

Minutes of the USS/E Committee meeting, 12 March, 2026 (online)

Present: Gregory Claeys (chair), Zsolt Czigányik (secretary), Kenneth Hanshew (treasurer), Barnita Bagchi, Burcu Kayışçı Akkoyun, Andrea Burgos, Sorin Antohi, Susanna Layh, Emrah Atasoy, Maria Varsam, Urszula Terentowicz-Fotyga, Joana Caetano, Liam Benison

Gregory Claeys greets the members and the committee accepts the agenda.

Agenda and subsequent discussion:

1. Sorin Antohi reports on the conference organization. 135 participants applied, there is no reason to reject any of these applications as all abstracts meet the general requirements. Letters of acceptance are to be sent soon. A number of social programmes will be organised, including trips both on foot and by bus. The report is accepted by the committee.
2. Gregory Claeys explains protocols of Committee membership, e.g. conference attendance normally expected; all contact with local organisers is done through Chair/Secretary
3. It is proposed that Philipp Thapa be appointed as arts correspondent. Barnita Bagchi suggests that Thapa be co-opted as a regular member of the committee instead. The proposal is accepted. However, during the AGM his membership shall be confirmed by vote.
4. A number of positions expire this year. Kenneth Hanshew confirms that he is willing to continue his duties as treasurer. Justyna Galant previously indicated that she would take over the secretary position from Zsolt Czigányik. Marta Komsta indicated [after the meeting] that she would continue as an EDI officer. These positions will need to be confirmed by the AGM and the members will need to be notified of the possibly open positions.
5. The committee enthusiastically welcomed Ondřej Váša's proposal for the 2028 conference to be held in Prague.
6. It was agreed that a bursary of 200 EUR will be offered this year to a maximum of 10 candidates. A train subsidy will not be offered.