

Secrétaire général / Secretary General:  
Prof. Dr. Thomas SCHMIDT  
Rue Pierre-Aeby 16  
CH-1700 FRIBOURG

Tel. +41 26 300 78 32  
thomas.schmidt@unifr.ch  
[www.fiecnet.org](http://www.fiecnet.org)



## **The Secretary General's report from January 1 to December 31, 2024**

### **1. Reminder: contact between FIEC and affiliated associations**

There are currently 76 associations of Classical studies affiliated to FIEC. In order to enable us to stay in touch with all of you, please send us a regular update of your contact address (postal, e-mail and URL of website if available, to be sent to: [thomas.schmidt@unifr.ch](mailto:thomas.schmidt@unifr.ch)).

### **2. Payment of yearly fee**

All affiliated associations are reminded that the annual membership fee is € 110.-, to be paid as soon as possible. The resources of FIEC are very scarce; any contribution above the minimal amount of € 110.- will be deeply appreciated. FIEC is entirely dependent on its membership fees, so we kindly ask all associations to make sure that the fee is indeed paid. If there are any difficulties with the payment, please contact the Treasurer. FIEC's bank account is based in Switzerland (labelled in euros). Instructions for payment are to be found on the Treasurer's invoice. Please DO NOT send a check!

### **3. FIEC website**

Please remember to check FIEC's website at [www.fiecnet.org](http://www.fiecnet.org). If the information displayed needs any changes, please let us know (by email to the Secretary General). FIEC is also on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/FIECnews/>) and X (<https://twitter.com/FIECnews>). All important information about FIEC can also be found on [Wikipedia](#). FIEC's social media profiles have been maintained over the past year with the help of Émilien Genoud (Fribourg), who deserve our warmest thanks for the work.

#### 4. FIEC Congress 2025

The XVII<sup>th</sup> FIEC Congress (July 7-11, 2025) will be hosted in Wrocław by the Polish Philological Association, to whom we address our warmest thanks. For further information, see the dedicated website at [fiec2025.ptf.edu.pl](http://fiec2025.ptf.edu.pl).

#### 5. FIEC General Assembly 2025

On the occasion of the Congress at Wrocław, FIEC will hold its General Assembly on Wednesday 9 July 2025 from 5:00 to 6:15 pm. A letter inviting member associations to nominate their delegates and make proposals for the renewal of the Board will be sent out at a later date.

#### 6. Lecture series celebrating FIEC's 75th anniversary

2023 marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FIEC (founded in 1948 in Paris). To commemorate this event, the FIEC Board organized a series of on-line lectures on the present and future of our disciplines by highly distinguished and internationally recognized scholars. After a first set of 6 lectures held in November and December 2023 (see last year's report), the series was continued in 2024 with the following program:

##### **SECOND SERIES (April-June 2024)**

##### **Thursday 11 April 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Filippomaria Pontani (Venezia/Italy)

*Vingt-quatre pattes de mouche : Greek manuscripts and beyond*

##### **Thursday 25 April 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Joy Connolly (American Council of Learned Societies)

*Beyond "Greece and Rome"*

##### **Thursday 9 May 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Carmen Codoñer (Salamance/Spain)

*Humanismo: transiciones. Texto y contexto*

##### **Thursday 23 May 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Denis Rousset (EPHE – Sorbonne, Paris/France)

*Comment publier les inscriptions grecques et latines au XXI<sup>e</sup> s. ?*

##### **Thursday 13 June 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Stefan Rebenich (Berne/Switzerland)

*"Alte Geschichte in Forschung und Lehre": A very brief survey of the development of Ancient History in Germany over the last fifty years*

### **THIRD SERIES (October-November 2024)**

#### **Thursday 17 October 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Delfim F. Leão (Coimbra/Portugal)

*Chilon and the Seven Wise Men: Milestones in the Establishment of a Literary Tradition*

#### **Thursday 24 October 2024, 19h00 CEST**

Prof. Véronique Dasen (Fribourg/Switzerland)

*Locus Ludi. The Cultural Fabric of Play and Games in Classical Antiquity*

#### **Wednesday 13 November 2024, 19h00 CET**

Prof. Marietta Horster (Mainz/Germany)

*Roman Cities – a world of (inscribed) texts*

#### **Thursday 28 November 2024, 19h00 CET**

Prof. Alberto Bernabé (Madrid/Spain)

*La difícil definición de τὰ Ὀρφικά*

The recordings of all 15 lectures of the series in their original language (with English subtitles) are accessible on the FIEC website ([www.fiecnet.org](http://www.fiecnet.org)).

Moreover, as a continuation of this celebration, the FIEC Board will organize a special session at the 2025 FIEC Congress in Wrocław on Wednesday 9 July 2025 from 2:30 to 4.30 pm. The aim of this session will be to take stock of what FIEC has achieved over the past 75 years and what remains for the future, not only for FIEC, but for Classical Studies as a whole. More details about this session will be provided in due course.

## **7. Recent FIEC activities**

In 2024, the FIEC Board held three online meetings (on Jan. 18, April 29, and Sept. 5) to discuss various matters pertaining to the 2025 Congress in Wrocław, the organization of the lecture series celebrating the 75th anniversary of FIEC (see above) and the setting up of a FIEC award for the best thesis (to be discussed at the General Assembly in July 2025).

As the umbrella organization representing Classical Studies worldwide, the FIEC Board has been making efforts to support Classical studies in several parts of the world by promoting Classical studies in international events and organizations throughout the year 2024. In addition, FIEC has contacted governmental authorities in several countries where a closing or downsizing of Classical Studies was being considered, notably at Cardiff University (UK), Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) and the University of Helsinki (Finland).

In his capacity as President of FIEC, Prof. Jesús de la Villa was invited by AMEC (Mexican Association of Classical Studies, member of FIEC) to give one of the keynote lectures at their VI<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Classical Studies hosted in Mexico City from October 7 to 11, 2024 by the Institute for Philological Research (IIFL) of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), in collaboration with the Faculty of Philosophy and Literature (FFyL). The conference was focused on “*The foundational accounts about Classical Antiquity and their projection in the Western World*” and was attended by more than 200 researchers from 66 universities and 15 countries in America, Europe and Russia.

The Board members have the following activities to report on.

**CIPSH** (Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines):

Prof. Jesús de la Villa (FIEC President and delegate to CIPSH) continued to represent FIEC on the board of CIPSH for the year 2024 and to hold the position of Treasurer of the CIPSH, following a previous tradition, as Prof. Franco Montanari, former President of FIEC, also held this position. During 2024, apart from attending CIPSH Board meetings, Jesús de la Villa attended and participated in the congress organized in Beijing to celebrate the 75th anniversary of CIPSH in September 2024. On that occasion, a scientific meeting was previously held in the city of Chang Chun, Manchuria, on Education, at which Jesús de la Villa gave a lecture on ‘Education and post-colonial movements in Latin America’, in which he analyzed, among other things, the presence of Classical Studies in the new curricula of the countries of that region. In Chang Chun he was also able to visit the Institute for the Study of Ancient Civilizations, which is the main research center on the Classical World in China. Following the Beijing congress, he was also invited to participate in a meeting at the University of Inner Mongolia in the city of Hohhot, where he gave a lecture on ‘The function of Classics in Educational Systems’.

As a member of the CIPSH Board, on behalf of the FIEC, Jesús de la Villa was invited to organize the 4th CIPSH Academy. This activity consists of a meeting between senior and young researchers from China and other parts of the world to develop exchange and collaboration between scholars in the Humanities. On this occasion, the title of the Academy was: ‘Education as a global strategy. The dialogue between tradition and new goals in the educational systems in the Chinese World and in Europe’. It was held in Madrid from 9 to 12 December 2024. The meeting was funded by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation of Taiwan, with the collaboration of the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. It was organized by CIPSH and FIEC, with the collaboration of the World Philology Union and the International Association of Aesthetics.

**SIBC** (Société Internationale de Bibliographie Classique):

Prof. Fausto Montana (FIEC Vice-President and delegate to SIBC) represented the FIEC at the annual meeting of SIBC held in Granada (Spain) on Nov. 15-16, 2024. The first day was devoted to the Conference of Mme Chérifa Boukacem, Professeur en Sciences de l'Information et de la Communication at the Université de Lyon 1, on the topic “La publication scientifique à l'épreuve de ses mutations : entre stratégies techno-industrielles et modèles alternatifs de la communication scientifique.” On Nov. 16, the annual SIBC General Assembly was held. The agenda included the election both of the new Directeur éditorial of *L'Année Philologique* and of the new board (2025-2029) as well as the annual reports by the current board members. Pedro Pablo Fuentes Gonzales was reelected as Directeur éditorial. Dario Mantovani was elected President and Charles Guérin Vice-President. The current President (Pierre Chiron) reported on his entire term of office (2020-2024), emphasising the consolidation and development of the APh, in terms of strengthening of the old editorial offices and establishment of new correspondences and offices (in Brasil, China, Japan, Greece); he also traced the process that led to the achievement of financial stability of the SIBC. The other board members and the representative of the publisher Brepols (Chris Vanden Borre), in their respective functions, confirmed the very positive picture. The Assembly approved all the reports. The President proposed economic subsidies for the editorial offices for 2025; the Assembly approved. It was decided that the next SIBC Conference and General Assembly would be held in November 2025 in Munich (Germany).

**EASSH** (European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities):

Prof. André Lardinois (FIEC Board member and delegate to EASSH) recalls that the EASSH is an advocacy and science policy organisation for the social sciences and humanities with over 65 member organisations, including FIEC. It was closely involved in negotiations about the funding of the Horizon Europe (HE) research program that will last till 2027. In part through the efforts of the EASSH, this program offers more opportunities for SSH disciplines than ever before. One of its three main themes is “a more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe”, to which several Humanities and Social Science disciplines are invited to contribute. On December 5 and 6, 2024, the EASSH General Assembly was held. Plans for the update of Horizon Europe's Strategic plan 2025-2027 were discussed and several workshops were held, including one on ways to increase the visibility of SSH research. Minutes of the meeting, as well as (online) events organized by the EASSH can be found on its website (see <https://eassh.eu>).

**TLL** (Thesaurus Linguae Latinae):

Prof. Catherine Steel (FIEC Treasurer and delegate to TLL) reports that the International Commission of the Thesaurus Linguae Latinae met at the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften in Munich on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 2024. What follows is a report of that meeting, with some additional information about developments subsequent to July 2024.

Since the last meeting of the Commission in July 2022 there had been significant developments in the organisation of the TLL. The most important was that the application for funding for the remainder of the project (until 2050) had been approved, in two tranches: 2025-2037, and 2037-2050. The funding is conditional on successful evaluations during the project, which will depend particularly on the attainment of the project milestones as set out in the application. The success of the application for funding on the basis of robust and deliverable milestones is a major development towards the conclusion of the TLL and the TLL team are greatly to be congratulated on this very happy outcome.

However, some practical issues in the administration of the TLL had emerged. The most significant is the effect on the project of recent legislation in Germany which imposes limits on the re-hiring of research staff on temporary contracts (the *Wissenschaftszeitvertragsgesetz*). A solution had been found, namely the transfer of the employment of TLL researchers to Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich as researchers attached to a specific project, that is the TLL. This solution had, the Commission was told, been successfully adopted in relation to other projects run by the BAdW. Work to transfer contracts was underway at the time of the July meeting and was completed by the end of 2024.

The other significant issue that the Commission discussed was the appointment of the new General Editor, following the retirement of Herr Hillen in the summer of 2024. The process of appointment was different from that adopted when Herr Hillen was appointed: rather than presentations and interviews which the entire Commission attended, interviews would be conducted by a panel of seven, consisting of four members of the Commission's standing committee, a representative of the BAdW, and two members from LMU. In addition, owing to the complexities of the new contract structure, it had not been possible to hold the interviews before the meeting of the Commission, and they took place on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024. The process initially envisaged was for the interview committee to make a recommendation to the International Commission for its approval. However, after vigorous debate, the International Commission voted to entrust the decision to the appointment committee, who would inform the International Commission of its decision. The result of the process was the appointment as General Editor of Dr. Josine Schrickx.

The International Commission also discussed progress and plans for the TLL project, including its ongoing digitization activity, and received updates on its financial situation, collaborations, and fund-raising activity. Members of the International Commission also had the opportunity to meet the current TLL team over an informal buffet supper on the first day of the meeting.

**CDG (Classics Development Group):**

Prof. Catherine Steel (FIEC Treasurer and delegate to CDG) reports that in April 2024 FIEC was invited to join the Classics Development Group, a ‘blue skies thinking’ collaboration between learned societies and professional organisations across the research and education ecosystems in Classics (<https://www.classicsdevelopmentgroup.org/>). The Group is currently chaired by Professor Arlene Holmes-Henderson (Durham University) with secretarial support from the Classical Association. Although the CDG is working primarily with organisations based in the UK it is keen to extend its international reach: hence the invitation to FIEC (and at the same time to EuroClassica). FIEC accepted the invitation and nominated Jesús de la Villa and Catherine Steel (alternate) to attend.

The CDG meets twice a year; Catherine Steel was able to attend the first meeting after FIEC joined, in October 2024. Among issues discussed were the Classical Association's 2025 Write | Speak | Design competition, designed to explore the importance of Classics in the contemporary world. The discussion at the CDG usefully clarified the parameters for competition entries in languages other than English.



The Secretary General: Thomas SCHMIDT

Fribourg, February 14, 2025