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INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMICAL UNION
UNION ASTRONOMIQUE INTERNATIONALE
FIFTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Delhi, India, November 17, 18, 26, 1985.

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DRAFT MINUTES

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<u>Present were</u> : R. Hanbury Brown	President
M. Feast	Vice President
R. Kraft	Vice President
L. Kresak	Vice President
M. Peimbert	Vice President
R. Wilson	Vice President
Ya.S. Yatskiv	Vice President
R. West	General Secretary
J.P. Swings	Assistant General Secretary
P. Wayman	Adviser, Former General Secretary
J. Sahade	Invited
D. McNally	Invited
<u>In attendance</u> : B. Manning	IAU Secretary
D. Lours	Assistant IAU Secretary
D. Fraipont	Secretary (Liège)
E. Völk	Secretary (ESO, Garching)

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I. OPENING BY THE PRESIDENT

The meeting was opened at 09.00 by a welcome from IAU's President R. Hanbury Brown.

1.1. Attendance of Members of the Executive Committee

All EC members + the Adviser were present; in addition J. Sahade and D. McNally attended.

1.2. Programme of Meetings of the Executive Committee

The GS recalls the following schedule :

- GA 2 hours earlier for attendance by Prime Minister;
- EC 53 (2nd part) on 26th November at 14.00 for preparation 2nd session of GA;
- EC 54 on 28th November 14.00-18.00.

II. INTERNAL MATTERS

2.1. Minutes of the 52nd Meeting of the Executive Committee

The minutes of EC 52 are approved.

2.2. Approval of the Agenda for EC 53

The agenda is adopted after adding "other matters" after 2.17.

2.3. Report of the Special Nominating Committee

A discussion took place on a possible distribution of expertise among SNC members and among Vice Presidents, as well as on the difficulty to operate the SNC. Presently the nominees to SNC (1985-1988) have been asked whether they would agree to serve. It is decided to include the following sentence in the terms of reference of the SNC : **"In proposing members for the EC, the SNC should take into account the desirability that the EC should be widely representative both in the geographic distribution of its members and in their fields of activity"**.

2.4. Report by the General Secretary on the IAU Secretariat (oral)

The GS thanks and congratulates B. Manning and D. Lours for their work as well as E. Völk for hers in Munich, and the President thanks the GS for settling the Smiley case.

Several EC members comment on the amount of work to be performed by the GS and the implications on their scientific work and/or university or laboratory participation.

Difficulty in finding an Executive Secretary still able to do astronomy could be envisaged in the future.

A redistribution of the work load of B. Manning will be dealt with by the next GS.

2.5. IAU Statutes and By-Laws

The change in the by-laws is accepted (see Transaction ~~Box~~ B, p.)

2.6. IAU Working Rules

It is suggested that the WGPSN become a commission (N° 52) of the EC; the working rules will specify that Commissions 5, 6, 38, 46, 50, 52 be Commissions of the EC.

The re-arrangement of the working rules will be discussed at the 2nd session of the EC.

2.7. Membership Proposals (Individual Membership)

It is recalled that List A contains the names proposed by adhering organization whereas List B contains those (≈40) recommended by Commission Presidents, EC members, etc : both lists will be put to the Nominating Committee. Very minor modifications are applied to list B.

2.8. Membership of Adhering Bodies

For **Belgium**, the future GS is instructed by the EC to discuss the relationship between the belgian adhering organizations (AO) and the IAU, noting that the IAU usually deals with only one AO in any given country.

- **China** : 185 new members are proposed; 57 astronomers will participate in the GA !
- **Cuba** : contacts are to be taken by the future President.
- **Greece** : no National Committee exists presently.
- **Roumania** : Because of lack of payment of dues, the Roumania AO is to be contacted by the future President (in a way similar to that of COSPAR). It is decided to add Statute g (p. 403 of Statutes and by-laws) : "**any country which fails to pay its dues ^{in the period encompassing} during 2 successive GAs shall be suspended. This does not affect individual membership in the country**". A resolution to this effect will be put to the General Assembly in 1988.
- **Uruguay** : the future President will take up the question of this member country where a strong interest exists toward astronomy.
- **Algeria** : ^{is expected to}officially requests to become member in 1988.
- **Bolivia** : contacts have been made with future President and present AGS.
- **Ireland** : 2 persons on B list.
- **Lybia** : no news.
- A few persons from **Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Syria, Thailand** will probably attend the GA, and several new members are proposed.
- **Sri Lanka** : the IAU has made contacts.

The EC congratulates the GS for the work done concerning contact with all these contries.

2.9. Administrative Programme at Delhi

The GS informs the EC about the administrative programme at the GA (various committees) and about what will be done concerning the "IAU Veterans".

2.10. Agenda, XIXth General Assembly

The following proposals are made :

- Interpreters : English-French : C. Cesarsky (1st GA); A. Heck (2nd GA);
French-English : J. Rountree.
- Resolutions' Committee : Mc.Carthy, Morton, Kitamura.
- Finance Committee : to be chaired by Mrs Ye; members :

to be completed

2.11. Resolutions at the General Assembly

No resolution is made at 1st GA : ^{resolutions are submitted to} ~~they have to go through~~ the Resolutions' Committee and are presented at the 2nd GA.

2.12. Commissions (Organisation and Finance)

The EC considered the 3 propositions of the Commission Structure report and :

- a) ^{decided} ~~accepts~~ to discontinue Commission 26 in 1988. A short statement will appear in the Information Bulletin; a decision ^{will} ~~is to~~ be taken at the 1986 ~~EC~~ ^{meeting of the EC.} A draft ~~of a~~ resolution ^{will} ~~is to~~ be prepared by M. Feast, R. Kraft, and J. Sahade. The work of Commission 26 will be distributed among other commissions, and a letter to that effect will be circulated to Commission 26 members after the 1986 EC meeting.
- b) ^{did} ~~does~~ not suggest any merging of Commission 29 and Commission 30.
- c) recommends that Commission 19 continues as such and that Commission 31 becomes a Commission of Reference Frames and Time Scales, and adopts the following recommendations : **"that the duties of IAU Commission 31 be extended to include the reviewing of the maintenance of the conventional celestial and terrestrial reference systems and the regular dissemination of best estimates of the relevant reference constants"** and **"that these duties be carried out ^{in consultation} with appropriate IAU Commissions and IAG special study group"**.

For Commission 19, a proposal ~~is made~~ ^{was} for 2 Vice Presidents ^{accepted} ~~made~~.
As for increased financial support of Commissions 6 and 20, it is suggested to withdraw resolutions A1-A2; resolution A3 is to be withdrawn as well (renewed funding of Meteor Data Center).

2.13. Special Nominating Committee, 1985-88

The GS recalls the rules for selecting the members of the SNC.

2.14. Executive Committee Report, 1982-84

A draft of the Executive Committee Report appeared in Information Bulletin 54.

2.15. Financial Reports

The ^{current financial position of the Union} status on September 30, 1985 ^{as well as the contributions of adhering organizations are presented by the GS.} ^{together with} ^{status}

2.16. IAU Publications

The EC proposes to discontinue ^{free} ~~the~~ mailing of IAU publications to Helwan Observatory.

R. West and J.P. Swings ^{expect} ~~are~~ to finish the Handbook, hopefully by the end of 1986; the ~~Style Book~~ ^{Style Book} ~~is to~~ ^{will} be completed by G. Wilkins.

2.17. Future IAU General Assemblies

A proposal for a General Assembly in Argentina in 1991 is presented : it is also known that the Netherlands wish to propose for the same year. China is candidate for 1994 (official letter), as well as perhaps Japan and the DDR.

2.18. Other matters

- 1) The GS gave a summary of the scientific program in Delhi; reports on Hipparcos, MERIT, developing countries will be included in the Highlights; R. Sagdeev is unable to attend the GA and present his invited discourse (he is with Mr. Gorbachev in Geneva) : ^{the Ec will request that} Mrs Massevitch ~~will~~ ^{will} deliver the talk.
- 2) In the Ozernoi case, it is suggested ^{to write} ~~to write~~ on behalf of the EC ^{to the new} ~~to the new~~ ICSU Committee on Free Circulation of Scientists. ^{be sent}

III. SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY3.1. Scientific Activity of Commissions

- New commission : postponed to 1988.
- C5 : 1) AAA & FIZ : President of C5, Dr. Heintz, and Dr. Wielen, Director ARI, will be invited at 3rd session to discuss this matter.
- 2) Space Science Directory : nearing completion.
- 3) The style book will no longer be prepared by S. Mitton, but by G. Wilkins.
- 4) Translations : The GS has replied to Dr. Rodman.

- C6 : Supernovae : there is no objection that the ^{initial designation be given⁶} ~~matter be taken up~~ by the ~~Central~~ Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams.
 - C15 : It seems a good idea to continue some kind of similar cooperation after Halley's comet is no longer bright. In any case the EC feels that the IAU did the right thing in supporting IHW.
 - C19 : MERIT : ~~was~~ a very succesful campaign (new concept, new definition, with an order of magnitude improvement in various parameters).
 - C22 : Meteor Data Center : an annual budget of 1800 Sw.Fr. was allocated ~~during~~ ~~3 years.~~ ^{for 1985-1988.}
 - C26 : The Stiff vs Rakosch dispute was mentioned.
 - C38 : IAU support was crucial in the 16 cases reported to assure the success of the grantees' research : this is readily visible in the report by F.B. Wood. It is difficult for the GS and C38's President to control the spendings : care ~~shall~~ ^{will} be ~~taken~~ ^{needed} in the future. An inquiry will be made as to whether setting ^{for applications} deadlines would be a good and workable idea.
 - C40 : GERT : the President will discuss the matter with Drs. Goss, Swarup, and Hidayat.
 - C41 : The project of making an International Portrait Catalogue by the ^hArchenbold-Sternwarte Berlin is mentioned.
 - C42 : IAU provided some money to the catalog that is now being published by AAVSO.
 - C43 : Since no report was received... no resurrection of this Commission will be envisaged !
 - C46 : The problem of the cost of the Newsletter will be discussed within Commission 46, and reported to the EC.
 - C48 : After the last 2 Presidents only produced very very short reports, it will be insisted on the responsibility of Commission Presidents (meeting(s), reports, etc).
 - C50 : The President of Commission 50 will be asked to prepare a resolution to be a GA resolution concerning the deplorable project ~~that is~~ Celestis.
 - C51 : After a vote, it is agreed that Commission 51 may be called "Bio-Astronomy : the search for extraterrestrial life".
- WGPSN : the ~~list~~ of new names not being available, this point will be discussed at 3rd meeting of EC.

3.2. IAU Symposia and Colloquia

The following Symposia and Colloquia will be sponsored by the IAU in 1986 and 1987 :

- S.127 : "Structure and Dynamics of Elliptical Galaxies", Princeton, USA, May 28-31, 1986.

- S.128 : "Earth's Rotation and Reference Frames for Geodesy and Geodynamics", Washington, USA, October 20-24, 1986.
- S.129 : tentative title : "The Impact of VLBI on Astrophysics, Astrometry and Geophysics", Tucson, USA, May 31-June 3, 1987.
- S.130 : "Evolution of Large Scale Structure in the Universe", Balatonfured, Hungary, 3rd week June 1987.
- S.131 : "Planetary Nebulae", Mexico City, August 1987.
- C.94 : "Physics of Formation of FeII Lines outside LTE", Capri, Italy, July 1-4 or 8-11, 1986.
- C.95 : "Second Conference on Faint Blue Stars", Tucson, USA, May 31-June 3, 1987.
- C.96 : "The Few Body Problem", Turku, Finland, June 14-19, 1987.
- Two very good proposals for 1988 will be reviewed in 1986.

3.3. Co-sponsored Scientific Meetings

Before discussing co-sponsorship, the GS recalls that a letter has been written to COSPAR about the fact that the latter Committee tended to infringe on various other prerogatives and that this was not at all ~~adequate~~ ^{desirable} : one may refer to this letter whenever necessary.

The AGS recalled the 3 already accepted co-sponsorships for 1986 (SCOSTEP, ICO, ESA).

Six COSPAR Symposia or Workshops (during the June 30-July 12, 1986 Plenary Meeting) were already agreed upon by the Officers in June 1985. One additional case was discussed by the EC, and was accepted : Symposium 11 on Solar & Stellar Activity. The titles of the co-sponsored meetings and the names of the IAU proposed representatives are given below :

- Symp. 7 UV Space Astronomy : (R. Wilson)
- 8 Latest Results on Venus and Uranus Missions : (R. Sagdeev)
- 11 Solar and Stellar Activity : (F. Praderie)
- 12 Comets Halley and Giacobini-Zinner : (K. Hirao)
- Work. I Chemical Evolution of Outer Planets etc : (T. Owen)
- III Future Planetary Missions : (J. Rahe)
- XII Contamination Environment of Space Shuttle... : (D. Lemke).

Three additional possible co-sponsorships were discussed :

- (i) Synopsis of the Solar Maximum Analysis (SCOSTEP), Toulouse, July 2-5, 1986 : co-sponsorship was accepted and M. Kundu designated as IAU representative;
- (ii) COSMOS, an educational challenge (GIREP), Elsinore, DK, August 1986.

It was decided to have the matter discussed by Commission 46.

In any case the future AGS, D. McNally, will be present and report to the IAU, although the IAU did not wish to co-sponsor this event.

- (iii) Figure and Dynamics of the Earth, Moon and Planets (IA Goedesy), Prague, September 15-20, 1986. Co-sponsorship was accepted and two possible IAU representatives were designated : Merton Davies and Martine Feissel.

3.4. Regional Astronomy Meetings

- (i) Ninth European (Leicester, UK, September 2-6, 1986) : was approved provided the names of the SOC members and the program be defined very soon.
- (ii) Fifth Latin-American (Merida, Mexico, October 6-10, 1986) : was approved by the Officers in June 1985; the EC endorses this approval and notes that the meeting will be "very open scientifically". Dr. J. Sahade will be added to the SOC.
- (iii) Tenth European (Prague, Czechoslovakia, August 24-29, 1987) : this meeting is approved.
- (iv) Fourth Asian-Pacific (Baghdad, Iraq, end September 1987) : the EC regrets that this proposal is presently inappropriate and hopes for a renewal of it at a later stage.

3.5. Visiting Lecturers' Programs

- (i) Lima : oral reports were delivered by Prof. Sahade and by Dr. M. Feast, who had recently seen one of the teachers (R. Mendez). It appears that this VLP seems succesful, and that 3 or 4 students will have the capability to go abroad in order to do research ^{leading to the award of} ~~in the frame of a Ph.D. degree.~~ Funding problems do remain however.
- (ii) Nsukka : more details may be available for November 26th meeting due to the late arrival of a nigerian representative. The IAU had spent about 2000 £ to have the telescope operating; Dr. Joshi will go to Nsukka next year. Although there will be more students than in Lima, of better background it seems, the University is presently not yet ready to sign the contract.
- (iii) Others : a request from Paraguay is in preparation; possible students from Uruguay could go to La Plata, so there is no need for a VLP. Malaysia is also mentioned, but one has to be careful about future possibilities.

3.6. Young Astronomers' Schools

Reports were presented on previous International Schools for Young Astronomers : they actually show that a reasonable number of attendees have become professional astronomers.

Concerning the postponed Punjab School, no news has been received from Dr. H.S. Gurm : contacts will be made during the GA, and the point rediscussed on November 26th.

There exists a possibility of a school in China in 1986, as well as renewed offer from Portugal for September 1986 (where money ~~is available since this year~~ ^{was} available).

from 1985
 already, \$ 9000). A decision on the latter is to be made on November 26th.
 The budget includes the provision for one school in 1986, and one in 1987.

3.7. New Scientific Activities

None

IV. INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.1. ICSU (International Council of Scientific Unions)

The program for Global Change goes ahead. ICSU ~~will~~ ^{is expected to} launch in 1986 something similar to the Geophysical year, although much bigger.

The Committee concerning the ~~free~~ ^{seen} circulation of scientists has changed, and discussions can now take place with the appropriate committee (see Ozernoi case).

4.2. COSPAR (Committee for Space Research)

There still exists an overlap of subjects in IAU and COSPAR meetings.

4.3. SCOSTEP (Scientific Committee for Solar-Terrestrial Physics)

Works extremely well.

4.4. COSTED (ICSU Committee for Science & Technology in Developing Countries)

It appears that this organization will propose a very cheap textbook on Astronomy.

4.5. FAGS (Federation of Astronomical & Geophysical Services)

The EC notes that this organization is very useful. However, since no additional money was given neither to the Telegram Bureau, the Minor Planet Center nor the Meteor Data Center, no increase ⁱⁿ of fund^{ing} can be envisaged for FAGS.

4.6. CCDM (Consultative Committee for the Definition of the Metre)

A new definition of the meter is proposed.

4.7. CCDS (Consultative Committee for the Definition of the Second)

See report by Markovitz.

4.8. IUCAF (Inter-Union Committee for Allocation of Frequencies)

Works very well; the circulation of information is now good. The VEGA problem was solved in a satisfactory manner.

4.9. ICSTI (International Council for Scientific and Technical Information)

Commission 5 will deal with this matter.

4.10. CODATA (Committee for Data Handling)

This organization is less satisfactory than many others.

4.11. CCIR (International Radio Consultative Committee)

A report by L.H. Doherty is presented. The important question of the effect of spurious emissions from space stations on radio astronomy will have to be dealt with in the future.

4.12. CTS (ICSU Committee for Teaching of Science)

A conference was held in Bangalore, and the report is very good.

4.13. SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment)

The report has been published on the effects of nuclear war^(ENLWAR); it was made in an excellent apolitical way and constitutes a major contribution to the subject.

4.14. Revision of Representation

- (i) the representation in other organizations will be finalized on November 26th and 28th;
- (ii) a proposal is made in the EC that the past GS stay on the ICSU General Committee after his term in the IAU : this matter deserves attention in the future.

4.15. Other International Rules

V. THIRD SESSION OF EC 53 MEETING

5.1. Items postponed from preivous 2 session

- a) Meetings : a discussion took place on the proposal by J. Dommanget (decision to be made at EC 54), and on two other proposals : what was accepted as Colloquium 97 is now accepted as Symposium 132 (in 1987) with the title : "The Impact of Very High S/N Spectroscopy on Stellar Physics" and "Mapping the Sky - Past Heritage and Future Directions" is accepted as Symposium 133 (in 1987).
- b) Young Astronomers' School :
 - (i) Specific recommendations are made concerning the Punjab proposal (now scheduled in 1987), and will be forwarded to Prof. Gurm by the AGS;

- (ii) two schools are accepted for 1986 : Portugal and China. A sum of 50000 Sw.Fr. is made available for these three schools (7500 US\$ each).
 - (iii) no news are available for the Colombia project.
- c) Regional Meetings :
- The AGS will convey the message that the Iraqi proposal for 1987 does not presently seem adequate : mainland China has issued an invitation for 1987, but with as yet very few details (SOC etc) : the Executive Committee is favorable to this proposal, on which the Officers will make the final decision in May 1986.
- d) Representatives to COSPAR and other co-sponsored meetings have been designated (see point 3.3.).

5.2. Report of the General Secretary on the Work of the Resolutions' Committee

- a) It is decided to meet the wishes of Commission 51, and to propose to the General Assembly that the name of that Commission become "Bioastronomy : the search for extraterrestrial life". A ^{GA motion} resolution will be ^{made} ~~issued~~ to that effect. [See Appendix 1]
- b) The point of turning WGPSN into a new Commission (Commission of the Executive Committee), although seen very favorably by the Executive Committee, requires further discussion with the persons involved (most of them not being in Delhi). The GS will write to Dr. Masursky to this effect : if WGPSN expresses the wish, then a resolution ought to be presented at the 1988 General Assembly.
- c) Concerning the case of Dr. Ozernoy, pointed out by several participants to the General Assembly, the Executive Committee decided to submit a resolution similar to ICSU's resolution 9. Actions will be taken by the President; in any case it is strongly argued that everything ought to be done in order to avoid political implications of the IAU.
- Similarly, in the case of the declarations ^{which had to be signed by} ~~that~~ the participants ^{from South Africa} ~~had to sign~~, ^{to the GA} the Executive Committee decides to propose a resolution in the ~~same~~ ^{form} voted by ICSU at its General Assembly in 1984.
- The relevant ICSU documents will be joined to the two proposals described above [see Appendixes 1 and 2].
- d) Since very few Commission Resolutions were sent prior to the General Assembly, the task of the Resolutions' Committee is enormous. Worse is the fact that some Commissions turn in their proposals at the end of the General Assembly : the possibility of setting up a drastic deadline is discussed, but its efficiency is doubtful, as expressed by several Executive Committee members.

5.3. Report of the Nominating Committee

The GS recalls that the role of the Nominating Committee is twofold :

- (i) comment on new members, from lists A and B, especially the latter;

(ii) decide on the 4 members who will serve on the Special Nominating Committee.

For the latter point, a vote gave the following results :

Dr. Abalakin : 26 votes

Dr. Kodaira : 16 votes

Dr. Swarup : 14 votes

Dr. Pacini : 13 votes

Dr. Pagel : 13 votes.

A second vote to elect the 4th member gave, Pacini : 16, Pagel : 15. Dr. B. Pagel is selected by the Executive Committee to be the 5th elected member of the SNC.

Concerning point (i), the GS announces that 935 new members are proposed : the Executive Committee accepts them. The total number of IAU individual members will thus be 6027 once the General Assembly approves this on November 28th. The main factor towards the considerable increase is due to the re-entry of China in the IAU in 1982. The question is raised at the Executive Committee of the difficulty to run the Union in the future with such a ^{large} important number of members.

It may be a strong argument to the General Assembly and/or to the National Representatives that the unit of contribution be increased "on the basis" of the considerable increase of members every three years.

As far as the specific terms of reference of the SNC go, it is agreed to include them in the Working Rules, in a manner to be decided at a later stage. The re-arrangement of the working rules is discussed, on the basis of a proposal by the General Secretary : the future General Secretary will see how to implement the necessary changes.

5.4. Report of the Finance Committee

The report of the Finance sub-committee is discussed : the report is in general most favorable. One item on which the Executive Committee does not agree is the recommendation to shift money from regional meetings to Commission 38. Of course, the General Assembly is the only group entitled to make final decisions. In order, however, that no ^{extensive} strong discussion take place on this matter at the time of the General Assembly, an amendment to the draft report is made (~~and will to be~~ actually ~~be~~ agreed upon by the Finance Committee).

This conflict of interests on IAU policy matters leads to the suggestion that, at the next General Assemblies, a short Executive Committee be scheduled to discuss the financial recommendations.

The Executive Committee also recommends that a sum of Sw.Fr. 3000 be given, for 1986-1988, to the Meteor Data Center.

5.5. Tasks to be completed at the General Assembly

- (i) Finances : see above.
- (ii) Appointment of Special Nominating Committee : 4 names from Nominating Committee + 1 name from Executive Committee (see above).
- (iii) Appointment of tellers (proposed names : D. Gingerich, G. Westerhout) and of official interpreters (proposed names : J. Rountree, A. Heck).
- (iv) Election of the President, Vice Presidents, General Secretary, Assistant General Secretary.
- (v) Addresses by a representative of invited participants and registered guests (to thank hosts) : P. Shaver, and Mrs. T. West will be contacted.
- (vi) Invitation by USA to hold 20th General Assembly in Baltimore (F. Drake);
- (vii) Presentation of Nigeria's request to adhere to the Union (C. Akujor);
- (viii) Invitations for forthcoming General Assemblies (see EC 54).

5.6. Future IAU policies

Following some recommendations by Finance Committee, the Executive Committee will have to discuss matters related to fundraising and to the general running of the Union : EC 54 and subsequent ones will deal with these.

5.7. Any other matter

- (i) All the new names proposed by the WGPSN are endorsed by the Executive Committee.
- (ii) ICSU's Committee on the free circulation of scientists, as well as the USSR Academy of Sciences have been written to by the President concerning L. Ozernoy. No publicity to the relevant letters will be either displayed or published in "Mandakini".
- (iii) The retiring Vice Presidents express their thanks to the three IAU Officers. The President thanks the Vice Presidents for their excellent collaboration.

5.8. Future Executive Committee Meetings

These will be discussed at EC 54.

5.9. Closing by the President

with words of thanks, at 17h45.

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