

**Minutes of the Research Committee of Legislative Specialists RC08
Business meeting held on 23.07.2014 in Montreal, Canada**

Program

1. Welcome
2. Report on RCLS activities prepared by both co-chairs
3. Election of new officers
4. Appointment of other officials
5. Future activities
6. Discussion

Present: 19 members

Ad. 1.

Co-chairs Peverill Squire and Zdenka Mansfeldová welcomed the attendees and introduced the program of the meeting. Program accepted.

Ad. 2.

Zdenka Mansfeldová presented the report on activities undertaken under the name of RC08 over the past two years for the period 2012 and 2014 (IPSA World Congress in Madrid 2012 and IPSA World Congress in Montreal 2014).

In the period 2012-2014 RC08 undertook the following activities:

2.1. IPSA Congress 2014

RC08 has been very successful in the preparation of the Congress, organizing the total number of 11 panels (9 by RCLS and additional two in cooperation with other RCs, RC03 and RC19).

The excellent work of RCLS Programme Chair Hilmar Rommetvedt, in putting the panels together was highly praised (general applause).

2.2. Panels organized by RCLS within other political science events:

- RCLS panels were held in conjunction with the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), in Orlando, Florida, January 2013 (organized by Irina Khmelko, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, USA); the cooperation with the Southern Political Science Association is very fruitful and mutually beneficial.

- RCLS panel on Parliamentary Opposition in Europe was organized on the 7th ECPR General Conference in Bordeaux, September 2013 (organized by Gabriella Ilonszki, Corvinus University Budapest, Hungary).

- RCLS conference within a conference was held in association with the Australasian Study of Parliament Group (ASPG) 2013 Conference, in Perth, Australia (organised by Ken Coghill, Monash University, Australia).

2.3. Cooperation with other Research Committees:

- GenParlNet - A Cooperation of RC08 and RC19 - a collaborative panel at the Montreal IPSA Congress.

- Cooperation with RC03 - European Unification a common panel at the Montreal IPSA Congress.

2.4. Cooperation with practitioners

- There was intensive preparation for a conference organized together with the Turkish parliament in autumn 2013 in Ankara on The Changing Roles of Parliamentary Committees Revisited. Unfortunately, the conference did not take place as the communication from the the Turkish partner ceased.

- RCLS is currently in initial stage of developing further partnerships with practitioners at the World Bank Group and USAID (Irina Khmelko). The potential of organising exploratory workshop in Washington D.C. in the 2014-2016 periods was discussed.

2.5. Publications on Legislative Issues by RCLS Members are announced on the RCLS website (www.rcls-ipsa.org).

Semenova, Elena/Edinger, Michael/Best, Heinrich (2013), Parliamentary Elites in Central and Eastern Europe: Recruitment and Representation, Routledge.

Crum, Ben/Fossum, John Erik (2013), Practices of Inter-Parliamentary Coordination in International Politics: The European Union and Beyond, ECPR Press.

Langhelle, Oluf (2013), International Trade Negotiations and Domestic Politics: The Interestic Politics of Trade Liberalization, Routledge.

Patzelt, Werner J. (Ed.)(2012): Parlamente und ihre Evolution: Forschungskontext und Fallstudien (Parliaments and their Evolution: Research Context and Case Studies). Nomos.

Owens, John E./Pelizzo, Riccardo (2012): The "War on Terror" and the Growth of Executive Power? - A Comparative Analysis. New York and London: Routledge

David M. Olson and Gabriella Ilonszki, eds. (2012), Post-Communist Parliaments: Change and Stability in the Second Decade, Routledge.

The RCLS members are asked and encouraged to provide information and copy of the front page and short resume to our webmasters to increase the visibility of RCLS and their own work.

2.6. Financial situation

According to RC08 treasurer there is still about 2.000 USD in the RC08 account. In the discussion it was agreed that no RC08 membership fees will be collected as the bank transfer and account fees would consume most of the moneys received. The money currently in account could be used together with the money offered by IPSA EC (1000 USD) to organise events such as the exploratory meeting in Washington D.C and/or a similar coordination workshop in Europe (Prague 2015).

Ad. 3. and ad. 4.

There are three elected positions in RC08. The current Officers of RC08 are:

Co-Chairs:

American Co-Chair: Peverill Squire, University of Missouri (second – i.e. last term)

European Co-Chair: Zdenka Mansfeldová, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (first term, can be re-elected for one more term)

Program Chair: Hilmar Rommetvedt, International Research Institute of Stavanger (IRIS) (first term, can be re-elected for one more term)

Appointed, not elected positions are:

Director for Research: Irina Khmelko, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga (for practical purposes in order to represent the RC08 in organizing activities in the US, there is suggestion to continue in this practice)

Treasurer: Edward Schneier, The City College of the City University of New York

Webmaster: Erik Fritzsche, Dresden University of Technology, (Technische Universität Dresden), erik@fritzsche-net.de.

Honorary Chair: Werner Patzelt, Dresden University of Technology, Germany

Before election of new officers, following topics were discussed:

- In connection with the changes in the rules, the RCLS needs to decide what will be the term in office for the officers to be elected in Montreal.
- In Madrid 2012 RCLS opted for a two-year term, however, the situation has changed and the four years term is ok.
- In Istanbul, the RCLS will need to elect new board, the co-chairs will prepare and circulate list of candidates prior to IPSA 2016 Istanbul event.
- Proposal: election of officers and election of the board will be at the IPSA Congress 2016 in Istanbul, and from now on our term will be four years again;

Discussion:

Werner Patzelt suggested that longer term is more suitable to plan events, to learn, to get more substantial work done; renewability should be discussed in Istanbul (IPSA Congress 2016). The key feature of the RCLS is the overlap between co-chairs - it is of vital interest, and ought to be maintained.

Proposal: To move to a four year term

Present: 19 RCLS members: For:16; Against:0; Abstained:3

Result: Accepted

Election of RCLS officers:

Werner Patzelt proposed Zdenka Mansfeldová as the European Co-chair; David Olson proposed Rick Stapenhurst as the American Co-Chair; Zdenka Mansfeldová asked Hilmar Rommetvedt to continue as the Program Chair for the IPSA 2016 Istanbul Congress and proposed him as candidate.

All three candidates accepted their candidacy; Hilmar Rommetvedt agreed to continue and would be serving a four-year term – preparing the IPSA 2016 and IPSA 2018 RCLS panels; Zdenka Mansfeldová has agreed with being elected for two years and Rick Stapenhurst for four year-term.

Collective vote:

Present 19 RCLS members. For: 17, Against: 0, Abstained: 2.

Results:

American Co-Chair: Rick Stapenhurst, McGill University, Montreal, and Laval University, Canada (first term, four years)

European Co-Chair: Zdenka Mansfeldová, Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (second term, two years)

Program Chair: Hilmar Rommetvedt, International Research Institute of Stavanger, Norway (IRIS) (second term, four years)

Expression of thanks to the out coming co-chair Peverill Squire, applause for in-coming and out-going Chairs.

Ad. 5.and 6**Discussion of RCLS future plans:**

- According the IPSA directive for RCs, RC should organise at least one academic activity in the subsequent four year period;
- Cooperation with other RCs will continue;
- Practitioners and scholars to look at legislative studies and see the needs of practitioners - RCLS has the expertise from CEE transition to offer;
- USAID – there is 18 months project looking at establishing rigorous empirical and practical cooperation in legislative strengthening - looking at what do donors want from parliaments in terms of development outcome, accountability, etc. Outcome should be - practical product what works in legislative strengthening A Handbook on legislative strengthening and second, volume of essays halfway between practitioners and academics;
- Strengthen cooperation of RC with national political science associations – Petra Guasti will discuss RC Legislative Specialists cooperation with ECPR SG Central and East European Politics (CEEP), furthermore, the Cristina Leston-Bandeira – proposed (via e-mail) cooperation with UK Political Science Association (PSA), groups working on parliaments;
- Proposal for next meeting held in Prague in mid-October 2015, theme parliamentary opposition including practitioners from the Parliamentary Institute;
- Proposal for German panel inviting the various groups studying the German parliament (Dresden, Jena, Berlin, Halle, ...)

Notes taken by Petra Guasti 23.7.2014 in Montreal.

Revised by Zdenka Mansfeldova on 12.08.2014 and Rick Stapenhurst on 18.08.2014.