

**CISH**  
**General Assemblée**  
**Budapest 6-8 septembre 2012**

Présents :

Membres du bureau : Marjatta Hietala, Hilda Sabato, Robert Frank; Laurent Tissot, Karen Offen, Andrea Giardina, Wenzhao Tao, Jie-Hyun Lim, Michael Bibikov, John Rogister

Excusés : Pim den Boer, Jose Peset.

Délégations : 44 délégations présentes (cf. Liste en annexe III)

*44 delegations (see list in Annex III).*

**I – Introduction: Opening by the President of CISH ( cf. annexe 1, see Annex I)**

**II - Secretary General's Report (cf. annexe II, see Annex II)**

**III - Treasurers's Report and appointment of two auditors**

*Treasurer's Report*

*Appointment of two assessors : · Mathias Middell (NOGWISTHO), · Ioan-Aurel Pop (Roumanie)*

**IV - Presentation of the CISH web site <http://www.cish.org/> by Hélène Naudet**

**V - Report on the preparation of the Jinan Congress, by the Chinese delegate, members of the Organizing Committee**

**VI - Admission of New CISH Members**

**VII - Proposition d'un fonds de soutien financier / Proposal about a financial fund**

**VIII - Proposal of a CISH Award**

**IX - CISH publications**

**X - Nominating Committee**

**XI - Sarajevo 2014**

*(The Secretary General presented a project of a scientific meeting through three days (project of global history around the First World War) in 2014 (the centenary of the "June 28") to Sarajevo. The members of ICHS must address their proposals before December 15, 2012 the Secretary General.*

*Members who showed their interest during the General Assembly:*

*The National Committee of Hungarian historians, the History Committee Meetings of State Committee of Russian historians, the International Commission of historiography, County history of the Holy See, the International Committee of demographic history, the international Federation for historic women. the International Committee for the history of cities, the National Committee of Historians Romanian Committee of the History of International Relations, the International Committee for the History of the Second World War).*

**XII - Discussion about Congress Program**

**XIII – Votes. Samedi 8 septembre / Vote.Saturday, the 8th of september**

**XIV. Closing the General Assembly by Marjatta Hietala**

*“It is my task to close the General Assembly but before that I would like to thank you all for participating in this General Assembly. We had success because we are more numerous (44 delegates) than in Peking. Thank you for your work and for your cooperation.*

*This General Assembly has responded very positively for the suggestions of the Bureau. Thanks for that. At the end thanks our Hungarian colleagues for organizing the General Assembly. I hope that there will be life after the Jinan conference. We will encourage those national committees which are willing to organize the following conference in 2020 to use our homepage for the marketing of their countries and cities.*

*Let us meet either in Sarajevo 2014 or in Jinan 2015.”*

## **Annexe I - Opening speech for the Général Assemblée Marjatta Hietala, President of CISH Budapest, 7.9.2012**

Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentleman

It is my honor and pleasure to open the General Assembly of International Committee of Historical Sciences/Comité international des Sciences Historiques. A warm welcome to you all.

Our committee is now 86 years old. Some words on the history: CISH was founded officially in 1926 in Geneva, but smaller International congresses of Historians have been organized since 1898. In the founding year 1926, 19 countries were accepted as members, among those the committees from the big countries, like France, United Kingdom and Germany, Soviet Union and USA and three Scandinavian Countries. My home country Finland joined on the following year.

At the moment we have 53 national committees and 30 affiliated organizations and 12 Internal commissions. Affiliated organizations and internal commissions are thematically specialized international sessions. CISH has broadened its scope to all continents, but there are many African and Asian nations, which are not yet members of CISH. It is a big challenge for all of us to activate historians to look around, (to look for example at the neighbouring countries) and encourage colleagues in those countries where there are no national committees (National committees are lacking) to create national committees and to join CISH.

Since inception CISH has been the forum for changing ideas and building bridges between different cultures and ideologies. During the inter war period CISH tried to overcome nationalism and bridge gaps between historians from different nations. During the 1950s and 1960s the Committee and Congresses served as a major forum for Historians from communist and non-communist countries. They met and exchanged their ideas and views, which were frequently in strong conflict with each other. During the 1990s and in the first years of the 21st century the work of CISH has reflected the present trends towards globalization. In Sydney in 2005, CISH supported the emergence of new approaches to transnational or global history. That trend continued in Amsterdam 2010 and is continuing when you look at the preliminary programme for the conference in Jinan 2015. This will be an excellent forum for new approaches in history. I give some examples on the sessions with global perspective: China in Global perspectives, which has been proposed as a major session, Specialized and Joint sessions like World Exhibitions, Towards a Global History of the girl, Missionaries in Asia, Gold War and the Welfare State, Old Traditions in globalized World, Globalization, National Patterns of Development and Strategies of Firms.

Today we are better connected than before, thanks to the World wide web. From our CISH homepage you can find all the important information such as programmes of the earlier conferences and most recent information. Open Access and the democratisation of information are the key words for us. All 209 proposals for the conference in Jinan 2015 suggested by national committees and affiliated organizations were loaded in April 2012 to the homepage of CISH.

The proposals for sessions selected by the subcommittee have been loaded on CISH homepage at the beginning of June this year. The subcommittee consisted of eight members of the board: Robert Frank from France, Hilda Sabato from Argentine, Laurent Tissot from Switzerland, Karen Offen from USA, Jie-Huyun Lim from South Korea, Andrea Gardina from Italy, Tao Wenzhao from China and myself from Finland. We present different periods and different fields. We worked very hard in choosing the best proposals for the sessions, the most qualified ones in Neuchatel in May

2012. When choosing the themes we kept in mind that the topics were thematically and regionally representative. You may be surprised to know that we received only one complaint.

About the structure of our scientific programme in the Jinan conference: We will keep the main structure of the scientific programme as it was accepted by the General Assembly in Amsterdam. We will have four categories of sessions but we have proposed more sessions than in Amsterdam. We will have, I hope, four main sessions, lasting whole day, 49 half day sessions consisting of 30 specialized sessions and 19 joint sessions, and then 21 round tables. In addition, we will have some evening sessions. No big revolution is going to happen concerning the structure of the scientific programme... but we have some news: we will suggest the General Assembly to accept the increasing of the number of papers in sessions . Instead of 6 papers in specialized and joint sessions, we could be have 8 papers in these sessions in Jinan.

The main message of CISH is to give forum for new innovative themes and for the new methodological and thematic approaches. Even though we 'll try to keep abreast with the newest trends, we have to ask seriously: How could we attract younger scholars to come to the conferences to listen to presentations if they can find (in quotation marks) all important information via internet. We are optimistic, at least I believe that personal networking is the most important in this world and this can happen at best in conferences, meetings and in smaller groups, often in informal groups. In the International congresses like in Jinan in 2015 people have a possibility to listen to the most distinguished historians, whose books or articles they have read, and to participate in discussions.

I would like to thank warmly our Hungarian hosts and colleagues, especially professors Pal Fodor, Director General from the Research Center for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Attila Pok , Deputy Director from the Institute of History, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences and their colleagues for organizing this General Assembly in Budapest in this beautiful historical environment. We are thankful that you also organized a marvellous concert last night and ordered such a beautiful weather for us. Once more You all are cordially welcome.

**Marjatta Hietala**

## **Annexe II - General secretary report 5 septembre 2012 Budapest**

It is a great pleasure and honour to present to the General Assembly for the first time my report as General Secretary. My task is to coordinate the work of the Bureau, to facilitate the emergence of proposals, to implement decisions of the general Assembly. This report will give information on the activities of the CISH, on proposals, and it will be also an introduction to the GA's agenda.

Five points:

- 1) Situation of the CISH in matter of members;
- 2) The Bureau meetings since 2010;
- 3) The reflections of the Bureau about the organization of the Jinan Congress of 2015;
- 4) My visit to Jinan;
- 5) The proposals of the Bureau on other matters.

I would like to thank our President, Marjatta Hietala: it is a real pleasure to work with Marjatta. It is also a real pleasure to work with the members of the Bureau. We worked hard, we worked a lot, but we had fun also, and it is always a good thing to have a "bonne entente" between people who want to be or try to be efficient.

I must say also that my task is largely facilitated by Pascal Cauchy whose help is invaluable, and also by the financial aid of IEP de Paris and of the French CNRS. Pascal Cauchy managed, with H  l  ne Naudet, to renew completely the website of the CISH and this website has now a great importance in the CISH's life. Pascal and H  l  ne, after the financial report will present it to you.

### **1) Situation of the CISH's members**

As our President said, the CISH has 3 types of members: 53 National Committees, 30 International Affiliated Organizations and 9 Internal Commissions.

- The Argentine National Committee has organized its revival; and we must welcome a new member : Denmark.

- Despite this favorable news, the CISH is having difficulties overcoming a geographical unbalance of membership: no many national committees in Africa, Middle East, some parts of Asia, etc. We are aware of this and must develop efforts to change this situation.

The meetings of the Bureau since 2010

The Paris meeting of the Bureau restreint: 18 February 2011

The Helsinki meeting of the Bureau: 13 May 2011

The Neuch  tel meeting of the Bureau restreint and of the sub-committee in charge of the Jinan Congress program: 11-12 May 2012

These meetings were important, because they developed reflections and proposals in matter of organization of the Jinan Congress, and also on other matters

### **2) Reflections of the Bureau about the organization of the Jinan Congress**

During the Helsinki meeting of the Bureau (May 2011), reflections and questions emerged after the report of Hans Blom on the Amsterdam Congress of 2010: this Congress was a great success, but was a little disappointing in matter of attendance and number of participants. The question raised was: is there a possibility to attract more speakers, more contributors, and thus increase the number of participants? Here are the following suggestions of the Bureau.

- Traditionally, we have three major themes (a whole day each). The three proposed themes deal with « objects » for historians: « China", "Emotions" and "Revolutions". The Bureau suggests the principle of a fourth theme, which has to do not so much with an object, but with methodology and historian's tools: the fourth themes suggested for the Jinan Congress: "The Digital Turn". If the Principe of a fourth methodological theme is accepted and if is a success in Jinan, it could become a regular practice or a rule in the future Congresses.

- The Bureau suggests maintain the distinction between specialized themes (ST), joint sessions (JS) and round tables (RT) which have a common feature: they last a half-day. Their differences are the following: the ST may be proposed by one member only (national committee, international affiliated organization or internal commission); the JS are proposed by two members at least ; the RT are not a set of contributions, but a discussion (4 persons) around one paper presented by an other person. The Bureau suggests increase the number of these half-day sessions during the Congress.

- The Bureau suggests also increase the number of contributions for each ST and JS. : between 6 and 8, instead of a maximum of 6 in the previous Congresses. If these suggestions are accepted, they could have a good effect in allowing a greater number of contributors, and so, a greater number of participants.

The General Assembly will discuss later about the preselected proposals, after the report of the sub-committee in charge of the program of the Congress, which will be delivered by Laurent Tissot. But I want to give here some concrete information.

My task, with Pascal Cauchy, was to assure the management of these proposals. I want to stress the importance of our website. We followed the decisions of the Amsterdam GA : more transparency thanks to get a new website. We implemented the motion n° 7 proposed by the subcommittee on the program (Arnita Jones, Marjatta Hietala, Brunello Vigezzi, Jean-Claude Robert), voted by the General Assembly in Amsterdam in 2010 ("The list of all proposals will be sent to members of the ICHS, and they will have a short period to send their reaction to the

Secretary General before the meeting of the sub-committee of the Bureau"), and also the motion 8 : "The ICHS Web site should be used in the process. Steps should be taken to simplify the cumbersome procedure to receive all proposals and having to prepare long documents. This would mean putting more money into the Website".

Indeed, the call for proposals was sent by e-mail and put on the web site in July 2011. The deadline for the answers to the call was January 2012. Many were late and the deadline was postponed to March. In April 2012, we had, or we thought we had, 202 proposals. There were mistakes, and because the list was posted on the website, it was possible for everyone to check and ask for corrections. After checking, we counted finally **209 proposals**: a little more than for Amsterdam. A new and positive trend has to be underlined: many proposals for ST have been suggested by two or more members. That means the success of the creation of JS: members are now accustomed to join their efforts to organize a session, even for ST and not only for JS. This success means that may be in the future we will have to think the end of the distinction between these two types of sessions. As the 209 proposals were on the website, we expected reactions, proposals of "marriages" etc. We had very few.

If we do not count the opening and the evening sessions, 75 proposals have been preselected by the sub-committee in May at the Neuchâtel meeting: 4 MT (one day), 70 half days sessions (30 ST, 19 JS, 21 RT), 1 special session. The number of selected proposals is higher than for the Amsterdam Congress: they were then 50 (3 MT, 20 ST, 14 RT, 10 JS, 3 special sessions). We spent time to check the list which was put on the website and sent by e-mail in the beginning of July. Members had two months to react. Only one request was sent.

What should be the Agenda between Budapest (September 2012) and Jinan (August 2015) ? I suggest the following Agenda, which will be discussed later:

- From September 2012 to March 2013, the sub-committee makes the choice of the organizers of the different sessions. It maybe more than one by session. The main criteria are: the subcommittee takes of course in account the names of the authors proposed for the selected proposals, the scientific value of the persons, their capacity of publishing, and different balances (countries, continents, gender, historical periods, etc.)

- From March to May 2013, guidelines are sent to the selected organizers (there will be no great change with the guidelines written by Jean-Claude Robert in 2008) and the organizers write a text of presentation for their session which is sent to the members and posted on the web site.

- From May to September 2013: on the ground of these texts, as General secretary, I will launch a call for papers (MT, ST, JS) or a call for participation to the discussion (RT). The deadline for the answers will be: September 2013.

- From September 2013 to January 2014, the organizers manage their panel, choose the contributors; they take in account their own ideas and the result of the call for papers or for participation to the discussion.

- February-March 2014 : with the help of the sub-committee, I check if there is a balance

between countries, continents, gender, and historical periods.

- March 2014-March 2015, the contributors work and write their papers, delivered in March 2015.

- The agenda must take also in account in June 2014 the project of conference on Sarajevo 1914-2014 , if the General Assembly accepts the project.

#### **4) Report of the visit to Jinan**

I visited Beijing, where I saw the colleagues of the Chinese committee, and Jinan, where I visited the site of the Congress, in September 2011. So did our President, Marjatta Hietala, in November 2011. The collected impressions are very positive.

There are many and decisive advantages :

- The prices of the hotels in Jinan are lower than in Beijing. For many people, the Jinan Congress will not be more expensive than the Amsterdam Congress. What they pay more for the plane tickets, they will pay less for the hotel and food (a good one for 40 or 50 euros by night, and 80 euros for a palace hotel, the Shandong hotel).

- In the Great hall which is attached to this Shandong hotel, and in another hotel which is at 5 minutes walking from the first one, there are enough meeting rooms to host all the sessions. That means the possibility of a very concentrated Congress in a small area : it would not have been the case in Beijing. There are many meeting rooms : It gives the possibility of having more sessions than in Amsterdam.

- Many touristic possibilities: Beijing is at 1 h 30 only from Jinan, so thanks to the new high speed train (400 km) ; Shandong is the region of Confucius and his house is at one hour from Jinan ; the Sacred Mountain is also at one hour from Jinan ; Tsing Tao (a nice port and the city of the beer founded by the Germans) is not very far away.

#### **5) Proposals of the Bureau on other matters**

- The General Assembly has to elect the members of the Nominating Committee which will propose at the Jinan Congress the new members of the future Bureau. According to the article 5 of our Constitution, the Bureau proposes 7 members, 3 of them belonging to the Bureau:

- 3 members belonging to the Bureau: Marjatta Hietala, Robert Frank, Wenzhao Tao ;

- 4 other members :

- Simone Lässig (Germany), General secretary of the German committee,
- Tomasz Shramm (Poland), member of the Commission of History of International

Relations,

- Veronica Zarate, (Mexico), president of the Mexican committee,
- Lucile Rabearimanana (Madagascar), member of the Comité d'Histoire de l'Océan Indien

These candidates are presented today, 7 September 2012, to this first meeting of the General Assembly. Other candidates may be presented tomorrow, 8 September, at the second meeting of the General Assembly by the delegates of the National Committees or of the International Affiliated Organizations. The General Assembly will then proceed with the election of the Nominating Committee.

b) - The Bureau accepted to submit to the General Assembly two proposals suggested by the General Secretary.

It would be convenient that the CISH organizes another event than the World Congress. It could be an international conference, one year sooner. In 2014, the CISH could take advantage of the 100th anniversary of the Great War and organize the conference in Sarajevo.

A moral support could come from the UNESCO and a financial one by the French authorities around one scientific event: « a global history of the 1914-1918war ». If this experience comes to be a success, it could be renewed every five years.

The CISH should invent a History prize or award which would be solemnly delivered : that would give the chance to our organization to be better known by the medias and public opinions.

More information will be given on these two proposals during the General Assembly, which will have to discuss them and take decisions.

I am sure that we will have very interesting discussions on all these matters and I wish us a very good meeting, which is so wonderfully organized by our Hungarian hosts : I want to thank very warmly Attila Pok and his team for their hospitality and for all the work done for the success of this General Assembly.

**Robert Frank**