

May 7, 2022

CAS Representative Report regarding ICS 17 (the 17th International Congress of Slavists, currently scheduled to be held at Sorbonne-Paris University, August 28-September 1, 2023, but subject to possible postponement, as to be decided officially at the annual MKS meeting, via Zoom, in August 2022; LINK to website: [MKS Paris 2023 - Sciencesconf.org](https://www.mks-paris-2023.org/))

Report prepared for CAS AGM (May 14, 2022)

Report prepared by CAS ICS representative Joseph Schallert (Emeritus, University of Toronto)

Dear CAS Colleagues,

Background to the May 14 report. Due to the war in Ukraine, the ICS-17 French Organizing Committee convened a special session of the MKS (*Meždunarodnyj Komitet Slavistov*), which met online in Zoom format on **April 2, 2022**. The purpose of the special session was to begin to discuss the status of ICS-17, in particular whether to cancel or postpone the Congress, and/or whether to exclude members of the Russian and/or Belarusian delegations from attending (with or without any exceptions). Some discussion was also devoted to a proposal to restructure the ICS and its Congress, which is held every five years under normal circumstances. I have attached the previous relevant reports pertaining to all of these issues, including the dates of their postings to the CAS listserv (as best I can reconstruct these dates), cf. 1) “Urgent CAS vote on ICS-17 due to war in Ukraine” (March 21), 2) “Results of CAS vote on Options for ICS 2023 Paris” (April 6), 3) “ICS Zoom April 2, 2022” (April 5), 4) “Proposal to restructure ICS and its Congress” (April 5).

Purpose of the May 14 report. This report provides a brief summary + update on particular topics.

Current status of ICS-17. Although no final decision will be made until the annual MKS general meeting in August 2022 (to be held in Zoom format), there is a good chance that ICS-17 will be postponed till August-September 2025 (those CAS members whose paper proposals were approved and forwarded to Paris have been made aware of this possibility). August-September 2024 as a target date for postponement is impractical, since according to the French Organizing Committee in Paris the conference facilities have already been reserved for that time period by other parties. In any event, the French Organizing Committee has made it clear that a final decision on the date of ICS-17 must be made this August.

Current status of possible exclusion of Russian and Belarusian delegates. As I mentioned in the relevant report:

“A considerable amount of time was devoted to discussing “Options 3 and 4” (excluding the Russian, or Russian + Belarusian delegations), particularly the question of allowing scholars to participate as individuals or not, and of requiring or not requiring individual scholars to have made their opposition to the war in Ukraine clear, as a condition for participating in ICS-17,

whenever it may occur. Here no consensus has yet been reached, [with viewpoints at times differing widely; added by JS, May 2022], and in fact the position of some of the national committees still requires clarification. At this point I do not know if “Options 3 and 4” will be on the Agenda during the August ICS plenary Zoom session. Typically, the Agenda is sent out only a few days before the actual session.”

I promise to provide a more detailed account of the state of discussion of this issue and of its relation to the final decision regarding postponement, following the MKS Zoom session in August 2022.

Current status of the ICS restructuring proposal. Since April 2, 2022, it has come to my attention that this question will probably not be on the agenda for the August meeting. It may even remain off the agenda till after ICS-17, even if the latter is postponed till 2025. Such is certainly the preference of the French Organizing Committee. Nonetheless, I would still like to get your feedback on the proposal in the form of a vote (between June 1-July 1). This vote would be intended ONLY as a CAS-internal public opinion poll as to the general concept of the proposed reform as it might be implemented under “normal” (pre-war) conditions. If at some later date the proposal ever appears to be heading for a vote on the agenda of the MKS, I will again seek your opinion in the form of a CAS vote, which I can then represent at such a meeting of the MKS. The formulation of the question on such a ballot would certainly factor in the state of the war in Ukraine. If the latter is still in progress, then one of the alternatives would be something along the lines of “Yes, but only on condition that any such restructuring take place AFTER the war in Ukraine has ended under terms satisfactory to the Ukrainian government”.

Current level of CAS participation in the ICS 17 process. I am happy to say that six (6) paper proposals and one poster proposal (from an advanced undergraduate) were approved in April and then forwarded a few days prior to the May 1 deadline to the Organizing Committee in Paris. This May 1 deadline was predicated on the assumption that ICS-17 would take place in 2023. If ICS-17 is postponed to 2025, my current understanding is that a new deadline will be set by the Organizing Committee for a second round of paper proposals. I ask you to refrain from sending me any new proposals for now, since I will NOT be accepting any further proposals UNTIL a new deadline, if one proves necessary, is announced. I will keep you all posted on this topic. At present, there are still four (4) slots available in the Canadian quota of ten (10).

Sincerely,

Joseph Schallert

CAS Representative to ICS-17

Associate Professor (Emeritus), Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto