



CORPUS VITREARUM (CV)  
Association internationale sans but lucratif /  
International non-profit association

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### **Minutes of the General Assembly held in Kraków, Thursday, 9 July 2026**

Representatives of 11 member countries (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Catalonia, Switzerland, USA) attended the General Assembly, which was chaired by Prof. Tim Ayers, President of the International Board.

Votes from Italy and Canada were cast by the President, with whom they had been placed previously.

#### **1. Report of the President of the International Board, Prof. Tim Ayers**

The President welcomed members to the second General Assembly of 2026 and thanked those who had participated in the online meeting in March. He noted that the Assembly would consider proposals concerning new associate committees, a subscription increase, revised guidelines, and the future of the Digital Unit.

Members observed a minute's silence in memory of Meredith Parsons Lillich, in recognition of her outstanding contribution to stained glass studies, and in memory of Stephen Koob, glass scientist and former chief conservator at the Corning Museum of Glass.

The President reported the withdrawal of the Russian National Committee, at its own request, and recognized the value of past collaborations with Russian colleagues.

He highlighted recent achievements, including the publication of seven new Corpus volumes, UAI funding of approximately €8,500 for 2026-27, the participation of seven bursary students in the colloquium, and encouraging developments in Chile, Ireland, Norway, Slovenia and Ukraine.

The President also reported that the International Board had met six times since the Erfurt colloquium, and thanked Board members and invited guests for their work and support. He reminded members that elections for President and Secretary would take place at the next

colloquium. Next year (2027) will also be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Corpus Vitrearum, so the project should consider how best to celebrate this.

## **2. Report of the Secretary of the International Board, Prof. Dobrosława Horzela**

The Secretary reported that, following legal and organisational requirements, the international website had been updated, including publication of General Assembly minutes, statutes, and other founding documents. Membership information, publication records, and national bibliographies for 2024-26 had also been revised, including updates reflecting the dissolution of the Russian Committee and changes to the history of the Italian Committee. The Secretary thanked the national committees for their contributions and expressed gratitude to Gabriele Biehle and the Freiburg *Arbeitsstelle* for maintaining and developing the website. She noted ongoing discussions regarding the site's future development, supported by the Digital Unit.

## **3. Report of the Treasurer of the International Board, Dr Daniel Parello**

The Treasurer reported on work undertaken on behalf of the International Board. He introduced the new Corpus Vitrearum Virtual Library, a digital platform developed by the Freiburg Centre in cooperation with the International Board and Heidelberg University Library. Launched in February 2026, the website already provides online access to 30 Corpus volumes and more than 14,000 searchable pages from several participating countries. The platform offers full-text search functionality, map-based access to georeferenced sites, and a specialised stained-glass bibliography containing over 11,000 references. Future developments will include additional national contributions, user annotations, multilingual access, and the integration of further publication series. The project aims to improve access to Corpus Vitrearum research, increase the visibility of national committees, and strengthen international scholarly collaboration.

## **4. Information on the activities of the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass, Dr Claudine Loisel**

Members were informed about recent developments within the International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass (ISCCSG), including the election of a new Executive Committee and the main initiatives currently underway.

A new Executive Committee was elected on 19 December 2025, comprising Claudine Loisel (President), Sophie Wolf (Vice-President), Sarah Jarron (Secretary General), and four ordinary members: Sarah Brown, Isabelle Lecocq, Ivo Rauch and Pedro Redol. The International Scientific Committee for the Conservation of Stained Glass (ISCCSG) currently comprises 48 members.

Several initiatives are underway:

1. Follow-up on the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) issue concerning lead (Pb).
2. Establishment of an expanded working group to create a multilingual online thesaurus, in collaboration with Jonatan Steller from the Digital Unit.

3. Preparation of directions for securing stained glass in wartime and fact sheets in several languages.

Information about the ISCCSG is available on its website: <https://www.isccsg.com/en>.

To improve the flow of information between the two organisations, members of the International Board of the Corpus Vitrearum will be invited to attend future meetings of the ISCCSG Executive Committee. The next Executive Committee meeting will take place in October 2026. The ISCCSG General Assembly is scheduled for 3 December 2026.

## **5. New Committees**

The President introduced proposals for associate membership of the Corpus Vitrearum from Chile and Ireland; these had previously been circulated to all national committees. Representatives from Chile and Ireland were asked to leave the Assembly for the following discussion and vote. The President noted that, in accordance with the Statutes, new applicants are first admitted as associate members for a two-year period (before being eligible to apply for full membership), and read out the academic and organisational requirements for such membership (3.2.1). He reported that the International Board had commented upon both proposals, and concluded that they now met these requirements. The Assembly was invited to comment on the applications.

It was agreed that votes on the applications should be taken separately and in alphabetical order, by secret ballot. The first vote concerned the application from Chile. The application was approved unanimously, with 26 votes in favour. Chile was therefore admitted as an associate member of the Corpus Vitrearum.

The second vote concerned the application from Ireland. The application was approved unanimously, with 26 votes in favour. Ireland was therefore admitted as an associate member of the Corpus Vitrearum.

## **6. Subscription**

The Treasurer presented a proposal to increase membership fees from 2027, noting that fees had remained unchanged since 2013, whereas operating costs had increased. Additional expenses arising from the new international association, inflation, and the need to establish a financial reserve were cited as reasons for the proposal. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the budget, the Board proposed capping expenditure on scholarships and colloquia at €10,000, and introducing annual fees of €40 for regular members and €35 for early-career researchers. The proposal was opened for discussion, before being submitted to the General Assembly for a vote.

In the discussion, several members expressed reservations about introducing a reduced membership fee for early-career researchers. Ivo Rauch (Germany) opposed differentiated fee levels, while Jean-François Luneau (France) noted that financial challenges affect not only younger scholars, and suggested that holding colloquia every three years might be an alternative solution. The President reported that the Canadian committee had also requested

consideration of a reduced fee for retired researchers. Sarah Brown (Great Britain) emphasized the need to increase the AISBL budget, argued that national committees could support younger members where necessary, and opposed any reduction in the frequency of colloquia. Wojciech Bałus (Poland) observed that the proposed increase in membership fees represented only a very modest increase in the financial burden.

Before the vote, the Assembly was reminded of the voting procedure, including the rule that each national committee is entitled to two votes. The statutes require a simple majority of the members present or represented for such proposals to pass (4.5.1). Subsequent votes were then conducted by a show of hands.

First vote: The Assembly voted on the principle of increasing the membership subscription. The proposal was approved with 25 votes in favour (of 26).

Second vote: The Assembly then voted on whether to introduce a flat-rate membership fee for all members. The proposal for a flat rate was approved with 22 votes in favour (of 26).

Third vote: The Assembly then voted on whether to introduce a flat-rate membership fee of €40. The proposal for a flat rate of €40 was approved with 22 votes in favour (of 26).

## **7. Guidelines**

The President introduced the proposed revisions to Sections 1-3 of the Corpus Vitrearum Guidelines, which had been updated to align with the newly adopted Statutes. He noted that the revisions had been prepared by a working group comprising Dobrosława Horzela, Isabelle Lecocq, Claudine Loisel, Hartmut Scholz and Tim Ayers, and circulated to members in advance of the General Assembly (including versions showing tracked changes). A brief discussion followed.

The proposed revisions to Sections 1-3 of the Corpus Vitrearum Guidelines were then submitted to the Assembly for approval. According to the statutes, such decisions must be taken by an absolute majority of all the members of the General Assembly (4.5.2). A vote was conducted by a show of hands, and the amendments were approved unanimously, with 26 votes in favour.

## **8. Digital Unit Report**

The Assembly then considered the Digital Unit Report, a proposal for the Digital Unit's programme of work for the next two years, and another for the future development of the international website. These had been circulated in advance of the General Assembly. The President thanked the members of the Digital Unit for their essential work and contribution to the digital future of the Corpus Vitrearum.

Votes were then conducted by a show of hands, to approve (1) the Digital Unit Report for publication on the international website, (2) the proposed programme of activities for the

next two years, and (3) the proposed website revision. Each proposal was approved unanimously, with 26 votes in favour.

### **9. Next Colloquium**

Sarah Keller and Sophie Wolff presented preliminary plans for the next Corpus Vitrearum Colloquium, to be held in Switzerland, 26-30 June 2028. The colloquium will be organised around the theme 'Mobility / Mobilité / Mobilität'. They provided an overview of the proposed programme and organisational arrangements. On behalf of the General Assembly, the President welcomed the invitation and thanked the organisers for their preparations.

The President invited offers to host the colloquium in 2030, or subsequently.

### **10. Further Expansion of Corpus Vitrearum**

The Assembly then discussed the establishment of a Ukrainian Committee. Joost Caen (Belgium) emphasized that the ongoing war in Ukraine required immediate measures to support the documentation and preservation of the country's stained-glass heritage, and suggested that a fast-track procedure should be considered for a future Ukrainian application. This view received broad support from other participants in the discussion. The President confirmed that, under the Statutes, a proposal could be submitted to the international board for approval and then submitted to an extraordinary online General Assembly. This can be done at an early date, if the General Assembly agrees.

A vote by show of hands was then held on the proposal to introduce a fast-track procedure for considering an application from Ukraine. The proposal was approved with 21 votes in favour (of 22; Canada and Italy were absent, and had not anticipated these votes).

The Assembly then discussed the further expansion of membership. Günther Buchinger (Austria) outlined the possibility of an application from Slovenia. The President informed members of interest from colleagues in Norway, who have gained funding and institutional partners. The Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research (NIKU) will support research on post-medieval stained glass. A Norwegian national committee could consist of members from NIKU, Nidaros Cathedral Restoration Workshop and the National Museum of Norway.

Following a brief discussion, the Assembly voted on whether to encourage formal applications from Slovenia and Norway to become associate members. The proposal was approved by a show of hands with 21 votes in favour (of 22; Canada and Italy were absent, and had not anticipated these votes).

Finally, Wojciech Batus (Poland), on behalf of the colloquium organisers, thanked all participants for their contributions, and the President formally declared the General Assembly closed.

Prof. Dobrosława Horzela,  
Secretary, International Board, Corpus Vitrearum

