

**CEACS/AECEC Executive Committee and Advisory Board Joint Meeting
(25th EC and 15th AB)**

7 January 2025
Online (via Zoom)

Minutes

Present

Executive Committee

Octavian More, President – OM
Victor Kennedy, Vice-President – VK
Andrea Szabó, Secretary – AS
Don Sparling, Treasurer – DS

Jason Blake, CEJCS Editor-in-Chief – JB

Advisory Board

Petra Sapun Kurtin (Croatia) – PSK
Krisztina Kodó (Hungary) - KK
Carmen Andrei (Romania) – CA
Sergej Macura (Serbia) – SM
Tjaša Mohar (Slovenia) – TM

1. Opening

OM opened the meeting at 19.05.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The sole formal item was to discuss signing a cooperation agreement for Open Access with l'Harmattan Kft. Two parts were planned for the meeting: first, a general discussion about working with l'Harmattan; then a short Executive Committee meeting to reach a final decision (see below).

The meeting agenda was unanimously adopted.

3. Discussion

DS referred to the proposed cooperation agreement sent by l'Harmattan to Masaryk University (rather than CEACS) and to his “summary of the main points of interest and concern”. Each member received these ahead of the meeting. OM shared the document “live” during the meeting.

DS outlined problematic aspects of the agreement, pertaining to 1) costs; 2) perceived benefits; 3) our relationship vis-a-vis l'Harmattan.

1) Costs

It is clear that publishing with l'Harmattan would be more expensive than continuing to publish with Masaryk University. It would also be less transparent (since, as OM pointed out, not all costs are delineated in the agreement).

2) Perceived benefits

DS argued that the potential benefits are “not as great as we had expected at the beginning.” Furthermore, what l'Harmattan offers can be done free of charge or for a minimal amount in Brno (e.g., providing a DOI number, digitizing future and past publications). In fact, the digitization of some past CEACS publications is currently taking place at Masaryk University.

3) Our relationship vis-a-vis l'Harmattan

DS expressed concerns that moving to l'Harmattan would apparently make us more of a “cog in the wheel” of their publishing process. In other words, we would lose control of our publications.

PSK mentioned that a recent Zagreb conference produced publications (also with some funding from the local Canadian Embassy). AS pointed out that several papers saw publication – in several volumes – after the conference of the Hungarian Association for the Study of English (HUSSE).

AS asked about l'Harmattan's potential work with the *Central European Journal of Canadian Studies*, particularly as pertains to visibility and indexing of articles (i.e. “points”-related matters). DS pointed out that the journal is outside l'Harmattan's interests, as the agreement is related to book publication.

TM informed us that getting “on a list” does not hinge on the publisher; it is up to us, so to speak.

VK concurred with AS (and others), saying, “I would like to see our journal more widely recognized.”

KK mentioned a concern about working with extra-CEACS publishers such as l'Harmattan: losing editorial control; she also cogently argued that there are concerns about fees schedules and fees in general.

OM outlined that there would be extra costs to digitizing if we were to work with l'Harmattan (and that digitizing is being done free of charge by Masaryk).

AS said, “We seem to be in agreement [about not working with l'Harmattan], so what's the alternative?” The concerns are visibility and getting the CEJCS “on a list.”

AS's view was supported by others. DS said that in that case, according to the research he had done, confirmed from several sources, this meant ensuring that the CEJCS appears twice a year. He also proposed an informal meeting after the Brno conference in early February (since several members of the AB and the EC will be present).

AS suggested a post-Brno online meeting to discuss practical steps to take.

TM mentioned that a local contact at the University of Maribor is willing to help JB in working towards being included in Scopus. JB repeated this, while mentioning that he will

also consult with the University of Ljubljana publisher to the same aim (to be clear: this is not suggesting that CEJCS will move away from Masaryk).

JB briefly mentioned the state of affairs with the upcoming CEJCS journal addition: we have three reviews commissioned or completed, some articles promised, and an interview lined up with Nino Ricci.

DS argued that CEACS members should be encouraged to review works by other members.

CA mentioned a Canadian Studies “colloque en juillet 2025 en Roumanie” – this big-tent conference will take place at the University of Galați 3–6 July. The call for papers will be circulated soon.

Since all those present agreed that CEACS should *not* sign an agreement with l’Harmattan, OM stated that no separate EC meeting was necessary. All present agreed.

4. Closing

OM closed the meeting at 20:22.