



Brief report of the ANNUAL ENCOUNTER BRAGA (Portugal), 13th - 15th July 2022

Participants: Marco Cattaneo (Switzerland), Pierre Devos (Belgium), Eduardo Duque (Portugal), Santos Gonzalez (Nicaragua), Raquel Pérez (Spain, Chairwoman), Hermann Weber (Germany), Edith Weber-Sinner (Luxembourg).

Wednesday 13th July

Raquel Perez welcomed the participants in the Hotel “Do Templo” at 3 p.m. The encounter started with the presentation of the situation of SECIS in Spain (Raquel), Portugal (Eduardo), Luxembourg (Edith) and the case of Nicaraguan Students (Santos): the reasons of their presence in Europe since 2018. These reports are attached to the present document. A video-presentation by Corinne Mellut, member of the FIUC staff, of the “Post-Covid world of Work and Study IFCU 2020-2021” followed the country reports.

At around 7 p.m. Marco Cattaneo and Pierre Devos arrived and it was time to go for the dinner not far away from the meeting room.

Thursday 14th July

Breakfast at 8 a.m. followed by the meeting at 10 a.m. which started by a video-presentation of “the perspective of University international Students at the EU” done by Emilio Dogliani, in charge of Education and Culture at the COMECE (Brussels). An interesting debate enlarged this intra-european reflexion in connexion with the aims of SECIS. It was then time to go downtown for the lunch before an encounter with the Archbishop of Braga, his Excellency Jose Cordeiro, to whom we presented the SECIS. Thereafter, Eduardo gave us the opportunity to visit the campus and more specifically the Faculty of Philosophy and Social Sciences of the Catholic University of Braga (UCP), where he is docent. At this occasion, we met the dean of the Faculty. Before the evening meal, Eduardo drove us to Guimaraes, a city near Braga, where Portugal was founded. This visit ended by a pleasant meal near the hotel Do Templo.

Friday 15th July

At 10 a.m. our meeting concerned first the country reports of Hermann (Germany), Pierre (Belgium) and Marco (Switzerland). These reports are in attachment to this letter. Thereafter, Pierre (secretary) presented briefly the report of the General Assembly hold at distance the 22 February 2012 and also the 2021 accounts. An exchange followed to define the topic of the next General Assembly which will take place in Friburg (Switzerland) thanks to the hospitality of Marco, from Wednesday 5 p.m. until Friday 7 p.m. July 2023. There was a consensus on the theme: “The student refugees” with the challenge and risk it represent. The video-meeting of the board in order to prepare this Assembly is fixed the 27th of January 2023 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Our annual encounter ended at noon with all participants happy of the job carried on.

Pierre Devos, secretary