGs [UN Sustainable Development Goals] and the Demand on the Humanities/Human Sciences for Social Relevance: Thinking and Rethinking Opportunities and Methodological Issues*, that was postponed from June 9/10, 2020. Information can be found here [www.cipsh.net/web/news-300.htm](http://www.cipsh.net/web/news-300.htm)

Fausto Montana (FIEC Board member), our delegate to L'Année Philologique, attended the hybrid general assembly of the SIBC – Société Internationale de Bibliographie Classique, on October 7, 2020, in Paris. He reports that the SIBC general assembly approved a proposal to open new branches of L'Année Philologique in Japan (Kyoto) and China (Sichuan) and welcomed this active interest in L'Année Philologique by Japanese and Chinese scholars as a telling and promising opportunity for the enhancement of classical studies in East Asia.

Martha Irigoyen (FIEC Vice-President) is acting as President of the Local Organizing Committee for the 16<sup>th</sup> FIEC Congress to be held in Mexico City in 2022. She has been updating the FIEC board about the progress of the congress planning, but also the difficulties the global sanitary crisis entails on the fundraising campaign and for the feasibility of an international congress.

FIEC also contributed to the CIPSH World Humanities Report, which, in its actual phase, will be a database of as many international organizations for Humanities as possible. The FIEC report set out the relevance of our studies and its possible projection in education, culture and science, as well as the characteristics of FIEC itself.

The annual meetings of the EASSH and ThLL were cancelled in 2020 due to the global pandemic.

## 5. FIEC Congresses and General Assemblies

We are all looking forward to the next FIEC Congresses, following a 3-year cycle. The 16<sup>th</sup> FIEC Congress & General Assembly which are jointly organized by the Instituto de Investigaciones Filológicas at UNAM, its Center of Classical Studies and the Asociación Mexicana de Estudios Clásicos (AMEC) will be held in Mexico City from August 1-5, 2022. The FIEC board will keep its member organizations up-to-date about its plans which might include the possibility of a virtual congress.

Agnieszka Toma from the University of Wrocław reports that the planning of the 17<sup>th</sup> FIEC Congress & General Assembly hosted with the support of the Polish Philological Association at the University of Wrocław (Poland) in summer 2025 has commenced.

## 7. Meeting of the FIEC Board

The most recent meeting of the FIEC board took place on September 11, 2020 via Zoom. We hope to be able to meet in person again in September 2021 in Mulhouse (France).



The Secretary General: Sabine Huebner  
Basel, January 8, 2021