

***Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Management of INLA
held in Paris on 13th February 2018***

Were present :

Jacques Lavoie
Ulrike Feldmann
Ximena Vasquez-Maignan
Sara Maciel
Mark Herlach
Ian Salter
Marc Beyens
Toyohiro Nomura
Marc Léger
Wolfram Tonhauser

Patrick Reyners, Secretary General
Brigitte Helderweirt, Secretary

By invitation :

Nuria Prieto Serrano
Sidonie Royer-Maucotel
Sonia Drobysz
Bill Horin
Alexandra Van Kalleveen
William Fork
Andrey Shkarbanov
Amani Al Shamsi
Amna Al Zaabi
Maya Al Alem

Apologies received :

Vanda Lamm
Els Reynaers
Rafael Manovil
Abide Gülel
Santiago Ripol
Jyrki Javanainen
Andrej Popov
Godelieve Vandeputte

I. Opening

The meeting of the Board of Management was held at the C.E.A.'s Office, 25 rue Leblanc, Paris, upon the kind invitation of the French Section of INLA.

The President, Jacques Lavoie, opened the meeting and welcomed the members of the Board as well as the representatives of INLA Working Groups. He also recognized the presence of Andrey Shkarbanov and William Fork who had been invited to attend the meeting. He then introduced his UAE colleagues Maya Al Alem, Amani Al Shamsi and Amna Al Zaabi who will help him in preparing the Congress in Abu Dhabi. He also thanked Marc Léger for hosting the meeting of the Board and congratulated Ximena Vasquez-Maignan for the excellent organization of the enlarged WG 2 meeting at NEA's headquarters, the day before.

The Secretary General informed that given the members of the Board present at the meeting and the proxies received, the quorum was reached.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed Agenda [INLA Board (2018)1] was adopted.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 28th September 2017

The Minutes of the meeting held in Bonn [INLA Board (2017) 3. Rev.1] were approved without change.

IV. Progress Report on the preparation of Nuclear Inter Jura 2018

The President explained that he had now received confirmation of the full support of UAE authorities and ENEC for the organization of the congress. He would now contact the IAEA, the OECD/NEA and UAE Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANR) with a view to seek their official sponsorship. After presenting the participants a video dedicated to the Barakah nuclear power plant and a power point presentation of Abu Dhabi, he announced that an agreement had been concluded with the Ritz Carlton Hotel as the venue of the congress. He also gave preliminary indications concerning the social programme, excursion and technical visit. He reminded that the dates of the congress had been moved to Sunday 4th to Thursday 8th November, with the gala dinner scheduled on Wednesday and a Technical visit on Saturday 3rd November.

The presentation was followed by a discussion regarding various organizational aspects and the prospects for participation by persons from the Gulf region, which seemed promising. It was also noted that Abu Dhabi universities would be contacted. Wolfram Tonhauser reminded of the possibility that the Vienna Agency provide some financial support to selected candidates from developing countries.

V. Finance – 2018 Membership fees

The Secretary General explained that the finance of the Association could be regarded as balanced, even considering the still insufficient level of actual payments of membership fees. The introduction of the PayPal system certainly helped various members distant from the Secretariat in Brussels but had not significantly changed the overall situation. He hoped that this being a Congress year, it would indirectly encourage a higher discipline in this domain.

Considering this, the Board members acknowledged their responsibilities in obtaining a higher rate of payment in their respective countries or regions. They also decided to keep the fees at their current level, that is 90 EUR for ordinary members and 20 EUR for students (independently of national sections applying additional fees).

VI. INLA Prize

The Secretary General reported that after the Board meeting held in New Delhi (2016), a Task Force composed of several “young” INLA members had been put together with a view to seek suggestions on how to make that competition more attractive. At the initiative of Lukasz Mlynarkiewicz, our webmaster, a questionnaire had been sent to the Task Force (copy attached) but so far no much response had been obtained. In these conditions, the Secretary General was concerned that once again the prospects for the INLA Prize at the Abu Dhabi congress were rather grim.

The President observed that it would be unfortunate to allow the INLA Prize to become irrelevant without tempting another effort and he suggested to turn to the potential existing on the side of the Montpellier School exam dissertations. The Secretary General agreed to contact quickly the NEA Secretariat with a view to identify promising work from the ISNL students.

The President also took this opportunity to express his appreciation of the efforts made by the Webmaster to enhance the website as window of the Association and he hoped that Lukasz Mlynarkiewicz would continue to serve in this capacity in the future.

VII. Publication of INLA Congress Proceedings

This being a congress year, the Secretary General observed that it belonged to the organizers of each particular congress to decide the matter of publishing the conference papers, taking account in consideration budgetary and other relevant factors. He also noted the trend to an increase in the volume of materials submitted at the congresses which not only increased the cost of editing and publishing but even more that of sending the books by postal mail. Also, in the past, congress participants were practically the only recipients of such proceedings, therefore excluding the other members of INLA, not to mention the larger public. Another development he observed was that many presentations at the congress consisted in power point slides and no longer fully written reports.

Unsurprisingly, the ensuing discussion reflected the difference of opinions between those members still preferring to obtain their hard copy of the proceedings and others considering that the work and expense was no longer justified and opting for simple internet access to the reports.

The Secretary General noted that the now widely adopted option of an electronic publication (e-books) had not yet been used for INLA congresses. The solution was more economical and satisfied to the requirement of official ISBN registration, the condition for a better visibility of the work of the Association.

The President concluded that he would take all these aspects in consideration when deciding what form the proceedings of the Abu Dhabi congress should take. He also mentioned the question of a translation in Arabic language of such proceedings.

VIII. Prospects for Nuclear Inter Jura 2020

The Secretary General explained that there had been informal discussions over the past months about a possible interest of INLA members in the USA for the organization of an INLA Congress in this country. In the absence of any other specific proposals for 2020 and in consultation with the President and Mark Herlach, it had been decided to invite William Fork to attend this meeting and present his ideas.

William Fork reminded the Board that there had been no INLA Congress in his country since 1999 and he was confident in the ability to mobilize various interested US parties and to organize a successful conference. He also believed that Washington would be the best location.

The President noted that everybody seemed pleased with such a prospect and he thanked Mark Herlach and William Fork for supporting this proposal.

IX. Outreach Policy

This is a topic which was already addressed at the meeting in Bonn with, in particular, Ximena Vasquez-Maignan offering to explore prospects for an increase of participation in the Association by Asian members, in particular Chinese.

The Secretary General also informed the Board that he had been approached by Anne Wilson, INLA Member from South Africa. She was interested by a more direct involvement in the Association's activities and by the prospect of reactivating the idea of an African INLA Chapter.

X. Miscellaneous

The Secretary General reminded the Board that the last 2017 issue of the INLA Newsletter (Update 3) had been released just before Christmas. He expressed his gratitude to Els Reynaers for her active contribution and he hoped she would continue this year to collaborate with the Secretariat.

Concerning the discussion to take place in the afternoon to review the scientific programme of the next congress and, particularly, the proposals for reports received so far, the Secretary General noted that each participant would receive lists of the abstracts sent to the Secretariat, by name of author and by title.

XI. Future meeting of the Board

The President indicated that, in accordance with tradition, he wished to convene a meeting of the Board before the opening of the Abu Dhabi congress. He proposed that this meeting takes place on Friday 2nd November 2018 in the evening, followed by a dinner. Details would be provided in due course.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed.