

Joint meeting of the Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen of the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten and the Classe des Sciences de l'Académie royale des Sciences, de Lettres et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, with the National Council of Scientific Unions

Albert Pissart

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Joint meeting  
of the Klasse van de  
Natuurwetenschappen of the  
Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie  
van België voor Wetenschappen  
en Kunsten and the Classe  
des Sciences de l'Académie royale  
des Sciences, de Lettres  
et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique,  
with the National Council  
of Scientific Unions

Chaired by Mr A. Pissart

Director of the Classe des Sciences de l'Académie royale de Belgique

**Saturday November 5, 2005, 14h30, at the Academy Palace  
(Auditorium Baudouin)**

*Seated at the Board Table:* Messrs A. Pissart, Director of the Classe des Sciences; E. Kühn, Director of the Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen; L. Houziaux, permanent secretary of the Académie royale de Belgique; N. Schamp, permanent secretary of the Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België.

*Present from the Classe des Sciences:* Mr H. Chantrenne, emeritus fellow; Mr C. Sironval, baron Jaumotte, Messrs R. Balescu, J.-E. Desmedt, N. Dehousse, G. Bernier, A. Delmer, A. Lucas, M. Cahen, J. Mawhin, A. Burny, R. Lefever, J. Lambinon, J. Pasteels, J. Reisse, J.-M. André, Ms C. Quesne, Messrs J.-M. Frère, A.-M. Fransolet, M. Hallin,

C. Tomberg, L. Dejonghe, M. Henneaux, C. Joachain, J. Bricmont, Ms C. Gutt, Messrs A. Goffeau, F. Robaszynski, Ms M. Kaufman, Messrs M. Willem, P. Lekeux, Ms D. Lambert, fellows; Mr Jean Perdang, associate fellow.

*Present from the Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen:*

Messrs R. Coussement, K. Kersters, P. Smeyers, D. Thys van den Audenaerde, H. Van Brussel, L. Vanhecke and P. Vermeersch, fellows; Messrs F. Dumortier and C. Waelkens, associate fellows; Mr P. Bockstaele, honorary fellow; Mr G. King, foreign fellow.

*Present from the National Council of Scientific Unions:* Ms A. Lemaître, deputy secretary of the National Committee on Astronomy, Mr J.-J. Symoens, chairman of the National Committee on Biological Sciences, Ms C. Opsomer, vice-chair of the National Committee for Logic, History and Philosophy of Science, Messrs Ph. Boulanger, chairman of the National Committee on Mechanics, Th. Godfraind, chairman of the National Committee on Physiology and Pharmacology, Ms F. Olyslager, secretary of the National Committee on Radio-Electricity, Messrs M. Penninckx and J. Chapelle, vice-chair and deputy secretary of the National Committee on Soil Sciences.

*Absent with apologies from the Classe des Sciences:* baron Macq, Messrs M. Demuer, R. Thomas, emeritus fellows; baron Thinès, Messrs P. Van Moerbeke, E. Biémont, P.-H. Heenen, A. Berger, M. Jangoux, fellows; Mr B. Delmon, associate fellow.

*Absent with apologies from the Klasse van de Natuurwetenschappen:*

Mr J. Van Landuyt, president; Messrs Y. Bruynseraede, A. Coomans, F.C. De Schryver, W. Fiers, L. Delaey, W. Gomes, G. Froment, K. Hcydc, C. Hirsch, J.A. Thas, M. Van Montagu, L. Vanquickenborne, fellows; Ms C. Van Broeckhoven, Mr N. De Kimpe, associate fellows; Mr J. Maton, honorary fellow; Messrs A.T. de Hoop, J. Denuce, foreign fellows.

*Absent with apologies from the National Council of Scientific Unions:*

Messrs A. Jorissen, vice-chair of the National Committee on Astronomy, Y. Engelborghs, vice-chair of the National Committee on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, P. Verdonck, vice-chair of the National Committee on Biomedical Engineering, P. De Bièvre, chairman of the National Committee on Chemistry, B. Tinant, deputy secretary of the National Committee on Crystallography, A. Herbosch and Ph. Muchez, vice-chair and deputy secretary of the National Committee on Geological Sciences, E. Lambin and J.-M. Jacques, vice-chair and secretary of the National Committee on Global Change, H. Van Maldeghem, deputy secretary of the National Committee on Mathematics, C. Lacor and C. Conti, vice-chair and deputy secretary of the National Committee on Mechanics, P.-P. Pastoret, vice-chair of the National Committee on Microbiology, J. Lemonne and Ph. Herquet, chairman and secretary of the National Committee on Physics, O. Vanderborgh, vice-chair of the National Committee SCOPE, M. Geypens and J. Deckers, chairman and

secretary of the National Committee on Soil Science, Mr M. Hinsenkamp, deputy secretary of the National Committee on Space Research.

**1. Approval of the minutes of the Joint Meeting held on 8 June 2005**

The minutes were approved.

**2. Approval of the resignations and nominations of the members of the National Committees**

*National Committee for Astronomy*

New members: Ms Anne Lemaître (F) (FUNDP)  
Mr Ronald Van Der Linden (N) (ROB)

*National Committee for Mathematics*

Resignation: Mr Jean Mawhin (F)  
New members: Mr Adhemar Bultheel (N) (KULeuven)  
Ms Simone Gutt (F) (ULB)  
Mr Michel Willem (F) (UCL)

*National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology*

Resignation: Mr Marc Bogaert (N)  
New member: Mr Romain Lefebvre (N) (UGent)

*National Committee for Radio Science*

Renewal of the mandate of the members (until 30/09/2008)

Mr Michel Blondel (F)  
Ms Ann Franchois (N)  
Ms Isabelle Huynen (F)  
Mr Paul Lagasse (N)  
Mr Bart Nauwelaers (N)  
Ms Femke Olyslager (N)  
Mr Serge Prohoroff (F)  
Mr Piotr Sobieski (F)  
Mr Erik Stijns (N)  
Mr Antoine Van De Capelle (N)  
Mr Emmanuel Van Lil (N)  
Mr Claude Vloeberghs (F)

Resignations: Mr Alain Barel (N)  
Mr Joseph Lemaire (F)  
Mr Emile Schweicher (F)

New members: Ms Viviane Pierrard (F) (IASB)  
Mr Leo Van Bicscn (N) (VUB)  
Mr Jacques Verly (F) (ULg)  
Mr René Warnant (F) (ORB)

**3. Notification of the election of honorary members of the National Committees**

*National Committee for Mathematics*

Honorary member :

Mr Jean Mawhin

*National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology*

Honorary member :

Mr Marc Bogaert

**4. Notification of the changes of the Board of the National Committees**

*National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology*

Vice-Chair: Mr Romain Lefebvre (N) (UGent)

*National Committee for Radio Science*

New composition of the Board

Chair: Mr Bart Nauwelaers (N) (KULeuven)

Vice-Chair: Mr Piotr Sobieski (F) (UCL)

Secretary: Ms Femke Olyslager (N) (UGent)

Dep. Secretary: Ms Isabelle Huynen (F) (UCL)

**5. Approval of the representation of the National Committees to the General Assemblies of the International Unions.**

15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Union of Pharmacology (IUPHAR), Beijing, 2-7 July 2006. Designation and approval of Mr Théophile Godfraind as national delegate.

26<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union (IAU), Prague, 14-25 August 2006. Designation and approval of Ms Conny Aerts as national delegate.

15<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), Santiago de Compostela, 18-21 August 2006. Designation and approval of Messrs Jean Schmets, Freddy Dumortier and Jef Thas as national delegates. Only the mission of Mr Jean Schmets will be reimbursed by RASAB.

World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering (IUPESM), Seoul, 27 August – 1 September 2006. Designation and approval of Messrs Marc Nyssen and Pascal Verdonck as national delegates. Only the mission of Mr Marc Nyssen will be reimbursed by RASAB.

**6. Report on the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ICSU (Suzhou) 17-21 October 2005 by Mr Jean Mawhin, national ICSU delegate.**

Mr Jean Mawhin reported on the General Assembly of ICSU, which gave rise to the following remarks :

With regard to the discussion on evolutionism versus creationism, it was raised that this is a serious issue to be dealt with by ICSU. Mr Mawhin explained that the issue had been discussed during the General Assembly, and that action would be taken by the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP). The IAP would draft a statement on the issue and send it to all Academies for endorsement.

The venue for the next General Assembly had not been established yet, as the majority of the ICSU wished that a European country would host it. The possibility of Belgium as host for the next ICSU General Assembly in 2008 was discussed in a positive way, but the idea would only be developed if no other European country would offer the venue.

INQUA has been elected as full scientific member of ICSU at the General Assembly. As a consequence, Belqua will be recognised as a national scientific committee of both Academies. An increase of the membership category of Belqua in Inqua – as was asked by Mr P. Vermeersch – will be discussed at the next RASAB General Assembly.

The full report of the ICSU General Assembly can be found in annex.

**7. Date of the next Joint Meeting on Wednesday 14 June 2006**

**8. Any other business**

**9. Lecture by M. Jean Bricmont, fellow of the Académie royale de Belgique: “Is the world local?”**

The lecture was followed by a lively debate, in which participated several Fellows.