

Dear friends,

Despite the deadline extension for the ISS Conference, the number of submissions that we received is well below what we were expecting in the light of the number of participants to the previous ISS Conferences.

This disappointing response to our call for papers is most likely due to the uncertainty caused by the spread of the Covid-19 pandemics. It is very likely that travel restrictions and limits to the organization of events involving high number of participants will be still operating in July. It is quite unlikely that the borders of all the relevant countries will be opened by July as — even if the pandemics will be under control - most countries will probably adopt severe precautionary measures to prevent a new outbreak.

If anything, high uncertainty on how the situation will evolve is clearly preventing potential participants to engage, submit a paper and register for the Conference.

Taking all this into consideration, I think it is necessary to postpone the conference and I suggest holding it in the same dates next year (July 8-10, 2021).

As far as the Schumpeter Prize Competition is concerned, we have received a good number of articles and books. For this reason, I suggest asking the committee to carry out the evaluation and choose the prize-winner under two conditions: the first is that results have to remain confidential until the next conference; the second is that we have to inform participants that the prize will be awarded based on the submissions received by the March 1 2020 deadline, that there will not be another prize in 2021, and that the winner will be announced at the conference held in July 2021.

Concerning submissions to the Conference, I would instead propose to close and reset now the submission process and open it again in November or December 2020, letting those whose submissions we have received know that they can send the same submission next year, if they would like to do so.

Massimo Egidi