

Report for EASAC proceedings

/talk by Jacques Fröchen, Deputy Foreign Secretary, Oct. 20, 2011, Lisbon

FNAS (French National Académie des sciences)

Reminder : the organization of the Académie (=FNAS), and its Departments (Foreign Secr, Education, Communication) *see the FNAS'website* www.academie-sciences.fr

Some principles

1/ Based on the secular independence and impartiality of scientists and researchers, in keeping with the history and tradition of the great European Academies, the FNAS and French Academicians ***do not involve within actions which could be interpreted as a collusion with any political authority***;

Ex. The Pairing scheme by threesomes (Prof. Dominique Meyer's report).

In order to reinforce the links between Science and Society, the *Académie des sciences* initiated (2005) a programme of "twinning" between Members of the FNAS and Members of Parliament (M.P.'s). The originality of the Project is to have created threesomes including on the one hand M.P.'s and on the other hand Members of the Académie associated to a young scientist working in his laboratory or University or Research Centre.

The first step of the program, held at the French Parliament on October 18th and 19th 2005, will consist in presentations and debates regarding the Parliament procedures.

In the second step, the Members of the FNAS together with the young scientists will invite their twinned M.P.'s to visit their laboratory, University, etc. This will give them the opportunity to discuss the challenges raised by Science.

A third step consists in a joint visit in the polling / electoral region of the MP.

This program is run by the Delegation of Scientific Information and Communication Department of the FNAS (Head: Dominique Meyer, Member of the FNAS; currently Prof. Bernard Meunier).

Another example: on the occasion of the ***10th anniversary of EASAC***, 7 November 2011, the FNAS decided after long reflection and discussion within the Board, that sending an invitation to the MEPs from the President of the French Académie could convey the feeling that the FNAS was directly asking to the MEPs a support for the Académie itself, as a member of EASAC...

2/ The mission of the FNAS is to ***answer to request for scientific advice*** on request -precisely from politicians- The Académie can also cope with a question on his own will.

- The FNAS has given advice to some ministries (as the Ministry of Education, Upper Education and research in the issue of scientific education in the primary sector, in teachers training, researchers' assessment ; recent report on *Bibliometrics* by Prof. Jean-François Bach, *et cetera*).

- "La Main à la pâte" initiative ("Hands on") in the Primary and Junior Secondary sector.

International aspects

- the G8+ Academies' meeting 23-24 March 2011 (2 statements on *Water and health* and *Science Education for Development*);
- the report about Japan "*Solidarity Japan*" (tsunami and Fukushima nuclear plant) in June 2011, available on line;
- the COPED, founded and chaired by Prof. François Gros, a committee of the FNAS which aims at spreading S&T in developing countries, mostly in Africa; the forthcoming seminar hosting NASAC's 33 representatives late January 2012;

- The Inter-academic Group for Development (**GID**), which is based on the concept that international and interdisciplinary academies can usefully be united and give scientific recommendations for S&T as the driving force for social, economical and human development. (See www.g-i-d.org)
- **EMAN** is a programme of GID aiming at an association of Academies of Sciences from all the Mediterranean region, as well as **PARMENIDES**, which aims at fulfilling the same goals: *appropriation* of knowledge by populations as a universal demand, a tool for social and economic growth, while taking into account social and historical diversities.

Points on which it could be worked on « harder » in EASAC's group:

- Science: independence, “secret”; influence ; Education to Science and Research through autonomy and free-thinking; concept of *mediation* (Science-Societies); specific/universal;
- Innovation/progress; excellence and *evidence-based*/money based societies;
- Academies as a specific concept: legitimacy, currently questioned notion of authority. Cf. *Bibliometrics*
- ...