



In both hemispheres, the Scottish Rite of the Higher Degrees is the most widely practised of the masonic rites which come after the Craft Degrees. Following on from the action of the Grand Orient of France whose values we supplement, our Jurisdiction administers lodges on every continent. Free from any illusory expectation of an Anglo-American recognition, our Supreme Council has been well aware of the evolution of Humanist Masonic Jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite, since the *2005 Geneva Declaration*, a document which can be found on the AMHG website.

Those considerations lead us to offer to those historic jurisdictions who share our values - along with the International Order of Co-Freemasonry *Le Droit Humain*, and women's Scottish jurisdictions - to establish Continental Conferences, in Europe and the Mediterranean as well as in Africa and in the Indian Ocean. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, after the Great Autumn Meetings, the proposal was approved in our temple n°2 "*Etienne Morin*" by those European Jurisdictions - except one - of the Mediterranean, Africa and the Indian Ocean.

In the Americas, where lodges of our Jurisdiction are working, whether in North America, in French Guyana, in Martinique or in Guadeloupe, the American Federation of Supreme Councils of the AASR (AFSCAASR)/Federación Americana de Supremos Consejos del REAA (FASCREAA) has been in existence for 10 years and comprises 20 jurisdictions. This year, its general meeting was held in Villavicencio, Colombia, a country where Liberal Masonry has been working towards a lasting peace after decades of armed conflict. Our Supreme Council was represented by Hui Sze Kwong, the French Grand Chancellor for Foreign Affairs, Alain Fumaz, the Grand Orator of the Areopagus of the Supreme Council "*Etienne Morin*", in charge of international relations, and by me. We offered the complete support of our Jurisdiction to our Colombian brethren. We regretted the absence of the Supreme Council of the grand Orient of Venezuela who is in great difficulties on account of a self-proclaimed Bolivarian revolution, the outcome of which is uncertain, to say the least.

In our capacity of honorary member of FASCREAA since 2016, we had applied for full membership: this was approved by a unanimous decision on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2017. Subsequent to our accession, we signed treaties of friendship with the Supreme Councils of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Uruguay. In due time, *Le Droit Humain* and the women's jurisdictions of Latin America are entitled to join.

Subsequent to those international policy choices, the Continental Conference of Humanist Masonic Jurisdictions of the Scottish Rite in Europe and the Mediterranean will take place in Athens from May 11<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> 2018. The Continental Conference for Africa and the Indian Ocean will be prepared on the margins of the African and Madagascan Fraternal and Humanist Meeting (REHFRAM) on the occasion of a Great Lodge of Perfection which will be held in Dakar, Senegal, on February 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018. The Conference for Africa and the Indian Ocean will be installed in the autumn of 2018.

Those continental conferences of Scottish Higher Degrees will make it possible to have a sustained dialogue between Scottish masons of the same continent, on the occasions of lectures, seminars, and of a Great Lodge of Perfection, chaired by the jurisdiction in charge of organisation. The works of the continental conferences will be followed by an intercontinental dialogue which will materialise at the International Meeting of Scottish Higher Degrees (RIHGE), an event initiated 40 years ago by our Great Commander Chabanne. It will convene in Brazzaville, Congo in June 2019. The RIHGE will thus be strengthened and their action will expand.

Wherever they take place, all scheduled events will bear witness to our standards of spirituality and universalism, together with our constant quest for the respect of human dignity. Each and every member of our Jurisdiction ought to be fully aware of the fact that the building of his/her inner temple cannot be separated from the building of the outer temple. Our Jurisdiction's international activities are a contribution to those ends.