



CISH
Board

AGENDA

May 31, 2025

Time: 1.30–3.30 pm CET

Online meeting (<https://unibe-ch.zoom.us/my/sacha.zala>)

I. Call to order (Horel)

CH welcomes the members of the Board for the meeting.

II. Approval of the agenda (Horel)

The agenda is approved.

III. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the board (Eichmann)

The minutes are approved.

IV. Report President (Horel)

As the deadline for the nominations is today midnight, CH asks for a survey of the already received nominations for the Board and the Prize. FE gives a brief summary of the so far received nominations. He will send the Board a comprehensive list as soon as the deadline has passed.

a. Letter from the Ukrainian Ministry of Science and Education

The Board has received a letter from the Ukrainian Ministry of Science and Education, in which it demands the expulsion of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) from CISH.

SZ informs the Board that the RAS has not paid its membership fees since 2022. Therefore, before taking a decision now, the Board should wait until next year, when the membership of RAS will be dissolved de facto according to the Constitution. RAS has been reminded of the pending membership fees multiple times and has yet not been able (or willing) to pay them.

The Board decides that no immediate action is necessary.

V. Report Secretary General (Tortarolo)

ET discusses the possibility for a prolongation of the deadline for the nominations for the Board and the Prize in view of the small number of candidates.

SZ reminds the Board that the General Assembly will decide on the election of Board members and by our Constitution is not bound to the Nomination Committee's proposal. If deemed necessary, the Nominating Committee can also contact possible candidates on its own. Therefore, a prolongation is not necessary.

VI. Report Treasurer (Zala)

a. Draft for a new Constitution (discussion and next steps)

SZ gives a brief overview of the new Constitution and the Board's feedback. As a major innovation, the new Constitution will allow individual scholars to become members of CISH. If wished so, they will be presented on the CISH-website.

KS: Who will accept new individual members?

SZ: In theory the Board, but practically it will delegate this task to the Executive Director, who will handle the non-problematic cases. In more sensitive cases, the matter can be taken up by the Board.

JH: Individual members should be allowed to participate in GA but without voting rights.

KS: Are there any qualifications for individual membership needed? We should be careful not to accept everyone.

SZ: We can add "qualified scholar" and define the details in a by-law.

Concerning the GA we should have one every year, in which financial matters are discussed, and members can present their activities. This regularity would make CISH more visible.

KS: The Prize winner or some other high-profile scholar could give a lecture during the GA to make it more interesting.

SZ: The new Constitution should allow the professionalization of CISH. The Office runs the daily business, in more delicate matters it can consult the Board. Therefore, the post of Secretary General is no more needed.

CH: Why not make the Treasurer a Vice-President?

MM: The Treasurer can check the projects of the President, therefore he should be in the Presidium.

CH: What about the Honorary President?

SZ: We will come up with a solution for the Presidium. To be more inclusive, we think it is necessary to enlarge to Board to 15 members. 8 members should be nominated by National Committees, so that their criticism of the past few months is addressed.

CH: It might be difficult to find enough suited candidates to fill the Board.

MM: In Africa and Latin America National Committees are sparse.

GF: We should have *up to* 15 members.

KS: One seat could be reserved for the Student Association.

SZ: We should have this as an informal rule, then they do not pay the fees.

MM: We should focus on diversity and representativity of the Board-members. Also, we should change the procedure for the election of the venue for the for the World Congress: The GA should be able to accept multiple candidacies, the Presidium then conducts the negotiations and presents the result to the Board, which then chooses the venue.

SZ: This is an excellent idea. We will come up with a formulation for this idea.

MM: For Art. 2 we should be more ambitious and have a larger goal in mind.

JH: How about "To promote and support historical scholarship throughout the world"?

The Board mandates SZ to include the discussed points in a new version. The next round of feedback should be via mail. Then a public consultation is envisaged, before the new Constitution presented to the GA in Spring 2026.

b. CISH on Social Media

FE informs the Board that CISH is now on [LinkedIn](#).

VII. Centennial conference 2026 in Leipzig (Middell)

a. Organizational questions

MM: First, we have to contact panel proposals with unclear ownership, secondly ask them to improve the panels and thirdly ask member organizations that have not yet submitted a proposal to do so.

b. Selection of panels

As the Board's feedback on the proposed panels is overwhelmingly positive, it gives MM the mandate to handle the panel programme of the Centennial Conference directly with the Office.

VIII. Other events 2026

a. Member activities (Makowski)

KM: The Rome-conference will take place in October in 2026. There is also a proposal by the Romanian Committee, a Polish intervention with an exhibition in May 2026 in Krakow, other Polish cities will follow suit. We plan to publish articles on Poland's participation in CISH in selected Polish journals. Joanna Wojdon has offered to produce video recordings; she's waiting on our blessing. Finally, we have Veronica Zarate's project on putting short biographies on the CISH-website.

SZ: We are amid setting up a new website, on which we can present Wojdon's project.

b. Edition of CISH documents (Zala)

SZ: The edition is going well; we have started the project a couple of weeks ago and are working hard on it.

c. Other activities (all)

MM: Can we organize Lila Zeller's defence in Leipzig?

SZ: It's a good service for a PhD-candidate, you can contact her advisor Yvan Combeau.

IX. Conference in Jerusalem (Horel / Fur)

GF: The situation has worsened in the Near East. Would it not be better to stop this project with the invitation to submit at a later stage? Do we have alternative venues at hand?

JF: The World Congress in Jerusalem is not viable in the near future.

MM: Its impossible technically, there are often no direct flights. Politically, the has situation even worsened.

CH: The decisions by the GA can only undone by the GA.

GF: Do we have alternative venues?

CH: In Tokyo, I worked behind the scenes: I have positive feedback from the Czech Republic, Brazil, and India. I could see that the make some sort of declaration of intention.

JH: Before we can talk with other candidates, we should first set things clear with Israel.

SZ: First, we agree that it is not possible to organize a conference in the next 10 years. Second, we should not be too legalistic. We need a non-conflictual solution; the Israelis should withdraw their proposal. It was Shmuel's dream to organize the conference, but in 2028 he will not be president anymore. Third, we should have a counterproposal in Leipzig.

JH: If he refuses to withdraw, then we need to make a quick decision in a GA.

SZ: We will have to make a GA in Spring 2026 anyway and discuss the topic then.

MM: Can we be more pragmatic and sondage with other possibilities, are we bound to a Call?

The Board does not think it is feasible to organize a conference in Israel in the near future. SZ, CH and ET will contact Shmuel Feiner and ask him to withdraw the candidature.

X. Comments and announcements (all)

JH: How many nominations have we received for the prize so far?

FE: Two (Grafton / Scott).

XI. Varia and adjournment (all)

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