



Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

As announced in letter 176 in April, the Supreme Council has held its Solemn Meeting on June 11th. Among other things, it has stated its position on the whole of the conclusions of the commissions in charge of examining the proposals put forward during the various videoconferences devoted to the debate on the state and the functioning of the Jurisdiction.

Please find below the complete overview of the decisions. Some are to be immediately implemented, others will come into effect as soon as the various Regulations are modified according to their respective rules.

Although the limited frame of the present letter makes it impossible to comment them all, I wish, nevertheless, to clarify two of them.

The first one is the addition of the principle of freedom of conscience to article 3 of our Constitution.

While it is contained in article 6 of the Declaration of Geneva signed by our Supreme Council in May 2005, this affirmation of the “...*necessity of freedom of conscience*...” had never been included in our constitutional texts.

It is the case now, ensuring our continuity and our coherence with the Constitution of the Grand Orient of France, and allowing us to reassert the fact that the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite invites us to a liberating and emancipating masonic practice, dedicated to the freedom of thought and the freedom to think, whatever its sources or origins.

The second one concerns two modifications to article 17 of the General Regulations, constituting the Code of Procedure of the Sovereign Grand Tribunal.

In the current wording of the said Regulations, the parties cannot be assisted at the hearing which, moreover, “*is notified to the Secretariat of the Supreme Council on the very day when it is held*”. A curious idea of justice when neither the petitioner nor the accused can be assisted by a counsel, and hearings are conducted with such a degree of discretion that it is practically impossible for any of us to be informed in due time and to be able to attend! Should difficulties arise, this, very probably, would not resist long before a profane jurisdiction such as, for instance, the European Court of Human Rights.

From now on, it will be possible for the parties to be assisted during the hearings which will be made public at least 30 calendar days before they are held.

Those changes were needed. We cannot mean to be the staunch defender of Human Rights while we accept regulations which ignore them.

If our actions must be in accordance with our words, our writings cannot be less so.

Fraternal greetings to all.

Ill. Bro. : Georges LASSOUS, 33°
Sovereign Grand Commander