



CISH
Board

MINUTES

September 20, 2025

Time: 1.30–4.30 pm CET

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

Present: Catherine Horel (President), Edoardo Tortarolo, Sacha Zala, Katalin Szende, Günlog Fur, Joel Harrington, Matthias Middell, Hirotaka Watanbe, Eliana Dutra, Krzysztof Makowski, Nuno Gonçalo Monteiro, Flavio Eichmann (Minutes), Kathrin Köster (Guest)

- I. **Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda (Horel)**
The agenda is approved.
- II. **Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Board (Eichmann)**
The minutes are approved.
- III. **Report President (Horel)**
CH reports that the Bureau met with the National Committee of Israel via Zoom. They agreed to step back from hosting the World Congress in Jerusalem. CH is in contact with representatives from India and Brazil to come up with an alternative venue. The meeting of the Nomination Committee will take place in October 2025.
- IV. **Report Secretary General (Tortarolo)**
ET: We have to anticipate that the participation of Israeli colleagues in Leipzig could evoke protests.
- V. **Report Treasurer (Zala)**
 - a. Conference in Jerusalem (annex)
SZ: We can be very happy about this solution, because it is not conflictual. We will publish a short statement next week along with the correspondence.
 - b. Call for the Next Congress 2029/2030
SZ: We inform next week on the new Congress and have an open Q&A on this, we hope to have a field of candidacies in Spring and a decision by the GA in August 2026.

KS: This Q&A is a new element that we have not discussed yet.

SZ: It is not a political meeting. It is technical session about the process of choosing the venue and the new decision-making process that comes with the new constitution.

KS: We should use this format in future recruitment processes for Board-members.

c. Public Consultation for the New Constitution (annex)

SZ: We plan to organize a similar format for the Constitution. We think that the draft is now solid. We will send it out and inform our members of the Q&A.

Depending on the outcome we can go ahead and discuss the new constitution in the Spring GA and then have a vote in Leipzig. The process must be open and inclusive. We should focus in the discussion on Article 2.

The Board agrees on the draft and mandates the Office to send out a draft.

d. Membership of Russian National Committee (annex)

SZ: As you remember from our last meeting, we have received a letter from the Ukrainian Ministry of Education demanding the expulsion of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) from CISH some months ago. In the meantime, I asked various experts about the role of RAS, they all agree that RAS is actively participating in the Russian propaganda and its falsification of history. Since RAS is not paying its fee since 2022, they will not be able to participate in the GA of 2026. Some weeks ago, we received a letter from RAS, in which they asked us to accept payment of the fees via a third party. We had to accept this proposal. However, we have not gotten the money so far. We are not judges; therefore, we should address the question in a more formal way.

CH: We had several communications like that from RAS, nothing ever happened.

ET: There is a continuity to 1955 to the CISH Congress in Rome, when the Soviet Union was also invited. CISH-Congresses can be an opportunity for dialogue. Also, the Ukrainian Ministry is not a member of CISH.

KS: I agree with what has been said. But what will happen if a Russian delegation attends the Leipzig-Conference? We should prepare for that.

Ukrainian representatives can also be in the GA and raise the question. We should also prepare a response to the Ukrainian letter.

SZ: We acknowledged the reception of the letter. Ukraine is a new member of CISH. We exempted them from paying the fees. We have rules in our Constitution that guide us how to handle such things; we should stick to them.

NG: We made a statement on the conflict; I do not think we have to do more.

MM: There was a certain dissatisfaction in Tokyo with too formal argumentation. As CISH we have a commitment to academic discussion, in

Leipzig we have several panels on these subjects, thus we deal with these questions academically. Also, we pronounced our opinion on it. Legally, we are not allowed to receive a Russian delegation in Leipzig anyhow. Individual scholars from Russia can attend, but so far, no scholar from Russia is attending.

CH: We should follow the same policy as in Poznan.

GF: Our wording was very vocal on the misuse of history.

KS: What about online participation in the GA?

SZ: They can attend, if they pay.

e. CISH on Social Media

FE presents the LinkedIn-Page of CISH and invites the members of the Board to follow the page.

ET: What about an Instagram channel?

SZ: We'll see if we have the resources. For the moment, LinkedIn seems to be a good start.

VI. CISH-Prize 2026: Selection of a Laureate (annex)

After a thorough discussion, the Board decides that Anthony Grafton should be awarded with the prize.

VII. Centennial conference 2026 in Leipzig (Middell)

MM presents the schedule of the conference and informs the Board that he is actively inviting African scholars to the conference.

CH: We should fix a date for a Board meeting, how about Wednesday morning?

Then we could have the CISH reception on Tuesday evening. We should have an occasion to present the new Board?

SZ: We should at some point thank the old Board, the outgoing President and the organizers.

KS: Are we planning a lower fee for students and scholars without the necessary financial resources? Also, we should invite the former presidents of CISH.

MM: Our budget is tight; we'll have to see what we can do.

VIII. Varia and Adjournment (all)

KM: We have received no additional initiatives since our last meeting. Joanna Wojdon will contact CISH members directly.

CH: We suggested to Shmuel Feiner to organize a centennial activity.

SZ: We'll see how the Q&As go. We'll inform you at the beginning of December and then come up with an agenda for the next steps.

CH: We're planning to have meeting of the Nomination Committee in October. We will communicate on Grafton as soon as he accepted the prize.