

europ physics news



BULLETIN OF THE EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

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Support for EPS

We should apologize to our readers for our preoccupation with the financial affairs of the European Physical Society. This preoccupation is likely to remain until such time as the EPS is established on a secure financial footing, for, until this has been achieved, the work of the Society and its component Divisions, Groups and Committees, which has begun so encouragingly in many fields, is in danger of being cut short. In this issue we wish to bring attention to the actions of several European governments (through the intermediary of appropriate bodies in their countries) to contribute to the EPS. Also there have been two appeals to physicists to become Individual Ordinary Members of the EPS — the first one directed to the membership of The Netherlands' Physical Society (N.N.V.) by its President, Professor C. Braams (published in Ned. Tijdschr. v. Nat. 36 (6), 18 April 1970) and the second one circulated in the German Physical Society (D.P.G.), written by its President, Professor K. Ganzhorn. As a first tangible result of Professor Braams' appeal, a considerable part of the new Individual Ordinary Members listed elsewhere in this issue originates from The Netherlands. Because of lack of space, we give here only the text of Professor Ganzhorn's appeal.

Campaign for members

The following appeal was addressed to all members of the **Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft e.V.** (German Physical Society) by the President, K. Ganzhorn: "Dear Member,

The Board and Council of the German Physical Society would like to request you, personally, to **become an Individual Ordinary Member of the EPS.**

You have all been able to read about the formation and initial activities of the European Physical Society in the regular issues of *Europhysics News*. Even the most critical observers will have seen from these reports that already, in the first year of its existence, the EPS has been very active in all the fields covered by its Constitution and has provided a highly effective forum for cooperation and the exchange of ideas between

physicists. In the eyes of the EPS, one of its main purposes is to bring together physicists from all over Europe. The general agreement to use English as the only language for the conduct of all the Society's proceedings, for which special thanks are due to our colleagues of Slav mother tongue, has made no small contribution towards giving a great deal of impetus to personal and professional contact within Europe.

An article in *Europhysics News* No. 8 gives a comprehensive survey of what has been achieved in a short time since the great scientific Inaugural Conference in Florence. The main item of interest to research physicists is the lively activity of the new Divisions of the EPS. These scientific working groups are led by distinguished physicists who have already frequently proved their abilities in the field of international cooperation. The calendar of meetings published in *Europhysics News* notes especially those conferences, summer schools, etc., organized by the Divisions of the EPS: for instance, there are ten special meetings and summer schools in 1970.

L. Jansen, Secretary of the EPS, reported personally to the Board of the German Physical Society on the financial position of the EPS at its meeting on 18 June 1970, while the report was also published in *Europhysics News*. The Society still lacks the financial means for its continued existence. So far, it has been supported essentially by a loan from the Institut Battelle in Geneva, which will have to be paid back. The reason for this unfortunate situation is primarily that only about 2% of the membership of National Member Societies responded to the appeal also to become Individual Ordinary Members of the EPS.

Financial collapse threatens the EPS. If it were to become no longer a threat but a reality, it would not only completely destroy the high hopes held for the EPS and the intellectual bridges that have just been erected, but also prematurely terminate the wide range of activities of the EPS in the field of physics before they had achieved their full and evident success and usefulness. The fully justi-

fied desire of physicists to be called in to help with many political and social problems would lose a great deal of its credibility if it were to appear that they were not prepared to secure this type of European collaboration, which has begun so promisingly, with relatively small contributions of money from their own pockets.

For this reason, the members of the Board and Council of the German Physical Society are asking you to increase your contribution to the establishment of European cooperation in the physics field by becoming, in addition to being a member of our Society, an Individual Ordinary Member of the EPS. The annual subscription to the EPS is 18 Swiss francs. In addition, we should be very grateful to you, on behalf of the EPS, if you could make an extra "founding" donation, stipulated as being for the purposes of the EPS, and payable to the account of the German Physical Society. The whole of such sums will be used for putting the EPS on a sound financial basis. A contribution of as little as 3 DM from every physicist in Europe would completely clear the founding loan. The seven members of the Board, who are themselves Individual Ordinary Members of the EPS, have declared themselves ready and willing to give a good start to this appeal by opening the list of voluntary contributors with a special joint donation of 1000 DM.

The intense cooperation of a large number of its members and its various bodies has already helped to raise the German Physical Society to a prominent position in the EPS. Our appeal to you for additional support for the EPS will undoubtedly be imitated by other National Societies, which will give further proof of the general European desire for cooperation. We should therefore like to ask you once again, in the interests of all physicists in Europe, to become an Individual Member of the EPS and, if possible, to make an additional founding donation.

May I express our deepest gratitude to you in anticipation of your generous help."

K. Ganzhorn

Quantum Electronics Division

We are also pleased to announce that due to the action of the Chairman of the