

Future working of FIEC

Attached you will find the minutes of a meeting held at the end of March 2012 between the President, Secretary General and Treasurer to review the current working of FIEC and make proposals for the future. This is a healthy exercise in itself, but we were also spurred to do so by comments received from representatives and also by consideration of the likely financial situation in the future and the demands currently placed on member associations.

FIEC itself has very little income (only c. 7,000-8,000 euros per year), especially now that previous subsidies from CIPSH have come to an end. It has no paid administration and so its activities are necessarily limited, unless ways can be found in the future to expand them. Its main activities, the quinquennial congresses and the inter-congress meetings of the General Assembly, present a considerable financial burden on members. I believe that there are steps that can and should be taken now to reduce costs and at the same time improve the range of FIEC's activity in support of classical associations worldwide. The proposals below are not revolutionary –they represent the sort of practical steps that any organization might take in the context of changing circumstances. The Secretary General, the Treasurer and I therefore hope that they will be supported by the General Assembly.

1. FIEC urgently needs a new website, which among other things would permit it to have a more active presence in the classical world, and allow more interaction with member associations and others. This is already being explored, and the Treasurer has identified possible help in maintaining the site and keeping it up to date.
2. The FIEC Board is at present very small (it is limited by the constitution), but it needs to be more active. We therefore propose increasing the number of members from 7 to 10, with each member undertaking to overlook a specific area of activity. Elections for the new places would held at Bordeaux in 2014.
3. If the range and effectiveness of FIEC is increased, we need to find ways of increasing annual income. Meanwhile we do not believe that the current annual subsidies to TLL, SEG and AP can be justified, and propose that they should cease.
4. In order to reduce expenditure we propose that FIEC congresses have fewer invited (and subsidized) speakers, which would bring them into line with comparable international conferences. The meeting of the large international committee is also currently paid for by FIEC. We propose that direct FIEC expenditure is reduced by replacing the present international committee with a joint national and international programme committee.

Averil Cameron
President
June, 2012