

Dear Friends,

My best wishes for 2010 and I hope it will be a better year than the last which took with it so many of our companions: Louck Hulsman, H.H. Jescheck, Giuliano Vassalli and in the very last hours of the year Antonio Beristain. I attach a [chronicle](#) written by José Luis de la Cuesta and published in the Spanish press.

As you are all aware we have made an important contribution to the constitution of an International Academic Network against the Death Penalty which integrates the four Scientific Societies and the Institutes for the Investigation of Criminal Law and Human Rights. The [Madrid meeting](#) will give rise to various workshops in different places likely to reinforce the abolitionist alliance for the ensuing discussion of and vote for the [Moratorium](#) at the end of this year in the United Nations. We couldn't have imagined in Toledo in September 2007 that our work could have such promising perspectives.

The date of the Madrid Seminar, determined by the President of the Spanish government delivering the inaugural speech, prevented us once again from enjoying the hospitality of the Centro de Milan and ISPAC for the traditional Board Meeting which may have surprised and bothered some of you having not been informed of this fact. Please accept my apologies. At some time during the year a Board Meeting will be organized of which you will be duly informed.

I attach information about the Academic Network against the Death Penalty for anybody who apart from being represented by the Société would like to form part of it personally.

At present the Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale and the University of Milán together with the collaboration of its teachers, Prof. Vincenzo Ferrari, Director of the Doctorate School, and Prof. Francesco Viganò are programming the presentation of the book of acts of the congress in Toledo, Criminal Law between War and Peace, to take place in a meeting dedicated to the memory of Giuliano Vassalli. The date proposed for this meeting is 29th March and we will be able to confirm it shortly. This was discussed in a meeting of the Executive Management Committee with the attendance of the President, the General Secretary, Edmondo Brutti Liberati, the Vicepresident Stefano Manacorda, Camila Beria and Elena Sala, as well as the invited guests Profs. Viganò and Ferrari. After the aforementioned decision, there was a debate regarding the future of the "Cahiers" for which a new phase has to be projected since Mario Pisani has stepped down after many years from his position at the head of these. We are grateful to him for his dedication.

On the other hand, it has been a year of intense activity for the Société. I'd like to highlight some of these activities:

A meeting to commemorate 60 years since the Declaration of Human Rights was held on 19th and 20th January and the [Becaria medals](#) were awarded to Mireille Delmas-Marty and Cherif Bassiouni with the much appreciated collaboration of Sergio García Ramírez and Francisco Muñoz Conde in the Madrid Parliament.

On June 16th 2009 an Academic meeting was held to award the Gramatica prize in the University of Geneva with the special participation of Giovani Gramatica and Uberto Gatti.

June 24th-27th we were honoured to receive the hospitality of the International Criminal and Penitentiary Foundation and particularly of George Kellens and Pierre Henri Bolle, where the scientific Societies were brought together to discuss the future direction of our work in international and national criminal policy. The discussion was led on behalf of SIDS by Luigi Foffani. Thanks to his generosity we celebrated the Société's 60th anniversary in [Liège](#) in a ceremony in the great hall of the university in which George Kellens, Simone Rozès and myself participated and which was accompanied by a splendid musical performance.

Furthermore our Société has been present in various acts throughout the year: Doctor Honoris Causa in the University of Valaquia, in Rumania with the participation of Mihaela Stanoiu. It was also present in the International Congress of the Institute of Criminal Sciences in Brazil in Sao Paulo; in the commemoration of the Lombroso Centenary in Verona organized by Lorenzo Picotti; in the Mexican Criminology Congress in Ciudad Juárez in December; in the AIDP Congress in Istanbul at which Mireille Delmas-Marty was awarded the H.H. Jescheck prize and at which I was kindly invited to give the Laudatio. The year concluded with the International Congress on the Death Penalty in Madrid where the Société and the Academic Network were brilliantly represented by Simone Rozès, particularly at the inauguration of the congress in the company of the Presidents of the Spanish government and of the Republic of Benin.

I will confirm soon the date of the event in Milan for the presentation of the book at the time of the tribute to Giuliano Vassalli.

Yours sincerely,

Ciudad Real 03/01/2009

Luis Arroyo Zapatero