



# **European International Studies Association**

## **Annual Report and financial statement**

*For the year ended*

31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

## European International Studies Association

### Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2017

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## European International Studies Association (EISA)

### Governing Board

#### Executive Committee

President: Thomas Diez (Jan 2017-Sep 2017); Victoria Basham (Sep 2017 onwards)

Executive Secretary: Tanja Aalberts (Jan 2017-Sep 2017); Ben Tallis (Sep 2017 onwards)

Treasurer: Raquel Freire

#### Governing Council

Jan 2017 – Sep 2017: Mika Aaltola, Mathias Albert, Victoria Basham, Jef Huysmans, Knud Erik Jørgensen, Lyubov Mincheva, Stefania Panebianco, Ole Jacob Sending, Benjamin Tallis

Sep 2017 onwards: Mathias Albert, Valeria Bello, Maj Grasten, Jef Huysmans, Beate Jahn, Anna Leander, Maria Malksoo, Ole Jacob Sending, Anna Wojciuk

#### Staff

2017: Charlene Baldwin (membership) Caroline Gutierrez (general issues) Miguel Peixe Aldeias (web solutions) – MCI

## Report of the Governing Board for 2017

The Governing Board of the EISA is pleased to submit their Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2017. The 2018 Annual General Assembly will be held on 13 September 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic.

### Legal Status

The European International Studies Association (hereafter EISA or the Association) is an association pursuant to Articles 60 et seq. of the Swiss Civil Code, having its seat in Zurich, Switzerland.

The Association's governing document is the Constitution and Bylaws (hereafter: the Constitution), as adopted April 10, 2013 in the name and with the powers of attorney of the incorporation members. Subsequently, it has been approved by the General Assembly in Warsaw, 19 September 2013 for the period of one year. This conditional adoption was decided after some uncertainty about the rules for changing the constitution, as stated in article V/1-e of the constitution. It enables the Governing Council to continue its work while seeking legal clarification of the aforementioned article.

### Objects and Membership

The EISA was founded in 2013, by a unanimous decision of the members of the Steering Committee of Standing Group on International Relations (SGIR) for a new organization to run the activities of the International Relations' community in Europe. As a membership-based organization, EISA continues the agenda of the SGIR in a more sustainable and democratic fashion.

The objects of the Association, set out in article II of the Constitution, are 'to enhance the capacities of scholars and practitioners primarily in Europe, but also worldwide in acquiring, disseminating and applying knowledge of global affairs and international studies'.

The constitution furthermore states that the Association 'does not pursue any commercial purposes and is not profit oriented. The purpose of the Association is exclusively educational, scientific and charitable and any net earnings of the Association and its activities shall be devoted exclusively to such purpose.'

Pursuant article IV of the Constitution, any natural or legal person of private and public law that shares the above purposes of the Association and pay its membership dues may become a member. There are four membership categories: regular members; emeritus members; honorary members; and corporate members. All members (except corporate members) have full voting rights, but only regular members have the right to hold office

within the Association. There are differentiated membership fees based on annual income, as published on the website.

On 31 December 2017, EISA had 1345 members coming from 65 different countries.

### Governance

The Governing Board consists of the Executive Committee (3 members) and the Governing Council (9 members). The Board normally meets three times a year. In addition, the Governing Board has ex officio members, for instance those who serve on the editorial boards of the journals of the Association.

The positions of the Executive Committee are elected by the General Assembly, upon proposition by the Governing Board. The President is elected by the General Assembly, following nomination of two qualified and eligible regular members by the Governing Board. The President serves for 2 years. The Treasurer and Executive Secretary of the Association are elected by the General Assembly, upon proposition of the Governing Board, and serve for 4 years each.

### Network

EISA maintains good working relationships with several sister organizations. These include the British International Studies Association (BISA), the Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA), the Standing Group of International Relations of the European Consortium for Political Research (SGIR/ECPR), the Nordic International Studies Association (NISA), and overseas the International Studies Association (ISA) and the World International Studies Committee (WISC). In addition, EISA is a partner and co-organizer of the Olympia Summer Academy ([olympiasummeracademy.org](http://olympiasummeracademy.org)) since 2014.

### Publications

The Association currently is involved in the publication of a Book Series and successfully launched a new journal in 2015.

#### ***Palgrave Studies in International Relations (PSIR)***

PSIR is one of the major IR series, demonstrating that one of the original objectives of the series has been achieved. Being a general IR series, PSIR does not specialize in any particular sub-theme but aims to publish high quality books on topics that are of interest to IR audiences. As part of an effort to further strengthen the PSIR, the editorial team has been expanded and now consists of Mai'a K. Davis Cross, Benjamin de Carvalho, Shahar Hameiri, Knud Erik Jørgensen, Ole Jacob Sending and Ayşe Zarakol. Moreover, an EISA Best Dissertation Award has been established in cooperation with Palgrave, where the winner

will have the revised dissertation published in the PSIR. The Award will be presented at the PEC18 in Prague. PSIR is now included in Palgrave's [SpringerLink](#) ebook subject collection, which attracts over 50 million users from 15,000 institutions. PSIR books are published in paperback 24 months after initial publication to the open market.

### ***Global Affairs***

After years of preparation *Global Affairs* was launched in 2015 and during 2016 began to consolidate, not least in terms of submissions. Except for the summer period, the journal is published every second month, making a quick editorial process possible. The journal has got a fine reception; readers began quickly to engage with the online published material thereby producing unexpectedly high engagement metrics, some articles engaged more than 5000 times. Three factors might explain the take-off we have experienced. First, Taylor & Francis' promotion of the journal is indispensable. There are considerable advantages of being in the same journal stable as journals like *Washington Quarterly* and *Survival*. Second, all EISA members have free online access to *Global Affairs* (and a handful of other T&F journals) for which reason the journal benefits from a direct connection to the biggest IR knowledge resource base in Europe. Third, the editors have done their very best to encourage submissions.



Each issue is composed of one or two front articles, a number of research articles, a commentary/debate section and a review section. While most sections function as planned, we continue to experience problems with the commentary/debates section and special attention will be devoted to make the section a lively arena for debates on global affairs including impact on Europe and Europe's responses. During 2016 we witnessed an increase in contributions to the section but it still needs special editorial attention. In 2015 we introduced a new feature, a forum consisting of relatively short articles. The feature was really well received and new forums have either been published or are under preparation. Some of the published articles have got media attention, helped by press releases, thus

representing academics reaching out to broader audiences, i.e. one of the aims of *Global Affairs*. In 2016 we began to exclusively use ScholarOne for manuscript submissions.

Members of the Association receive free copies of the EISA journals and several journals of sister organizations. This includes an agreement with SAGE, which provides EISA members free access to the *European Journal of International Relations*. Moreover members can purchase the Palgrave Studies in International Relations at a 50 per cent discount, as well as other books and journals from premier publishers.

The Association journals are available to libraries and other institutions as a complete package or separately, as a combined print and online subscription, or online-only subscription. Purchasing deals by consortia of libraries continue to be an important category of users and subscribers.

### Other Academic activities

EISA engages in a range of activities open to members and non-members alike. As described in more detail below, the Association organizes a number of events and produces a range of publications that serve to promote International Studies in Europe.

#### *Conferences and Events*

The EISA organizes the Pan-European Conference (PEC) on International Relations (see 9<sup>th</sup> Pan European Conference on International Relations, below), the Young Researchers' Workshops adjacent to the Pan European conference (see YRW, Giardini Naxos, below), European Workshops on International Studies (see EWIS below), European International Relations Summer School, Exploratory Symposia (see ES, Rapallo below) and co-organizes the Olympia Summer Academy (see OSA below).

## 11<sup>th</sup> Pan European Conference on International Relations in Barcelona, Spain



The 11<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference was held at the Campus Ciutadella, Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain from 13-16 September. The theme for the conference was ‘The Politics of International Studies in an Age of Crises’ and the program chairs were Victoria Basham and Cemal Burak Tansel. They were assisted by Katharina Krause, and Elisabeth Johansson- Nogues as the local organizer at the Institute of International Relations in Barcelona (IBEI). The organizing committee was chaired by Thomas Diez and 91 section chairs greatly assisted in forming 366 roundtables, panels and plenaries. The call for sections was launched in September 2016, and 50 sections were accepted. The conference was subsequently attended by 1334 participants, representing institutions in 58 different countries.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Pan European Conference on International Relations in Sofia, Bulgaria

Plans for our next Pan-European Conference in 2019, to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria, got underway in late 2017. Former EISA Governing Board Member Lyubov Mincheva will act as the local organiser for the conference and we are delighted to be welcoming Juha Vuori and Saara Särmä as our 2019 Programme Chairs.

## YRW in Barcelona, 2017

The EISA Board decided to rename the Young Researchers Workshops as Early Career Researchers Workshops in 2017. Early Career Researchers Workshops (ECW) are one-day workshops organized by and for doctoral students and recently appointed postdoctoral researchers. Organized around an overarching theme or question, junior scholars present and discuss their work together with senior discussants. ECWs are an integral part of PEC.

For PEC 2017 the following three workshops were organised on 12 September:

- \* The significance of obscure practices and subjects: investigating silences in transnational legal spaces. Organized by: Sofia Stolk (Free University Amsterdam) & Renske Vos (University of Edinburgh)
- \* Knowing what and how: research methods in complex environments. Organized by: Kerstin Tomiak (Cardiff University)
- \* Dissecting the radical: knowledge production and policy-making through the (de)radicalisation prism. Organised by: Alessandra Russo (Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna) and Selenica Ervjola (University of Trento)

## **ES Rapallo**

The 6th annual EISA Symposia of 2017 took place in Rapallo, Italy from 25-28 October at the Excelsior Palace Hotel. Submissions were reviewed in a committee consisting of two EISA board members on the basis of the quality of proposals received. The EISA proposals from both newly established and already established research groups to engage in activities that will advance the field of International Studies in Europe. Three groups took part and 14 members participated in one of these Symposia. For this Exploratory Symposia (ES), the EISA didn't receive as many applications compared to previous years, despite extending the deadline. Moreover, the ES was subject to a significant amount of late cancellations. The ES 2017 gave newly formed groups an opportunity to develop original research ideas. Participants were based at institutions throughout Europe. One group worked on the project "A World Undone? Transnational Communities of Practice and the Crisis of Multilateral Organizations" which aimed at bringing together scholars to work on a common research grant application. The objective for the project was to advance the research agenda on practice approaches in IR by way of asking why, how and with what consequences transnational communities of practice shape multilateral organizations in Europe. Another group developed the project, "Human (In)Security in the Mediterranean (HiSMed)". This project seeks to investigate new challenges affecting human beings and determining human insecurity and new forms of protection required for people on the move. It will provide a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of approaches to human (in)security and (im)mobility in the Mediterranean and their implications for moving people and for the EU and its member states. The purpose of the third group, "Law, Empire, and Global Political Economy", was to launch a new interdisciplinary research project that aims to bring together international relations, international law and international political economy in the analysis of the making of the international from a global histories perspective. Participants used the ES to write a grant application to support this project.

## **Olympia Summer Academy (OSA)**

EISA co-organizes the Olympia Summer Academy with the Navarino network, Greece (<http://olympiasummeracademy.org/>). The 2017 Olympia Summer Academy was held in Nafplion, Greece, from July 9 to 19, attracting 15 professors and 78 qualified participants and professionals from 23 countries from around the world. Participants and Faculty reported that the Academy was both academically enriching and a good deal of fun. Our thanks to Andreas Gofas and the rest of the team at the Academy for continuing to provide the next generation of international studies scholars with such a valuable intellectual and cultural experience.

## **EWIS**

The 4th European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), held in Cardiff from 07-10 June 2017, attracted 308 participants from 34 countries in 23 workshops (all record highs for EWIS) – as was the number of non-EISA members (84 who participated). They discussed a range of important themes in International Relations today, ranging from the politicisation of expertise and ‘Theory as Ideology’ to the links between IR and migration, all brought together under the theme of ‘New Frontiers in International Relations’. The Programme Chairs - Benjamin Tallis (for EISA) and Christian Bueger (local organizer) who was assisted by Simone Tholens and Hannes Hansen-Mangussen – are to be congratulated on what was a very well received event. With Cardiff 2017, ‘the best EWIS so far’, the workshops have confirmed their reputation as a fertile ground for developing projects, special issues and edited collections and as the most productive large format event in the European IR calendar. Cardiff University was an excellent host institution.

Carwyn Jones, the First Minister of Wales opened the event and the Keynote speaker was the world renowned philosopher Peter Sloterdijk who gave a thought provoking talk on ‘Pseudonymous Politics: Regarding Implicit and Explicit Misconceptions of Democracy’. This talk was supported by the journal *New Perspectives* and the IIR Prague who paid for the translation of the talk from German to English. The talk was subsequently published in the journal along with a forum of responses by IR scholars – Claudia Aradau (who also responded at the event), Fritz Kratochwil, Barry Ryan, Sassan Gholiagha and Benjamin Tallis. The talk was followed by a wonderful reception at the National Museum of Wales and both subsequent days also saw social events such as Happy Hours and a closing party. The overwhelmingly positive reception among participants suggests that these should become part of the EWIS template in future.

In 2017 preparations continued for EWIS 2018, which will take place at University of Groningen and which is shaping up to continue the trend of growth in the event that has been seen at EWIS 3 and 4. The workshops will take place from 06-09 June, cementing a

June timeslot for this event. Programme Co- Chairs are Benjamin Tallis (for EISA) and Benjamin Herboth for Groningen. 28 workshops, addressing the theme of ‘The Return of Politics to IR?’ in ways ranging from how to conduct visual research to the possibilities of ‘Multiplicity’ as a new unifying ground for the discipline are planned. Rather than a keynote, two plenary roundtables drawn from the exciting scholars already planning to attend are scheduled.

### **Awards and Prizes**

In 2017, the EISA awarded three prizes.

The Best Graduate Paper Award went to Nele Kortendiek for her EWIS contribution 'How professional knowledge generates governing practices across the boundaries of global migration organizations'.

The Best Article in EJIR Prize for 2017 was awarded to Jason Ralph and Jess Gifkins for 'The purpose of United Nations Security Council practice: contesting competence claims in the normative context created by the Responsibility to Protect'.

The Best Article in Global Affairs Prize was awarded to Sebastian Oberthür for 'Where to go from Paris? The European Union in Climate Geopolitics'.

### **Communication with members**

There are several ways in which the Association communicates about its activities and those of sister organizations with its members and the IR community at large. This includes first of all the website ([www.eisa-net.org](http://www.eisa-net.org)) which will be relaunched in 2018, a Facebook page, and a Twitter account (@europeanisa). The website has information about all upcoming and past activities, important documents (such as the Association’s constitution), links to cooperating organizations (see also under Network above), information on membership and the possibility to sign up as a member. There also is a password protected section for members called MyEISA, with membership benefits and discount codes for SAGE, OUP and other publishers’ publications. In addition, there is a monthly newsletter from the Association. There is also a listserv where anyone can post information that might be of interest to the IR community. Members and non-members alike can sign up for this service.

### **Concluding remarks from the President**

This annual report is the first one of my Presidency of EISA. The start of my tenure was busy to say the least, juggling my roles as a Programme Chair for PEC-17 and as the Association’s

incoming President. I think it is testament to the intellectually stimulating nature of the European international studies community that I was happy to take on both roles at once! 2017 was also a special year for EISA. Not only did we hold our first PEC after the cancellation of what would have been our 10<sup>th</sup> PEC conference, due to the deteriorating political situation in Turkey, but we also said goodbye to six board members and welcomed six new ones. Those who left us were all involved in establishing EISA back in 2013 and their dedication and enthusiasm means that we have inherited a thriving and growing association. At the same time, our six new members have brought fresh ideas and new energy to the Board that is being translated into new initiatives to support and develop the EISA community. The other main development of 2017 was our decision to further our path to professionalization and prepare for our move from Brussels to Prague in early 2018. Whilst this has not been without its teething problems, we very much look forward to providing more integrated and intuitive services to members in the future and to continuing to make EISA events highlights in the academic calendar. Many thanks to all of the members of the outgoing and incoming Governing Board for all their work and support during this first year of my Presidency; and thank you also to all of our members for continuing to support EISA and make its activities so rewarding and enriching!

Cardiff, August 2018 - Victoria Basham, EISA President 2017-19

## Treasurer's Report for EISA Board

December 2017

Maria Raquel Freire, EISA Treasurer

Starting balance 01.01.2017

**38047,49**

Membership fees*			
	membership 2016	641	35995
15 €/family	6	15	90
45 €/family	0	45	0
50 €/Emer.	3	50	150
30 €/1yr	285	30	8550
35 €/1yr	121	35	4235
45 €/1yr	75	45	3375
50 €/1yr	95	50	4750
60 €/1yr	87	60	5220
65€/ 1yr	76	65	4940
75 €/1yr	34	75	2550
80 € /1yr	33	80	2640
90 €/1yr	54	90	4860
45 €/2ys	50	45	2250
60 € /2ys	12	60	720
80€ /2ys	8	80	640
90 € /2ys	10	90	900
110€/2ys	10	110	1100
125€/2ys	1	125	125
140€/2ys	0	140	0
155€/2ys	6	155	930
170€/2ys	2	170	340
180€/2ys	0	180	0
60 €/3ys	40	60	2400
90 €/3ys	7	90	630
110€/3ys	12	110	1320
135€/3ys	3	135	405
155€/3ys	6	155	930
180€/3ys	7	180	1260
200€/3ys	3	200	600
225€/3ys	4	225	900
250€/3ys	13	250	3250
<b>Total 2017</b>	<b>1063</b>		<b>60060</b>
			<b>60060</b>

<b>PEC</b>			
<b>PEC 2017 expenses 2016</b>		<b>-997,25</b>	
<b>PEC 2018 expenses 2016</b>		<b>-513,18</b>	
<b>PEC 2017</b>			
Membership fees	738	185	136530
Membership fees		95	0
Membership fees		90	0
Membership fees		85	0
Membership fees		10	0
Student fees	305	120	36600
Student fees		90	0
Student fees		30	0
Student fees		185	0
Section Chair fees	81	90	7290
Non-member fees	220	325	71500
Non-member fees		235	0
Non-member fees	2	140	280
Registration modification			493,79
reimbursements expenses			-222
Exhibition			10890
Organizational costs			-147336,15
Site visits			-1184,65
<b>Total 2017</b>		<b>114840,99</b>	
<b>Total 2016+2017</b>		<b>113330,56</b>	
<b>PEC 2018</b>			
Site visits			-319,07
		<b>-319,07</b>	
		<b>-319,07</b>	
<b>Miscellaneous</b>			
website Axpmedia			-2300
Conftool PEC + EWIS			-6638,75
<b>Total</b>		<b>-8938,75</b>	
		<b>-8938,75</b>	
<b>EWIS 2017</b>			
organisational expenses 2016		<b>-1111,21</b>	
<b>Fees 2017</b>			
EWIS student	<b>60</b>	60	3600
EWIS member	<b>119</b>	120	14280
EWIS non member student	<b>15</b>	100	1500
EWIS non member	<b>72</b>	200	14400
EWIS WS convenor	<b>41</b>	40	1640
<b>Total participants</b>		<b>307</b>	

EWIS payments		-877,53	
registration modification		-120	
<b>Total 2017</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>34422,47</b>	<b>34422,47</b>
<b>Total 2016+2017</b>		<b>33311,26</b>	

<b>Young Researchers Workshop</b>			
expenses reimbursement		-9087,3	
<b>Total</b>		<b>-9087,3</b>	<b>-9087,3</b>

<b>Symposia 2017</b>			
registrations	16 100	1600	
registrations extra		1,01	
opening dinner		-368	
hotel deposit and payment		-6930	
pending payment from 2016		-308,98	
<b>Total</b>		<b>-6005,97</b>	<b>-6005,97</b>

<b>Palgrave series</b>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>2157,36</b>	<b>2157,36</b>

<b>Publications</b>			
EJIR Royalties		23741,49	
Macmillan Publishers royalties		848,21	
<b>Total</b>		<b>24589,7</b>	<b>24589,7</b>

<b>Global Affairs - Taylor &amp; Francis</b>			
Volkan Ipek Oct-Dec		-1500	
Subscriptions		-9199,38	
Royalties		9893	
<b>Total</b>		<b>-806,38</b>	<b>-806,38</b>

<b>Membership Benefits</b>			
Sage journal access		-4000	
<b>Total</b>		<b>-4000</b>	<b>-4000</b>

<b>EISA Board Meetings</b>			
Board Meeting Brussels Jan 2017		-3151,98	
Board Meeting Brussels May 2017		-2947,57	
			<b>includes reimbursement of programme chairs</b>
Board Meeting Barcelona Sep 2017		-9553,08	
Board Meeting Brussles Jan 2018		-245	

Board Meeting payment from 2016	-125,96	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-16023,59</b>	<b>-16023,59</b>

#### Bank fees

Bank charges	<b>-1217,09</b>	
Credit card charges	<b>-5198,2</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-6415,29</b>	<b>-6415,29</b>

#### Management Fees

MCI Nov 2016	<b>-2096,83</b>	
MCI Dec 2016 + expenses	<b>-4420,25</b>	
MCI Jan 2017	<b>-1750</b>	
MCI Feb 2017	<b>-2133,55</b>	
MCI March 2017	<b>-2017,17</b>	
MCI April 2017	<b>-1809,92</b>	
MCI May 2017	<b>-2316,96</b>	
MCI June 2017	<b>-1811,14</b>	
MCI July 2017	<b>-2612,85</b>	
MCI Aug 2017	<b>-1750</b>	
MCI September 2017	<b>-1797,43</b>	
MCI October 2017	<b>-4072,12</b>	
MCI November 2017	<b>-2376,37</b>	
MCI December 2017	<b>-1823,16</b>	
MCI variable fee Q4 2016	<b>-1805,81</b>	
MCI variable fee Q1 2017	<b>-3902,28</b>	
MCI variable fee Q2 2017	<b>-18957,44</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-57453,28</b>	<b>-57453,28</b>

**Balance on account 31.12.2017** **165068,38**

\* According to Caroline Gutierrez from MCI there are still membership payments in the amount of 1620€ that have arrived at the bank account already in January 2018, but that still refer to membership renewals in 2017. There is also a small bank fee of 30€ that was also charged to our account in January and is not reflected in this report, though referring to a 2017 expense.

¥ 2016 was a very difficult year for the Association due to the cancellation of PEC-Izmir. 2017 allowed us to clearly recover and finish the year in a much more comfortable position (we added a bit more than 127k to our account balance when compared to January 2017, which is quite remarkable. EISA activities in their diversity have been able to attract many participants and our membership has been increasing, trends that we should aim to keep. Moreover, PEC is the biggest contributor to our budget, and despite the fact that Barcelona was an expensive site, PEC was a success in all possible ways and allowed us a revenue that was above 110k.

## EISA Audit for financial year 2017

Olga Burluyuk and Kolja Raube, appointed auditors of the European International Studies Association, met at the MCI offices in Brussels on 31 January 2018 to perform the audit of EISA's accounts and financial control processes for the accounting year 2017.

The auditors carefully reviewed all documentation available to them. This comprised of the reports of expenses (2017) and revenue as contained in the accounting system. We were also shown the annual balance sheet of EISA (2017) and the EISA Treasurer's Report for 2017. They also spent time discussing the accounting procedures and processes of the EISA financial control committee with Ms Atieh Amani, representing MCI.

The auditors first noted that the accounts were very well managed and the financial balance showed that financial stability does not appear to be a concern for EISA. We were pleased to see that the academically successful Pan-European Conference has also financially contributed to the functioning of the association.

Although neither of the auditors are accountants by training, we were able to see that MCI was keeping a thorough record of all expenses and revenues of 2017. We noted specifically that the process and documentation of claiming reimbursements for travel and accommodation has seemingly been improved since the past years, especially by introducing a new reimbursement form/template, that has allowed MCI to process the claims faster and more efficiently.

Nevertheless, the auditors would like to raise a couple of questions and comments regarding the expenses made in 2017. These are the following:

1. Regarding the Annual Conference in Barcelona (2017), a number of expenses have been critically observed. First, EISA has paid seemingly large amounts for the rent of conference space. The documentation by IBEI does neither specify the actual unit costs, nor the number of days, which makes it difficult for the auditors to assess the justification of the cost (27.272 Euro). It remains unclear if the lowest tender possible or even the possibility of using conference space elsewhere for free, e.g. through university partnerships, have been explored. Second, a number of expenses were made for the 'Conference Secretariat' which was provided by the services of 'Reunion en Ciència SL'. However, some of the invoices did not specify the exact means of provided services. It would be useful to provide more information on the justification for these costs.
2. The auditors also saw that additional expenses were made for the services of 'Conftool' during the Annual Conference (2017). Given the relatively high amounts of service costs of the 'Conference Secretariat' the auditors were wondering whether in the future the two functions could be combined in order to reduce the overall costs.

Overall, the auditor complement the efforts of the Board to minimize the costs of the Board and the Association.

Finally, we would like to record our compliments to EISA (Maria Raquel Freire) and MCI (Atieh Amani). Their prompt responses to our questions were very much appreciated. MCI's processes for maintaining and managing the disbursement of financial funding appear to be correct.

*The auditors:*

Olga Burlyuk ([olga.burlyuk@ugent.be](mailto:olga.burlyuk@ugent.be)) Kolja Raube ([kolja.raube@kuleuven.be](mailto:kolja.raube@kuleuven.be))

Brussels, 31 January 2018