

in Prague. Since it is unlikely that the EPS will have considerable conference funds for the next few years, sponsorship involving financial support cannot be considered at present. The Society may, however, prove helpful in obtaining funds for participants from outside sources.

The Committee feels that large, general physics conferences should not take place more frequently than once in two or three years. The location of such large conferences should be rotated and they should preferably be organized jointly by the EPS and a National Physical Society or academy. Collaboration with IUPAP should be sought. The Committee strongly recommends Gordon-type meetings (limited participation, duration of one week or more, high-level topical discussions) for promoting the development of physics in Europe.

It is felt that, as soon as possible after the Florence Conference, a meeting should be held, together with representatives from the various initiative groups which are already in existence in special fields of physics, and with members of the Executive Committee, in order to establish general lines of policy and to coordinate planning.

Sponsors

Contributions to the Society have been received from :

Brown Boveri and Cie, Mannheim
Laboratories RCA Ltd, Zurich

Contributions to the Society, assisting the establishment of the branch secretariat in Prague, have been received from :

Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences
Nuclear Research Institute, Rez
Solid State Physics Institute, Prague
Steel Corporation, Trinec

By-law addition

At the Council meeting on 11 April there was a strong recommendation that a By-law should be added concerning the venues of meetings — that these should be chosen so that there is no restriction on the attendance of members from any country. This will be taken up again at the next Council meeting in July.

Specialized Divisions

This report is taken from information supplied by E. Rudberg, Chairman of the By-laws Committee, and represents the view of that Committee and of the former Executive Committee.

It has always been the intention to have Specialized Divisions as important constituents of the European Physical Society. This was strongly advocated at an early stage in the preparatory work to bring the Society into being and is envisaged in the Constitution. Certain aspects of their intended status are also outlined in the By-laws. It is urged that Specialized Divisions should be set up without delay, and that the work of these Divisions should play a prominent part in the activities of the Society in the future.

There are some associations of European physicists in existence already, who wish to join as Divisions ; in other fields, specialists have got together and have asked the Society to support the formation of Divisions representing particular fields.

It is natural that the Divisions will differ in size, structure and character and it is important not to impose rules which are too restrictive. The main condition should be that a Division, like the Society itself, is aiming at European co-operation and that it satisfies the requirements as to quality which the Society must uphold. A Division should represent a **sector** of physics, in general dealing with both theory and experiment, and, where the need is felt, with application. The creation of segmented Divisions covering, for example, only 'applied' aspects of a field should be avoided.

It is not expected to cover all physics through the Specialized Divisions and, on the other hand, there may be some overlapping of fields. Where overlapping is apparent, the physicists concerned should consider the possibility of a merger, perhaps into a large Division having several subdivisions.

Divisions should be encouraged to organize conferences according to the needs in their field, the necessary co-ordination with events planned by other Divisions being carried out particularly through the Society's Conference Committee. (Although it is possible to handle conference work of

divisional character via a central committee, such activity would be better placed in the Specialized Divisions.) The Divisions could also supervise other activities within their field such as the exchange of physicists, the establishment of student grants, etc.

The advantages of carrying out the work of the Society to a considerable extent through Divisions are two-fold. To the Division it gives the additional weight of the name of the European Physical Society in negotiations with governments and other organizations in connection with such things as finance and facilities for travel. To the Society it gives the credit for achieving high-quality activity in European physics — and this quality is best safeguarded by the specialists in the particular fields.

Distributing a large part of the Society's activities over the Divisions would not be decentralization acting against the essential aim of co-operation. The Divisions will be European. Conferences of broad scope, publication work, and many other matters would remain the province of the central organs of the Society.

Since some physics organizations representing particular fields are already in existence, doubt can arise whether they should become Specialized Divisions or apply for group membership under Article 4b) of the Constitution. In general, if they are geographically localized, they would seem to fall logically in the last-mentioned category. Others, whose activities are spread throughout Europe, might also best join in this way, particularly if their field of activity is difficult to represent as a clear-cut sector of specialization. If there is doubt, it will probably not be very important whichever way is chosen. However, the risk in assigning the character of Specialized Division to physics organizations who do not clearly cover a particular sector would be that this could block a better defined field from having a Specialized Division created for it at some later time.

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Co-ordinator : E. Ascher
Main Secretariat
European Physical Society
P. O. Box
7, route de Drize
1227 Carouge - Geneva,
Switzerland
Tel. (022) 42 32 50

Editorial Advisory Panel : E. Ascher, G.-J. Béné
L. Jansen, E. N. Shaw

Editor : B. Southworth

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