

Dear Members of the Council, Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well.

In relation to the proposal for new statutes for the Academy, I would like to offer a contribution concerning the issue of membership fees.

Item 6.3 defines “active members.” Currently, members who pay their fees receive the Academy’s Archives, which is certainly a good thing. However, it also has a potential shortcoming: it makes the membership fee relatively high.

I would like to propose that members could opt between two levels of fees: one including the Archives and another without it. My assumption is that a larger number of members would be able to afford the reduced fee (without the Archives), thus making it possible for them to participate more actively in the life of the Academy. As a side effect, this might also increase the Academy’s ability to raise funds.

I would like to make clear that I fully understand the symbolic importance of the Academy’s publication, and I do not mean for this proposal to be read as dismissive of it in any way. My concern is above all economic, particularly regarding the ability of individual members to afford the current fee, whether because they are retired, live in countries facing economic challenges, or for any other reason. For the same reason, I would also support a graduated fee structure that takes different income levels into account.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Best regards,

Carlos Gonçalves