

European outlook initiated

Highlights of EPS Council Meeting at Oslo on 14, 15 March 1972

The well-designed and relaxing environment at the ETA-STUDIO in Oslo provided the EPS Council Meeting with an intimate setting which seemed to encourage progress towards a genuinely European outlook.

Host for the occasion was T. Riste, President of the Norwegian Physical Society. It was fitting that after the splendid organization of the Meeting he was elected to the EPS Executive Committee in the ballot on the second day.

The Meeting fell neatly into three parts with quite different atmospheres. On the first morning, the President, E. Rudberg, guided the Meeting through the detailed information from Advisory Committees and Divisions, and reported on his actions since the previous Meeting at Split last October. Then, that afternoon the Council left administrative and financial matters to dwell on the thorny problem of whether physics policy was a supranational issue to which EPS could properly address itself. In the final session on 15 March, there was a heightening of tension as the election of the Executive Committee loomed upon the agenda.

First session

Action since Split

Since Split, the President and K.E. Ganzhorn had, following the request by Council, effected changes in the working of the Main Secretariat, and had introduced emergency measures during the illness of the Executive Secretary. In addition, the President reported that he had written letters to the speakers for the plenary sessions of the EPS General Conference at Wiesbaden and had represented EPS at a ceremony to mark the opening of the new magnet laboratory at Braunschweig on 18 February.

The President then introduced the subject of the Secretary-General but decided that since there was no strong candidate yet emerging from his own deliberations the matter should be adjourned. (The selection of a Secretary-General is now in the

hands of a triumvirate — the President, the Secretary and the Vice-Treasurer).

G.-J. Béné presented the results of the election to Council of representatives of Individual Ordinary Members (IOM). Since there were now well over 2000 IOM, three members were declared to be elected — B. Gregory, S.O. Lundquist and A. Guinier. Proposals for simplification of the election procedure were that IOM should only be asked to vote for five candidates and that their votes should be recorded directly on punched cards.

Advisory Committee reports

Guidelines of membership and for operation of Advisory Committees were introduced so that these bodies could assist the Executive Committee more efficiently. O.G. Folberth, whose paper on EPS and Industry was in the last issue of *Europhysics News*, was largely instrumental in maintaining the freedom of operation for Advisory Committees. However, despite the apparent activity of his Advisory Committee on Applied Physics and Physics in Industry, Folberth was insistent that many of its members could contribute much more. G.H. Stafford, Chairman of the Advisory

Committee on Conferences, presented the final draft of 'A Guide to Europhysics Conferences' which had been approved by the Executive Committee with only slight amendment. The full text will be published in the Meetings Issue of *Europhysics News* in June 1972.

The Council were able to endorse the 'Europhysics Style Manual', from the Advisory Committee on Publications. Also discussed were the AIP proposals for Current Physics Information. It was confirmed that H.W. Koch, Director of AIP, would establish good contact with this Advisory Committee to ensure that Europhysics journals were considered appropriately.

Divisional affairs

Largely speaking, the Divisions were progressing smoothly under a fascinating variety of modes of operation.

The Division formerly known as 'Physics in Astronomy' was renamed 'Astronomy and Astrophysics' as proposed by M.T. Rees in this issue. There appeared to be some controversy between the umbrella-like Atomic Physics Division and the Atomic Spectroscopy Division over the proposal that the latter should join up with the new Division. However, it became clear that, since the Atomic Physics Division was to comprise independently operating sections, the Atomic Spectroscopy Division could maintain its identity. Within the Condensed Matter Division, organization was considered as a confederation of sections, and the Low Temperature Division now comes within its scope.

A. Zichichi enriched the proceedings with comment that the relative inactivity of the High Energy and Particle Physics Division was attributable to the unique European cooperation already existing at CERN. He felt that the Division could now tackle problems in education, although other members of Council expressed their doubts.



EPS President, E. Rudberg, conducts his final Council Meeting.

Second session

Self-Control in Physics ?

Whatever the intrinsic merits of the paper by K. Ganzhorn in the January/February issue (3(1)), it certainly served its purpose as a discussion paper for the EPS Council. As Ganzhorn pointed out in introducing his paper, the objective was not so much to arrive at immediate firm proposals for controlling physics as simply to investigate whether there were policy questions which EPS could sensibly handle. The overwhelming conclusion from the discussion was there was much that EPS could undertake in relating physics policy to society. The only requirement now is to establish priorities from amongst the different propositions thrown up by members of the Council.

The first major contribution came from J. Friedel who was in favour of the provision of comparative studies similar to those that OECD produced. He indicated that EPS could usefully publish an information booklet on physics policy in European countries and annual reports on 'growing points' in physics. P. Radvanyi was loathe to recommend an EPS policy-making body since traditions within different countries had led to emphasis on particular scientific problems and he was concerned about the effect on European physics if the wrong course was taken. C.M. Braams was certain that scientists should not hold the power of decision but that they should ensure that politicians were well informed about the issues involved before reaching political decisions on science funding and policy. EPS could be effective in establishing worthwhile goals for physics, in the view of G. Szigeti, who justified his remarks by quoting the response of governments to the calls for an International Geophysical Year and for a Biological Decade issued by the International Council for Scientific Unions.

An appeal for physicists to adopt the same objective approach to policy-making as they did in their professional activities came from L.A.A. Thomas. T. Riste, on the other hand, considered that physicists could only expect to be supported if they adapted to the needs of the society in which they lived. As the acting Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Physics and Society, J. Volger had been closely involved in preparing the final draft of their report only the previous day, so it was with special

interest that members of the Council heard his views about the possible role of EPS in physics policy.

As an Advisor to the Italian Government on physics policy, A. Zichichi outlined that he already had close contact with the politicians who made the decisions. R. Press also indicated that British scientists had an effective voice through the Science Research Council and that, on a European scale, the problem of establishing policy could be reduced to a lack of an effective medium for communication at present.

With all these different and often conflicting views, which made for a gripping discussion, Ganzhorn appeared well satisfied. It only remains to be seen how EPS will grasp his initiative in future activities.

Final session

On 15 March, members of the Council had obviously benefited from the opportunity to clarify issues and to formulate their points of view at the sherry party offered by the Norwegian Physical Society the previous evening. Contributions were made in a frank and unrestrained fashion, especially on finances and on the election of the new Executive Committee.

EPS General Conference

The final session opened with a review of progress with the EPS General Conference from W. Martienssen, Chairman of the Programme Committee. Martienssen answered questions from members of Council on the programme, the ladies' programme, accommodation, arrangements for students and delegates from East European countries. The President conveyed the gratitude of the Council to Martienssen and was hopeful that Wiesbaden event would be a worthy successor to the Florence conference.

Finances and the Main Secretariat

The Secretary, L. Jansen, reported that the budget for 1972 had been reviewed by the Executive Committee and that a surplus would be expected. In answer to questions from the members of the Council, Jansen was apologetic about the lack of information on the final balance for 1971 but pointed out that as a result of Council's own decision, the financial adviser, formerly employed on a full-time basis, was no longer even a part-time employer of EPS but only a consultant.

K. Ganzhorn presented the results of the work he had carried out on the rationalization and the savings at the Main Secretariat. His report had been agreed with the President and the Executive Secretary. He proposed to verify the achievements and savings in June 1972. Ganzhorn's final conclusion was that the appointment of a Secretary-General remained an important and urgent task. The EPS Council members expressed their warm appreciation for the significant time and considerable energy that Ganzhorn had devoted to this project.

Following the introduction of the Editor of *Europhysics News* and the acceptance of the 1972 publication schedule, C. de Vries and H.F. Schopper were appointed auditors of the 1971 accounts.

New Executive Committee

There was quite a heated debate about the conduct of the election of the new Executive Committee, so that it may prove necessary to adopt a more formal procedure in future. However, when the results were announced by J.L. Olsen, after he and Y.V. Sharvin had counted the votes, the nominations by the 1971 Executive Committee were all elected. In his absence, H.B.G. Casimir was resoundingly elected as President from 1 April 1972.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(from 1 April 1972)

President :	H.B.G. Casimir
Vice-President :	C.M. Braams
Secretary :	L. Jansen
Vice-Secretary :	N. Cindro
Treasurer :	L. Cohen
Vice-Treasurer :	G.-J. Béné
Members :	L.A. Artsimovich
	J. Friedel
	K.E. Ganzhorn
	T. Riste
	G. Szigeti

With the election over, it only remained for the outgoing President to wish Casimir, and EPS, future success before he closed the Oslo Meeting of Council.

Tribute by G. Szigeti

At the close of the Meeting, G. Szigeti rose to pay tribute to the fine work that E. Rudberg, President, and G. Bernardini, Vice-President, had accomplished for EPS since its founding in 1968.

Alex. H. Crawford.