

Records of the AIECE Meeting, Essen, May 5-6, 2011

- 0. Paul Olbrechts, retired in 2011**, presentation of the new administrative secretary Mrs Séverine Dinjar – severine.dinjar@uclouvain.be.

The Steering Committee thanks Paul Olbrechts for all the work done for the association

1. Next meetings

Autumn 2011	October, Brussels, date must be confirmed: 26-28 October or 2-4 November General Report: KOF, Zürich or NIESR, London.
Spring 2012	May, Madrid General Report: RWI, Essen
Autumn 2012	October, Brussels General Report: DIW, Berlin
Spring 2013	May, Berlin General Report: Possibly DEC (Copenhagen). S. Dinjar is going to contact this institute.
Autumn 2013	October, Brussels General Report: Kopint-Datorg (Budapest)

2. Steering Committee : Replacement of S. Balfoussias (GR)

The Steering Committee proposes B. De Ketelbutter (BE) as a member of the Steering Committee in replacement of S. Balfoussias (GR).

The election of the new member of the committee will take place in the meeting of October.

3. Working group

In Spring 2010, AIECE general meeting approved the merging of the two working groups of the Association on Commodity Prices and World Trade. At the same time, the Steering Committee decided to raise the annual membership fee to 300 euros from 150 euros to ease the finances of institutions taking part in the work of this new working group.

A proposition of Status and Functioning Rules of this new merged group is presented and approved at the Session of Spring 2011.

4. Evaluation of AIECE

Further to the results of the evaluation form of AIECE's meetings, the Steering Committee considers that we need to redesign meetings to increase participation by members and policy makers.

In this order, the Steering Committee proposes to:

- Reduce the scale and scope of the General Report:
 - ❖ The General Report should cover the European Economies only to reduce the work of the responding and reporting institution ;
 - ❖ The General Report should be reduced to a minimum and should cover forecasts and policy only with no special topics.
- Include more separate presentations by Institutes and policy makers during the meeting
- Change the form of presentation and the structure at the meetings:

The changes proposed by the Steering Committee about the structure of AIECE Autumn and Spring Meetings are the following:

- ❖ *Autumn Meetings* -> the duration of this meeting will be reduced to two days

Thursday

- 10.00-12.30: Medium Term Group papers
- 14.00-15.00: Trade and Commodities Group
- 15.00-18.00: The External Environment
 - Brief presentation by an AIECE Institute that regularly produces a world forecast
 - Discussion and presentations invited from IMF, OECD, EC...

Friday

- 9.00-12h30: Europe/Euro Area General Report (by an institute based on a short questionnaire)
- 14.00-16.00: General Report – Monetary and Fiscal Policy
 - Special interest presentations by specific countries
 - Presentations by EC and ECB on policy
- 16.00-17.00: Tools Workshop:

This will rotate between short term indicators techniques, turning point indicators developments, trend and cycle decomposition techniques, large models and forecasts. These topics are designed to increase contacts between Institutes and policy research bodies.

NB : if there are several papers from outsiders, the workshop will start earlier.

- ❖ *Spring Meetings*

Thursday

- 9.30-10.30: Trade and Commodities Group
- 10.30-12.30: The External Environment
 - Brief presentation by an AIECE institute that regularly produces a world forecast with extensive discussions.
- 14.00-18.00: Europe/Euro Area General Report (by an institute based on a short questionnaire)

Friday

- 9.30-12.30: General Report – Monetary and Fiscal Policy
 - Special interest presentations by specific countries
 - Presentations from local policy makers on topics

- 14.00-18.00: Structural Issues
- Papers from Medium Term Group
 - Papers by outside bodies (EC, OECD) and local policy makers

In this order, the Steering Committee decided:

- **To ask institutes to volunteer to join a list of 6 to 8 institutes who would rotate to make a presentation about the external environment.**
Institutes who are included in the list should have a major forecasting and research focus on the international environment). The Institutes who wish to be included should send a recent world forecast and research to the Steering Committee before the Spring meeting and it will be discussed at the Steering Committee.
 - The Steering Committee will approach institutes and ask them to take on this take (but this take will not be asked to the host institute or the institute doing the Report)
- **The Medium Term Group will organise its sessions with help from the Steering Committee and local institutes in the Spring.**
The Spring host could invite local academics with standing to present after consulting the Medium Term Group
- **The Steering Committee will invite extra papers from IMF, OECD, ECB and EC for the External Environment and Monetary and Fiscal Policy sessions**
The host will invite local policy makers to present at the Monetary and Fiscal Policy sessions in Spring.
- **The Steering Committee and the Medium Term Group will invite extra papers from EC, ECD, OECD and Eurostat as well as from member institutes for the Tools sessions.**

This new structure is approved and will be of application from October 2011.

5. Members

ISAE (IT) has been absorbed by ISTAT (IT) since January the 1st. The Steering Committee approves the replacement of ISAE by ISTAT as member of the AIECE.