

FUCE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF RECTORS OF THE EUROPEAN
FEDERATION OF CATHOLIC UNIVERSITIES
Warsaw, 9th and 10th of May 2003

Before starting the General Assembly, the Rector of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Prof. Roman Bartnicki, welcomes the participants and gives a brief description of his university. Next, Mr. Adam Struzik and Mr. Leszek Mizielinski, authorities of the region of Mazovia, both make speeches also welcoming the participants.

Next, Prof. Miguel Gassiot, President of the EFCU opens the Meeting thanking Stefan Wyszyński University for its hospitality (annex I) and presents Dr. Josep Gallifa, Academic Vice-rector and General Secretary of the Universitat Ramon Llull, who gives a talk on “*Quality, identity and excellence in EFCU Universities and the Bologna challenges*”. Next, Prof. Máximo Massagli gives another paper on “*Rankings: Catholic Universities and rankings promoted by mass-media*”. There follows a debate on these two papers.

1. Approval of the agenda.

It is agreed to amend the agenda and move item 6 “IFCU Report” to item 3. Prof. Van Houtte, of the Antwerpen University would like to add a point of information on his university, which he would like to distribute. It is agreed that this point will be covered under item 11 “Any Other Business”.

2. Approval of the previous minutes (Universidad de Deusto - Bilbao, 19th April 2002).

The minutes are approved unanimously, since no amendments are made to it.

3. IFCU Report by Jan Peters: Uganda General Assembly and election of two EFCU representatives to the IFCU Council.

Prof. Jan Peters begins by mentioning the conference organised by the IFCU held in Rome in December 2002. He points out that this was a first step in the co-operation between the congregation and our universities and that the content of the conference was designed by the IFCU, although they did have to adapt to certain requests from the Vatican. The summary of the conference will soon be available on CD ROM. The participants at this conference agreed that this line of co-operation should be continued.

Next, Prof. Peters mentions the subject of the IFCU General Assembly to be held in Uganda, pointing out that it would be good for as many universities possible to take part. He points out that for the people in Africa this meeting is one way to present the Catholic Universities of the continent to the rest of colleagues around the world. He underscores that the programme is very interesting, and indicates that they hope to discuss the challenges of

biotechnology within this conference, with special emphasis on the challenges for Africa, although it will be very interesting for all the countries. He adds that the only threat to this meeting would be if SARS were to reach Africa; This would be a disaster and the meeting would have to be cancelled. No other problems are foreseen.

Next, Prof. Peters moves on to the subject of electing the members of the FUCE to the board of the IFCU, indicating that each of the five regions can appoint two members to the Board, which is responsible for strategic questions, finances, membership, preparing the general assembly and co-operation between the regions. Normally the president of the FUCE is one of the members, so a second representative should be appointed.

After a series of discussions on how to elect this second representative, it is agreed to have a secret ballot on whether it should be a member of Eastern or Western Europe. After the vote, the result is 11 for Eastern Europe and 6 for Western Europe. A second vote is then taken to elect the representative from among the following universities: Pázmány Péter Katolicus Egyetem (Budapest), Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski (Lublin), Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński (Warsaw) and the Papieska Akademia Teologiczna (Cracow). These are the results of the vote:

Budapest: 10 votes
Lublin: 7 votes
Cracow: 1 vote
Warsaw: 0 votes

4. Presentation and debate on the survey of “Catholic Universities in Europe”.

Prof. Gassiot points out that this study was made in conjunction with many Catholic Universities, the Board of the FUCE and the staff of the Ramon Llull University, and that it was a difficult task because of the diversity of university systems in Europe. Next, he gives a brief overview of the contents of this study. A debate follows on how to use this information, and Prof. Braga suggests that this document should be a starting point to help to make a second more in-depth study on the freedom of teaching. From there on, it would be advisable to organise a conference and draw some conclusions that could be sent to the Commission or the European Parliament.

Prof. Ábrego points out that this study was already used by the Basque government and offers the help of the Deusto University to start working in that direction, since they have staff skilled in this area, stressing the importance of having the “missions” of our universities. Prof. Valdrini considers that the first action to be taken here should be primarily political, and not legal, and that the Board of the FUCE should be entrusted with this task. Prof. de la Serna points out that Mrs. Vivian Reading is very open to the idea of the Catholic Universities and that now would be a good moment to send her our proposals; he suggests that a committee be set up to work

towards this end and present the results to Brussels. Prof. Braga suggests that these could be sent to Rome (to the Holy Father) instead of Brussels, since a positive reaction from His part would be a great help.

After all these opinions, is agreed to set up a task force made up of rectors or experts designated by the countries in which the Catholic universities are in the worst situation (France, Italy, Portugal and Spain), which could mobilise themselves faster than the Board of the FUCE. After a series of discussions on the discrimination facing private universities with respect to public ones, and on the date of the meeting of this task force, it is agreed that it will meet at the end of June or start of July to start work. Prof. Gassiot points out that although for the time being there will be a meeting of representatives from Italy, France, Portugal and Spain, it would be a good idea if at a later stage they could be joined by a representative of the countries of the East, and asks the participants to propose participants for this task force.

5. Reflection and debate on the FUCE model of excellence.

The participants are handed out the initial draft on “The bases of identity for a model of excellence of the FUCE” (annex II), drawn up on the basis of the interesting discussions of the Commission set up for this purpose – as agreed in Deusto - which met in Angers and Rome. Prof. Gassiot sums up the content of this document. Prof. Gatti points out an incorrect translation of the word “testimonio” on page 5 of the document. Prof. Gassiot asks the participants for specific suggestions and proposals on the bases used by each university. Here, Prof. Ábrego suggests working first on the “missions”, beginning with the definition of “Ex Corde Ecclesiae” and continuing with service to society and the church. As regards the subject of internationalisation, he suggests that the “EFQM” be considered, alongside “ISO”. Prof. Valdrini asks that the tasks to be carried out be systemised.

After a short debate on the concept of “excellence” and “identity” and the indicators used for this study, Prof. Gassiot asks the participants to send any suggestions for improving this draft, and to answer the questionnaire in point 7 of the document. Here, Prof. Gallifa suggests working in two stages: first, begin to answer the questionnaire, in order to reflect the reality of the different universities and thus learn from each other. Secondly, the more philosophical side of the issue, that of the study on excellence and identity, which corresponds to the first part of the document.

Prof. Gatti points out that it would be important to clarify the aim of this document, and whether or not the criteria of excellence run counter to the mission of the university.

6. Report by Prof. Valdrini on the International Relations Managers meeting held in Rome last January.

Prof. Valdrini informs that 26 representatives of different universities attended and that the meeting focused mainly upon information and debates

on the Bologna declaration. Msgr. Thivierge was also there. There were two presentations, from Lublin and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński universities. Prof. Valdrini points out that these meetings are a good opportunity for the person in charge of International Relations to exchange ideas and a good time to get to know each other personally, not only by telephone. He points out that the participants have differing statuses with respect to the type of work that they carry out in the different universities. There are representatives who have genuine decision-making faculties, along with others who do not. This is why he points out that this is an opinion group and not a decision-making one. Prof. Valdrini points out that the meeting was very well organised by the Pontificia Lateranense University, and that a short evaluation of the seminar was also made. He also points out that this type of meeting is very important for the life of the FUCE and that the next one will take place in Paris in January 2004.

7. Pastoral Care Report.

Prof. Gassiot apologises for his absence from the conference given by Father Enrique Climent, and hands the participants a summary that he made on the meeting of university chaplains held in Katowice (annex III)

8. Information on the European symposium: “University and Church in Europe”, organised by the “Council of European Bishops’ Conferences” to be held in Rome 17-20 July 2003.

The programme of this conference is handed out among the participants and Prof. Gassiot notes that he has been invited to take part in the opening ceremony of this symposium. He also points out that Msgr. Leuzzi has also invited Prof. Ruprecht Wimmer to take part in the closing ceremony, and takes the opportunity to thank him for taking part as a representative of the FUCE.

9. Next FUCE Meeting and organisation of a colloquium similar to the one which took place at the Budapest Meeting.

Prof. Gassiot points out that the Management Board of the FUCE has decided to subsidise the publication of the leaflet published after the colloquy held in Budapest in the 2001 Assembly of Rectors and asks Prof. György Fodor to send a copy to the members of the FUCE. He agrees to do this.

As for next year's meeting, it is agreed that it will be held at the Katholische Universität Eichstätt on the 14th and 15th of May 2004. The Rector of the Universidad Pontificia of Salamanca, Prof. Marceliano Arranz proposes that the 2005 meeting take place at his university. It is agreed.

10. FUCE Finances.

Prof. Gassiot sums up the situation of the FUCE finances, indicating that there is no reason to change the amount of the fees. He also points out that

he has received letters from some small universities that have difficulties in paying the fees.

11. Any other business.

Prof. Jean Van Houtte, of the Universiteit Antwerpen distributes a document on his university entitled “UCSIA: Mission and Main Activities”, with specific information on this project.

It is agreed that the secretary of the FUCE will send an E-mail with the presentations made during the meeting.

Finally, Prof. Gassiot thanks all the participants, and very especially the rector of the Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski University for his kind hospitality and co-operation in the organisation of this meeting.

FUCE Conference Participants Warsaw, 9-10 May 2003

Participants		
1	Prof. José María ABREGO DE LACY	Universidad de Deusto, Bilbao
2	Prof. Marceliano ARRANZ RODRIGO	Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca
3	Prof. Manuel BRAGA DA CRUZ	Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Lisboa
4	Àngels CABAU	Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona
5	Prof. Luigi CAMPIGLIO	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
6	Prof. Hugues DERYCKE	Institut Catholique de Paris
7	Prof. Luis Escobar DE LA SERNA	Fundación Universitaria San Pablo - Ceu
8	Prof. György FODOR	Pázmány Péter Katolicus Egyetem, Budapest
9	Prof. Josep GALLIFA	Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona
10	Prof. Miquel GASSIOT	President of FUCE, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona
11	Dr. Mario GATTI	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
12	Prof. Franco IMODA	Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Roma
13	Prof. Stefan JURGA	Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań
14	Prof. Agnieszka KIJEWSKA	Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, Lublin
15	Prof. Thérèse LEBRUN	Université Catholique de Lille
16	Dr. Massimo MASSAGLI	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano
17	Catherine MIANNAY	Institut Catholique de Paris
18	Prof. Luc PASQUIER	Université Catholique de l'Ouest, Angers
19	Dr. Jan PETERS	President of FIUC, Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen
20	Dr. Robertas PUKENIS	Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas, Kaunas
21	Prof. Xavier RENDERS	Université Catholique de Louvain
22	Prof. Robert ROUSSEAU	Université Catholique de l'Ouest, Angers
23	Prof. Michel SCHEUER	Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur
24	Dr. Marcel SZABÓ	Pázmány Péter Katolicus Egyetem, Budapest
25	Prof. François TRICARD	Université Catholique de Lyon
26	Prof. Steponas VAICIUNAS	Vytauto Didžiojo Universitetas, Kaunas
27	Prof. Patrick VALDRINI	Institut Catholique de Paris
28	Prof. Jean VAN HOUTTE	Universiteit Antwerpen
29	Prof. Marc VERVENNE	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

30	Prof. Ruprecht WIMMER	Katholische Universität Eichstätt – Ingolstadt
31	Adam STRUZIK	Marshal of Mazovia Region
32	Leszek MIZIELIŃSKI	Voivode of Mazovia
33	Prof. Roman BARTNICKI Rector	Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
34	Prof. Jan BIELECKI Vice-Rector for Education and International Cooperation	Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
35	Dr. Krzysztof BARDSKI	Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw
36	Alicja OGRODZIŃSKA	Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw