

G. Bernardini, President of the European Physical Society, addresses the inaugural session of the Florence Conference in the Palazzo Vecchio. Behind him are the heralds and the standard of the Mayor of Florence, L. Bausi, (seated centre of photograph) and on the right is C. A. Funaioli, Rector of the University of Florence.

Foto Torrini

Top : The audience in the 'Salone dei 500' during the inaugural session.

Below : Members of the first Council of the Society photographed during a Session of the Council on 11 April in the 'Sala dei 200' of the Palazzo Vecchio.

Foto Torrini

## The By-laws

The By-laws of the European Physical Society were approved by the Council at its meeting in Florence on 11 April.

Any comments from members of the Society concerning the By-laws should be forwarded to the Main Secretariat so that, if appropriate, they can be discussed at the July meeting.



### I Membership

**Rule 1** Individuals applying for ordinary membership shall do so on the standard application form, which shall be signed by two individual Ordinary Members or by two members of the governing body of a society, group or laboratory which is an Ordinary Member of the Society.

**Rule 2** Societies, groups or laboratories, eligible for membership, under Article 4 (b) of the Constitution, shall accompany their application by certified or photostatic copies of their constitution and by-laws and of such additional documents as the Council may require.

**Rule 3** Fellows have all the rights of Ordinary Members; they vote and are eligible to office as individual Ordinary Members.

**Rule 4** Associate Members and Honorary Members have the same right as Ordinary Members to attend meetings and subscribe to the publications of the Society. They do not have the right to vote and they are not eligible for service on the Council.

**Rule 5** Admittance to Associate Membership or to Honorary Membership is decided by the Council. The total number of Honorary Members at any one time shall not exceed fifty.

**Rule 6** Every new member who is elected or admitted shall be informed by the Secretariat of his election or admittance and shall receive from the Secretariat copies of the relevant documents.

**Rule 7** Subject to Rule 37, no election or admittance of Members or Fellows shall become effective until the relevant fees have been paid.

**Rule 8** The fiscal year shall be the calendar year and membership fees are due on 1 January. In the event of non-payment of the fee after six calendar months membership may be terminated by the Council.

**Rule 9** Expulsion of a member shall be by a decision of the Council. The Executive Committee shall present to the Council a full report on the reasons for the proposed expulsion before the matter is formally considered.

**Rule 10** All matters of doubt or

difficulty relating to membership shall be decided by the Council.

## II Organization

### a) The General Meeting

**Rule 11** In a General Meeting, summoned in session according to the Constitution, Articles 12, 13 and 14, Ordinary Members and Fellows vote. Every Ordinary Member or Fellow, whether personally represented at a summoned session or participating by mail, is entitled to one vote in the decisions.

**Rule 12** A General Meeting may decide in an Ordinary session only upon agenda items for which six months notice has been given according to Article 12 of the Constitution, unless the Council decides otherwise by a two-thirds majority vote.

**Rule 13** Any fifty Ordinary Members and Fellows, making their opinion known by mail vote or by being present and voting at a session of a General Meeting, shall constitute a quorum for decision.

**Rule 14** When a postal ballot is held the result is valid only if at least 10 % of the total Ordinary Membership and Fellowship, entitled to vote in a summoned session of a General Meeting according to Rule 11, return valid ballot papers, except when Article 18 (4) of the Constitution applies.

### b) The Council

**Rule 15** The Council shall take office on 1 April of each year.

**Rule 16** Normally all nominations and elections to service on the Council are for a three-year term, but one-third of those members of the Council who will not be serving on the Executive Committee shall retire each year.

**Rule 17** At least three years shall elapse before a former member of the Council may be re-elected to the Council.

**Rule 18** Societies, groups or laboratories which are Ordinary Members shall have freedom to nominate their representatives on the Council (including filling of casual vacancies in the number of their delegates for the unexpired term of office), subject only to the terms of the Constitution and these By-laws.

**Rule 19** Representatives on the Council of the Individual Ordinary Members — Constitution Article 4 (a) and (c) — shall be elected by ballot vote from a list, provided by the Secretariat, of all nominations, which shall be signed by at least three individual Ordinary Members or Fellows, which have been received before 1 January of the year of the election. The ballot returns, with candidates

arranged in order of decreasing number of votes obtained, then provide the names of that category of Council members, in the number required by Article 16 (b) of the Constitution — and also the names for those that may be needed later on to fill casual vacancies for unexpired term — always counting down the list, in the direction of decreasing strength of ballot votes received.

**Rule 20** A quorum of the Council shall be the first whole number equal to or greater than one half of the total number of Council members.

**Rule 21** All decisions of the Council shall be by a simple majority of those present and voting, including proxy votes, unless specifically stated in the Constitution or By-laws to be otherwise.

### c) The Executive Committee

**Rule 22** The President and the Vice-President shall normally retire in alternate years.

**Rule 23** A quorum of the Executive Committee is six.

**Rule 24** All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by simple majority of those present and voting. In case the vote is a tie, the Chairman shall decide.

**Rule 25** The Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a year.

### d) The Secretariat

**Rule 26** The Executive Secretary is responsible to the Secretary of the Society for general administrative matters and to the Treasurer of the Society for financial matters. The Executive Secretary takes part *ex officio*, but without voting power, in the meetings of the Council and the Executive Committee.

**Rule 27** Besides the Executive Secretary, the Secretariat has employees, appointed by the Executive Secretary in accordance with the policy of the Executive Committee.

**Rule 28** The Executive Committee may establish regional branch secretariats, subject to approval by Council.

## III Specialized Divisions

**Rule 29** The formation of a Specialized Division may be approved by the Council on receipt of a formal request from not less than five Ordinary Members.

**Rule 30** Participation in the Activities of Specialized Divisions shall be restricted to individual Ordinary Members and Fellows of the Society and to members of such societies, groups or laboratories as are Ordinary Members of the Society.

**Rule 31** The rules and regulations

governing each Specialized Division shall be approved by the Council.

## IV Financial Matters, Fees

**Rule 32** Any decisions on the value of the unit fee, shall be by three out of four votes cast. In this case the entitlement of votes of the members of Council shall be on the basis of the total units assessed under Rule 34 of these By-laws. Proxy voting shall be permitted.

**Rule 33** The annual dues, Constitution Article 15 (d), are expressed in terms of a unit fee, fixed by the Council for any one year.

**Rule 34** Ordinary Members shall pay annual fees as follows :

- a) Individual Ordinary Members, Constitution Article 4 (a) ;  
16 units per member.
- b) Societies, groups or laboratories, Constitution Article 4 (b), according to the following scale :  
first 500 members, 1 unit per member ; next 500 members, 0.7 unit per member ; next 1000 members, 0.6 unit per member ; next 3000 members, 0.5 unit per member ; next 5000 members, 0.4 unit per member ; all members in excess of 10 000, 0 unit per member.
- c) Individual Ordinary Members, Constitution Article 4 (c), who are thus also members of a society, group or laboratory which is an Ordinary Member by Constitution Article 4 (b), 4 units per member

**Rule 35** Fellows shall pay as Individual Ordinary Members, Rule 34 (a) or (c).

**Rule 36** Associate Members shall pay annual fees to be decided by the Council.

**Rule 37** Honorary Members are not required to pay any fees.

**Rule 38** Membership of a Specialized Division shall not involve any additional fee to the Society.

**Rule 39** The Council shall have power to arrange for payment of fees in local currency where problems of restricted convertibility exist.

## V Revision of By-laws

**Rule 40** Any change in these By-laws, except for Rule 32, shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council present and voting.

Any change in Rule 32 shall be decided by the procedure laid down in that Rule.

Proxy voting shall be permitted.