

SUMMARY
MEETING OF THE DUTCH SPEAKING REGION (NED)
6-9 September 2021
ABBEY OF TILBURG



NED REGIONAL MEETING PARTICIPANTS

TILBURG, 7-9 SEPTEMBER 2021

Superiors

M. Pascale	Arnhem
M. Katharina	Brecht
D. Alberic	Schiermonnikoog
D. Malachias	Echt
D. Bernardus	Tilburg
D. Nathanaël	Westmalle
D. Manu	Westvleteren
D. Guido	Zundert

absent

M. Rebekka	Bocholt
D. Clemens	Bornholm

Secretary

Zr. Margareth	Arnhem
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Because of the restrictions around Covid-19, only the superiors gathered, without delegates. M. Rebekka was absent due to sad family circumstances and Dom Clemens due to travel restrictions.

1. GENERAL CHAPTER 2022

For NED a General Chapter as soon as possible is a priority, given the dynamics of the Order and the outcome of the survey. We regret that the choice of the General Chapter 2022 was determined by, among other things, the location (Assisi). If a General Chapter cannot take place before September 2022, our Region would like as soon as possible only an election Chapter of at most 7-10 days. A new Abbot General and his Council can then organise a normal General Chapter at a later date with enthusiasm and vigour. We feel the urgent need for something to happen.

The NED continues to regret that no profound discussion about the office of Abbot General and his council can take place before the election. The CC 2019 has referred this discussion, as far as the council of the AG is concerned, to a next chapter (vote 61). The NED would like to add the office of Abbot General to this vote. This (recent) time shows that we need an honest and open discussion regarding all structures in the Order, including the office of Abbot General and his council. To have only an election is to pass the problem on.

The meeting examined a possible elective chapter by mail according to the new regulations of the CICSAL. NED is not in favour for this solution because of the limitations of the process.

As far as the organisational side of the General Chapter 2022 is concerned, the NED hopes for a Chapter that is as safe as possible in view of the Covid-19 situation whereby the way of celebrating the Eucharist (during the week Basilica and on Sundays separately in the Basilica), the rooms for the commissions, the aula and the air conditioning, the medical staff etc. must be looked at again.

VOTES 1-6

2. DISCUSSION OF THE WORKING PAPER "CONTEXT FOR THE ELECTION OF THE ABBOT GENERAL AT THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2022".

The NED very much appreciate the working document of Dom Bernardo and M. Marion. It was a good starting point for the meeting to reflect on the priorities and challenges as our Region sees them for a new Abbot General and the councillors. In preparation for a regional report yet to be drawn up on this theme, a list of priorities was compiled: The General must be a unifying factor; openness; transparency; exchange; meeting each other; willingness to listen to brothers/sisters/communities; working together; pastoral for the whole Order; gathering people around him who can help and support him in this; communication that must take place from the Generalate to the communities; providing essential information that is also unifying and that we need in the Order; there must be clarity. With more information, there is more peace and connection with each other. Abbot General and the Council play a big role in this.

It was noted that the working paper does not mention the Cistercian family. Yet an important fact in which AG can play a role.

The meeting also discussed the election of new council members. We have abandoned the selection on the basis of language groups and now it is more or less on the basis of continents, which is not in accordance with the Constitutions. One should look at competence and pastoral experience. The NED proposes to elect councillors on the basis of skills, so-called portfolios. For example: communication, formation, law, finance, pastoral development, cooperation with external contacts, someone to care for communities in difficult

circumstances, etc. Here again the problem arises that there is no substantive discussion in the Order about the office of the councillors and they are simply elected.

VOTES 7-11

3. DISCUSSION OF THE WORKING PAPER "DECLARATION ON PROTECTION FROM ALL FORMS OF ABUSE" AND THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES REGARDING THIS TOPIC.

The NED is pleased with the attention given to the topic of safeguarding and prevention at the level of the Order but emphasises that it is the responsibility of each individual community. The question was raised of the need for a Declaration of Principles. It would be better to have a working document that places the changes in the Constitutions and Statutes in a broader framework. The working document could then also serve to make the subject discussable in the communities.

The proposals of the Law Commission regarding the new Cst. 30 BIS, the Statute of the Regular Visitation and the Ratio were considered by the NED to be too broadly worded. It found the CNE's attempt to simplify these texts better, but adapted them here and there.

The NED is more and more aware that this subject requires adaptation in its own context which is different everywhere. Despite caution, the subject should be discussed at the level of the Order.

VOTES 12-24

4. DISCUSSION WORKING PAPER PREPARED BY THE LAW COMMISSION ON THE IMPACT OF COR ORANS ON OUR CONSTITUTIONS.

At the 2019 meeting, the NED had already studied the Cor Orans document in detail. During this meeting, the proposals of the Law Commission were discussed. A clear and very workable document. It was clear to the NED that there was no desire to diverge unnecessarily between the Constitutions of monks and nuns. The general tendency was to request dispensation and stick to our own legislation.

The NED urges that contact be made with the Congregation in Rome before the General Chapter 2022 to discuss these dispensations. It would prevent us from having to discuss everything again at the General Chapter without knowing exactly whether Rome is inclined towards dispensation at all. Then dispensations would have to be applied for and only then could everything be put into effect. Preparatory work can be done so that the process can run more smoothly.

The meeting went through all the changes proposed by the Law Commission and voted on the various options.

VOTES

5. DISCUSSION OF THE WORKING PAPER DRAFTED BY THE LAW COMMISSION ON CONSTITUTION 67 AND THE STATUTE ON FRAGILE COMMUNITIES AND THE SUPPRESSION OF A COMMUNITY.

This working document has already been commented on by all regions and the Law Commission is thanked for the changes that have been made. The NED is satisfied with the

texts and hopes for a speedy conclusion of this matter at the General Chapter. The texts exude a positive atmosphere that testifies to a belief in the resurrection. The question of whether or not the community of the mother house should vote on the stability of those who belong to a suppressed daughterhouse remains a point of discussion for the NED. The figure of the monastic commissary, on the other hand, is considered very acceptable. No further votes were taken on this subject.

6. POINTS SPECIFIC TO THE NED

D. Alberic gave an account of the activities of the Regional Secretary for Formation. The activities were coloured by the Covid-19 crisis. Just before the crisis a successful workshop on prevention of all forms of abuse had been given by a religious brother f.i.c.. All communities of the region had sent a representative. The workshop was experienced as very helpful and good. The follow-up will have to take place in the own community.

The joint initial formation with the Benedictine family continued online during the crisis.

The delegate of the region to the General Chapter will come from the community of Tilburg. The last three Chapters nuns have gone as delegates of the region.

There was discussion about building an App together with the Benedictine family to increase the presence of Benedictine Life on social media.

On the basis of a concrete case, the transgender issue was discussed. Currently in our countries a major social debate to which the Church and monasteries must relate.

The meeting was closed on 9 September 2021 after lunch. The next meeting will take place in the Abbey of Echt on 14 March 2022.

VOTES REGIONAL MEETING NED 2021

GENERAL CHAPTER 2022

1. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF VOTE 61 OF THE CENTRAL COMMISSION CITEAUX 2019 BUT ALSO WISH TO ADD THE SERVICE OF THE ABBOT GENERAL.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

2. REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIA, WE WISH TO CELEBRATE THE EUCHARIST DURING WEEKDAYS IN THE BASILICA TOGETHER WITH THE FRANCISCANS. ON SUNDAYS WE WISH TO CELEBRATE AS A GENERAL CHAPTER THE EUCHARIST IN THE BASILICA.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

3. REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIA, WE URGE THE CENTRAL COMMISSION THAT IT WILL DO EVERYTHING TO ORGANIZE THE GENERAL CHAPTER OF 2022 IN A SUCH A WAY THAT IT CAN BE HELD RESPONSIBLE AND SECURE WITH EXTRA ATTENTION GIVEN TO THE AULA (AIRCO), THE ROOMS FOR THE COMMISSIONS, THE MEDICAL STAFF ETC.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

4. REGARDING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIA AND THE FULL AGENDA, WE ASK THAT THE NUMBER OF GUESTS/SPEAKERS WILL BE LIMITED EXCEPT FOR THOSE SUBJECT TO VOTES 16, 17 AND 42 OF THE CENTRAL COMMISSION 2019.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

5. WE ASK THAT IN THE SHORT TERM ONLY AN ELECTIVE CHAPTER BE HELD AND AT A LATER DATE A NORMAL GENERAL CHAPTER.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

6. WE CONSIDER IT NECESSARY THAT THE GENERAL CHAPTER BE HELD AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY) WITHOUT WAITING UNTIL SEPTEMBER 2022. WE THEREFORE ASK THE CENTRAL COMMISSION TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER, EVEN IF IT MEANS FINDING ANOTHER PLACE.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

7. WE NEED A DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE AGAINST ALL TYPES OF ABUSE.

YES 0 NO 8 ABST 0 rejected

8. WE REQUEST THAT “THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLE ON SAFEGUARDING AGAINST ALL FORMS OF ABUSE” BE TRANSFORMED INTO A WORKING DOCUMENT. IT SHOULD PLACE THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE CONSTITUTIONS AND STATUTES RELATING TO ALL FORMS OF ABUSE AND PREVENTION IN A WIDER CONTEXT. THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE A HELP FOR DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT IN THE COMMUNITIES.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

9. WE WISH TO REWORD **C. 30 BIS** AS FOLLOWS:

EACH COMMUNITY AND MEMBER OF THE ORDER, IS AWARE OF THE RESPECT AND DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING, PARTICULARLY THE MOST VULNERABLE, WATCHING OUT ANY TYPE OF ABUSE OF POWER AND CONSCIENCE AND SEXUAL ABUSE AND VIOLENCE.

STATUTE 30 BIS A: A COMMUNITY PROTOCOL IS PUT IN PLACE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE VARIOUS CHURCH AUTHORITIES.

STATUTE 30 BIS B: THE PROTOCOL AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION ARE REVIEWED AT THE REGULAR VISITATION.

STATUTE 30 BIS C: THE COMMUNITY RECEIVES FORMATION IN THIS AREA..

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

10. WE WISH TO REWORD THE STATUTE FOR THE REGULAR VISITATION 16G AS FOLLOWS:

THE EXISTENCE AND APPLICATION OF A PROTOCOL FOR THE PROTECTION OF EVERY PERSON, PARTICULARLY THE MOST VULNERABLE (C. 30 BIS)

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

11. WE WISH TO REWORD THE RATIO INSTITUTIONIS 16BIS AS FOLLOWS:

CONSCIOUS OF THE RESPECT AND DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING, THE COMMUNITY ENSURE THE FORMATION CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS OF ABUSE (C. 30 BIS).

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

COR ORANS (*referring to the working paper of the Law Commission. August 2019*)

12. CHANGES RELATING TO Statute for Foundations 8 and 9 (CO 29 - Consent of a foundation by the Holy See)

OPTION 1: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 2: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

13. CHANGES RELATING TO Statute for the Foundations 8b (CO 32 - written confirmation of founders)

OPTION 1: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0 (*vote option 2 is not taken*)

OPTION 2: YES NO ABS

14. CHANGES RELATING TO C.69.2 and St.F. 14 (CO 33 - Opening a Novitiate in a Foundation)

OPTION 1: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 2: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

15. CHANGES RELATING TO Statute for the Foundations 15a (number of professed required for autonomy)

OPTION 1: YES 0 NO 7 ABS 1 rejected

OPTION 2: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 3: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0

16. CHANGES RELATING TO Statute for the Foundations 13 (CO 32: Suspension of chapter rights in the mother house of members of a foundation)

OPTION 1: YES	0	NO	5	ABS	3	rejected
OPTION 2: YES	0	NO	8	ABS	0	rejected
OPTION 3: YES	7	NO	0	ABS	1	

17. CHANGES RELATING TO C.13.3 and 13.4 (CO 176, the abbess's power to authorize absences from the monastery)

OPTION 1: YES	8	NO	0	ABS	0	<i>(vote option 2 is not taken)</i>
OPTION 2: YES		NO		ABS		

18. CHANGES RELATING TO C.62.1 (CO 177, 178 - exclaustation)

OPTION 1: YES	8	NO	0	ABS	0	<i>(vote option 2 is not taken)</i>
OPTION 2: YES		NO		ABS		

19. CHANGES RELATING TO C.29 (CO 172-173, 208-211 (closing)

OPTION 1: YES	0	NO	2	ABS	6	rejected
OPTION 2: YES	8	NO	0	ABS	0	accepted
OPTION 3: YES	0	NO	1	ABS	7	rejected

20. NEW St 39.C - CO 45 (loss of the right to elect a superior if the number of solemn professed falls to five)

OPTION 1: YES	0	NO	8	ABS	0	rejected
OPTION 2: YES	4	NO	3	ABS	1	accepted <i>(vote option 3 is not taken)</i>
OPTION 3: YES		NO		ABS		

21. CHANGES RELATING TO St 46.1.A (CO 262, 268, 275; the aspirantship, the duration of the postulate)

OPTION 1: YES	0	NO	8	ABS	0	rejected
OPTION 2: YES	0	NO	8	ABS	0	rejected

OPTION 3: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0 accepted

22. CHANGES RELATING TO St. 50.A (CO 279 - dispensation of the second Novitiate year)

OPTION 1: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 2: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 3: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0 accepted

23. CHANGES RELATING TO C.52 (CO 287-288 - duration of the period of temporary profession)

OPTION 1: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 2: YES 0 NO 8 ABS 0 rejected

OPTION 3: YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0 accepted

24. REGARDING THE URGENCY AND NOT TO PROLONG UNNECESSARILY THE TREATMENT FOR THE HANDLING OF THE CHANGES IN THE PROPER LAW OF THE O.C.S.O. REQUIRED BY COR ORANS, WE PROPOSE THAT THE LAW COMMISSION IN PREPERATION FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2022 CONTACT THE CICLSAL TO EXPLORE TOGETHER THE IMPLICATIONS OF COR ORANS FOR OUR OWN LEGISLATION.

YES 8 NO 0 ABS 0