The Executive Committee, President and Program Chair

Post-Communist Systems in International Relations Section (POSTCOMM) Executive Committee consists of nine members:

North American representatives: Mark Katz, Maria Omelicheva, Andrei Tsygankov, Houman Sadri

Representatives from the region: Marina Lebedeva, Konstantin Khudoley, Svetlana Khozhirova

Past presidents of section: Andrei Korobkov and Reuel Hanks

Our terms of office expire at the POSTCOMM annual business meeting in 2015, at which time an election for a new committee will be held.

Stanislav Tkachenko (St.Petersburg State University) was elected as a new president of the section active immediately. The duration of the term is 2 years. Previous section president, Dr. Reuel Hanks (Oklahoma State University), who has been elected as the Section president for 2012-2014, has deserted from this position due to personal request. He stays at the Executive Committee of the POSTCOMM section.

Gregory Gleason (George C. Marshall European Center) was elected to perform the duties of POSTCOMM Section’s program chair for next year. A decision has been made that the program chair in consultation with the president will appoint a program committee to assist him with the panel’s formation.

Section Membership

Membership in POSTCOMM has continued its upward trajectory. Membership (which varies month-on-month as members’ memberships expire and they renew or not) as of January 2013 was at 2008. Following an impressive jump from 87 in 2007 to 142 in 2009, each subsequent year numbers have increased gradually. In 2013 membership of the POSTCOMM section has surpassed for the first time in many years the level of 200 members. There are 208 participants of the section nowadays representing both North and Latin America, Eurasia and Pacific Rim countries. At the Executive Committee of the section there are representatives of three countries (USA, Kazakhstan and Russian Federation).

Programme

For both the 2011 and 2012 ISA Annual Conferences, our 12 allocated slots have been turned into 14 panels and roundtables thanks to the skill of previous President of the section Andrei
Korobkov and ExCom in negotiating joint sponsorship of panels and roundtables with other sections as well as with the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

Again through the impeccable efforts of the Programme Chair Gregory Gleason, we have been able to accommodate most of the panel proposals that named POSTCOMM as their first choice, and a relatively large number of the papers as well.

**Finances**

The finances of POSTCOMM continue to be growing rather slowly if count them on year-to-year base, given that membership continues to increase, and in recent times our only significant expense has been for hosting our annual reception. At the beginning of 2013 our account balance stood at $1846.00. As of 31.09.2013, our account balance stood at $1236.11. Our expenses were $1124.89, paid towards our reception at ISA San Francisco Convention. An successful attempts has been made to find sponsors for POSTCOMM Reception at the Toronto 2014 ISA Convention to secure some additional funds for a prize – the Robert H. Donaldson Award, the Alexei Bogaturov Chair.

**Activities**

The POSTCOMM Annual General Meeting at the ISA Annual Conference in San Francisco was comparatively well attended. A number of issues regarding management of the Section and composition of panels were discussed, with enthusiastic input from members and intensive discussion.

Mikhail A. Molchanov (St. Thomas University, Canada) has become the first winner of the Robert H. Donaldson Award, which has been created by POSTCOMM Section in 2012 to emphasize tremendous role of Professor Donaldson in establishment agenda and routes for development of studies of Post-Communist systems in International Relations.

The winner of the 2013 Robert H. Donaldson Award is Dr. Andrey A. Baykov, Associate Professor of Political Science at MGIMO University in Moscow. The title of the winning paper is "Diffusion of Economic Power through Integration: The Case of the EU and Russia". The award ceremony will take place on March 28th, 2014 at the business meeting of the POSTCOMM Section at the ISA convention in Toronto.

The importance of co-sponsorship of panels at ISA Conventions with other sections and thematic sub-units of ISA has been discussed. There is growing interest among members of the section to study Post-Communist states not only in Europe, but also in other parts of the world, first of all – in Asia. For that reason the idea of co-sponsorship with other sections (sub-units) which has demonstrated their research interests towards former socialist countries all around the world has been discussed. Following this suggestion, a panel on Transnational Challenges for Intelligence Practitioners at 2014 ISA Convention in Toronto has been co-sponsored by POSTCOMM and Intelligence Studies Section. There are possibilities for co-sponsorship with Comparative Interdisciplinary Studies and some others.
POSTCOMM section is developing its cooperation in research and curriculum development with a net of associations of IR studies in former Communist states. In 2013 special attention has been devoted to opening of developing cooperation with the Republic of Kazakhstan. Several members of ExCom and president of the section have assisted colleagues at the Republic of Kazakhstan in establishment of the Eurasian International Studies Association, which is public nonprofit association and its activities are devoted to the support of democratic reforms and the integration of the Republic of Kazakhstan into world community. EISA presentation is scheduled for Toronto POSTCOMM section Business Meeting. On June 15, 2013, the inauguration of the EISA took place at the Eurasian National University (Astana, Kazakhstan) with participation of POSTCOMM representatives and delegates from countries of the Central Asia, USA, India, Russia, Poland, Czech Republic.

POSTCOMM section is continuing its cooperation with Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. It includes joint panels at ASEEES Convention (Boston in November 2013) and ISA Convention (San Francisco (April 2013), sponsored by two organizations.

In March 2014 the School of International Relations of Saint-Petersburg State University celebrates its 20-th anniversary since it has been established. SIR is a full member of APSIA since 1998 and School’s professors and researchers are attending ISA convention every year since 1998. The anniversary will be celebrated at 2014 ISA Convention in Toronto.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the POSTCOMM Section,

Stanislav Tkachenko, POSTCOMM President

December 2013.