



An Appeal to Physicists

We are continually reminded of the immense forces at work in natural phenomena as, relentlessly, different parts of the world are struck by catastrophe, and populations suffer the devastating effects of famines, floods, hurricanes, tidal waves and so on. As men and women we are sorry for the victims and, perhaps, relieved that we personally have not been involved. But the recent earthquake in Romania touches us also as physicists. In addition to the direct human suffering experienced by the people of Romania and the deprivations that result from the destruction of buildings and the interruptions to essential services, the physicists of Romania have lost much precious equipment and this will be a serious setback to the progress of their research.

This is an occasion when we, as members of EPS, should show the solidarity of European physicists and, in addition to offering our sympathies to our Romanian colleagues, we should try to help them in whatever way we can, to enable the practising physicists and students of that country to continue with their work. There are many ways in which this can be done, and I have proposed to our President, Professor I. Ursu — and I have the full support of Council and the Executive Committee — that the EPS should act as a centre to channel aid to those in need.

I appeal to all our members to consider what assistance they might give and to inform the EPS Secretariat as soon as possible of the form this could take. Gifts of both money and equipment are required urgently. I am sure that I have no need to remind you that we are none of us immune from disaster.

H.B.G. Casimir

Following meetings of the Executive Committee, and various Advisory Committees (including a 2-day session of the Physics and Education Committee) and the Quantum Electronics Divisional Board, Council met in Bruges (or Brugge if you prefer it) on March 24 and 25 to consider the progress made since the Leipzig meeting in April last year.

Before the main business began, Council gave unanimous approval to the appeal, launched by Professor Casimir (see opposite) that Europe's physicists should try to help their colleagues in Romania whose equipment had suffered damage in the recent earthquake. The tandem Van de Graaff generator had been extensively affected and a great deal of electronics equipment associated with their nuclear research had been destroyed both in the earthquake and from a subsequent fire. The President, I. Ursu, on behalf of himself and his Romanian colleagues, expressed his

gratitude to the Council for this demonstration of European solidarity.

Amendment to the Constitution

Council agreed without debate that the following announcement to members should be made through *Europhysics News*.

Under Article 18 of the Constitution, "If the Council should decide to amend the Constitution or to expel a member of the Society such decision . . . shall be communicated by the Secretariat by registered mail to all members of the Society". The cost of this provision for postage alone has now inflated to the prohibitive level of around Sw. Frs. 4.500 which is an excessive use of the Society's limited funds for a procedural matter. However, the interests of members must be protected so that all reasonable steps must continue to be taken to ensure wide publicity for such changes.

Practical Arrangements

The EPS Secretariat is expecting lists from Romania of the material most urgently needed. Copies of these lists will be communicated to the National Societies.

Until further notice, information on material available should be sent to the EPS Secretariat which will then, in collaboration with the Romanian Ambassador in Geneva, take care of the organization of transport. For gifts of money, the bank account of the EPS at the Union de Banques Suisses, 1211 Geneva 11, A/C No. 282.079.30 W (European Physical Society) or Postal Account No. 12-19107 may be used. The words "Help for Romanian Scientists" must appear on the credit advice.

Bruges Report from Council

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It is proposed and notice is hereby given through this announcement that the obligation for such notices to be sent by registered mail shall be discontinued with immediate effect and that Article 18 be amended as follows :

Sub-article 18/1. Delete "registered" and add at end of sentence "or by such other method of communication satisfying the principle of wide dissemination as the Council may decide."

Sub-article 18/2. Delete "from the day of mailing such letters" and substitute "of such communication."

Sub-articles 18/3 and 18/4. No change.

EPS Finances

The provisional accounts for 1976 presented to Council showed a healthy surplus of income over expenditure in non-convertible currency of 69 000 Sw. Fr. as against the budgeted figure of 50 000 Sw. Fr. This had been made possible by cutting administrative expenses to the absolute limit but the Treasurer warned the Council that the Secretariat was now saturated and increased activity would inevitably entail increased expenditure.

The budget for 1977 approved by Council anticipated again a surplus in 1977 but smaller than in the previous year due particularly to the anticipated reduced income from associate members. Again a warning from the Treasurer that as associate members had provided nearly one third of our subscription income, we could not afford to let a downward trend become established. All members were urged to exert influence where they could to bring in new members, while the relevant national society would be asked to intervene in the case of new "defections". The audited accounts for 1975 showed an accrued deficit in convertible currency of 112 178 Sw. Fr. and a credit deposit in non-convertible of nearly 68 000 Sw. Fr. A summary of the 1976 profit and loss accounts and the latest estimates for 1977 are shown in the accompanying table.

Council applauded the decision of the French Physical Society to waive the repayment of the last 2500 Fr. owing from the original loan it had made to EPS.

The low fraction of the budget being used to support divisions raised comment. It was acknowledged that funds could not be made available to subsidize ordinary conferences or help with the travel costs of Board members but there were activities such as the organization of Gordon-type meetings and work-shops where support seemed justified. This was clearly

an item needing consideration in future budgets.

One problem that faced the Society was the non-payment of subscriptions, a situation that was not explicitly dealt with in the Constitution and By-Laws except by implication under the provisions for expulsion, which were necessarily rather formal. Council agreed therefore that the rules should be modified to allow privileges to be withdrawn from a non-paying 4a) or 4c) member after a due warning period, at which point his membership would be considered to have lapsed. Reinstatement was an administrative action not requiring a new application.

Conferences

Most of the Divisions reported on the major conferences they are organizing in the coming period. Council was also informed of the progress in the plans for York and the balance of the plenary sessions was debated. In relation to the activities of the Advisory Committee on Physics and Society, Member Societies of EPS have been asked to set up in their countries study groups to prepare reports on various aspects of the physics-society interaction. These activities will be co-ordinated by the Committee and the results will be used for discussions in parallel afternoon sessions at York and in a plenary evening session. For further information, members should contact their national physical society, or the physics section of their national academy of sciences, or Professor H. van Regemorter, Observatoire de Paris, F-92190 Meudon, France.

The Conference Committee was able to announce a marked increase in the number of applications for EPS

recognition emanating from Eastern countries. It was hoped that this trend would go on, and that the future issues of *Europhysics News*, Meetings Issues would also be covering more conferences held in Eastern Europe.

The out-going chairman of the Plasma Physics Division stimulated some lively exchanges when explaining the rules the Division had introduced to combat the tendency for authors not to turn up at conferences where their papers were being read. It was now required that a personal registration fee in the name of at least one author must accompany a paper when it is submitted to a PP conference. The fee is returnable if the paper is rejected. Subsequently the paper can only be read by a designated person and no one may read more than two papers of which he is not an author.

Everyone is concerned by the problem of multiple meetings. The Astronomy and Astrophysics Division has been turning its attention to workshops and proposes to continue along this path in the solar physics section. The Atomic Physics Division is trying to persuade various national groups to suppress their annual meetings and organize on a rotational basis a European meeting. Sections of the Condensed Matter Division were also working on this principle.

Cooperation with other Organizations

Having firmly established the principle that EPS should not be insular in its attitudes but seek to have close relations with organizations coordinating activities in related sciences such as biology and astronomy, Council agreed that application be made to UNESCO for affiliation, at least at

EPS Finances in 1000 Sw. Fr.

Income	Provisional A/c 1976	Estimates 1977
Membership fees		
I.O.M. 4a) at 112.—	21	21
I.O.M. 4c) at 28.—	77	77
	7 n.c.	7 n.c.
Members 4b)	144	144
	17 n.c.	17 n.c.
Associate Members and gifts	103	80
Sales of publications (excl. EN)	37	19
Total	382	341
	24 n.c.	24 n.c.
Expenditure		
Secretariat personnel charges	130	130
Travel	8	12
Rent of premises	23	24
Administrative operating costs	50	52
Committee expenses	5	10
Allocation to <i>Europhysics News</i>	35	43
Other publishing costs	37	25
Divisions	7	5
Travelling lecturers	—	2
Depreciation and amortization	20	16
Total	315	319

n.c. = non-convertible

first, in the lowest category of information exchange. There seemed little doubt that EPS fulfilled all the conditions required and it seemed sensible to start off in the lowest grade where there would be no financial obligation. It had to be seen whether a closer association would be beneficial to either side.

Education

The third issue of *Europhysics Education News* dated March 1977 appeared in time for the meeting. It contains contributions from 14 countries on physics teaching at secondary school level and contains some pretty pungent criticisms of present-day practices. A massive enquiry was being made on this subject in European countries through a 13-page questionnaire prepared by the Advisory Committee.

Council approved the steps that were being taken to set up an EPS scholarship scheme for the more senior students. As reported in *EN*, 7 (1976) 11, the idea is for the EPS to act as a channel through which students can get in touch with organizations that can provide places for foreigners. Many of the countries are constrained by bi-lateral agreements but Romania at least was able to

announce that 4-5 scholarship would be put at the disposal of the EPS.

Agreement was reached on the general rules of EPS participation which must obviously be flexible and designed to help in the communication and selection process, and not simply interpose a further bureaucratic step into operations that were working well. Even the compilation of a catalogue of existing facilities was a worthwhile goal. However, there were some countries which would like to move fast, even if others had to start rather gingerly.

Publications

Authorization was given to the Executive to negotiate with the UK Institute of Physics on the publication of a new journal on Education at the university level. The I.o.P. had offered to take all the financial risks over the first five years and then hand the journal over to the EPS. The outgoing chairman of the Publications Committee and the chairman of the Education Committee confirmed that such a journal was needed, and that the I.o.P. proposition for a B5 quarterly, of 64 pp, fulfilled all the obligations required of a Europhysics Journal.

The Council's blessing was also given to the exploration of the means

of introducing a greater coherency and power into European physics publishing. Contacts with the national societies and the publishers will be reinforced and it is hoped that within a year, it should be possible to present definite proposals which were a real advance on the current phase as represented by the award of a Europhysics label.

People

Council responded enthusiastically to the proposal of the President that H.B.G. Casimir be elected the first Fellow of the Society, now that he had retired from the Council and Executive.

For details of the new I.O.M. delegates, the new Executive Committee elected at Bruges, and the changes in Advisory Committee chairmen: see last page. Lack of space prevents EN from recording the many messages of thanks that were addressed to the out-going members of the Council, and Advisory Committee chairmen, all of whose work had been crucial to the steady progress of the EPS. Similarly space does not permit a proper appreciation of the contribution of the two other out-going members of the Executive: T. Riste and J.J. Went, who had both served with such distinction.

Institute of Nuclear Physics Research, Amsterdam

The pion-muon group, has vacant positions for :

PHYSICISTS



- a) at post-doc or senior level, experienced in the field of experimental nuclear physics — intermediate energy or high energy physics. Candidates should be acquainted with modern detection techniques and with numerical programming.
- b) at senior level, with experience directly applicable to the low energy pion-muon physics programme of the Institute.
- c) at senior level, with engineering experience in one or more of the following fields: detection techniques, beam optics, beam interactions with matter, electro-magnetic or particle radiation problems.

Appointments depend on age, qualifications and task-definition. They generally range from several months "visiting scientists" to three years; a permanent appointment may be considered.

Salaries are between Dfl. 2850,— and Dfl. 4200,— per month.

Activities will be concentrated on the set-up of low energy pion-muon physics experiments. Participation in experiments elsewhere (e.g. CERN) is possible. Pion-muon beams are planned to be available in the institute by 1979/1980.

Applications are to be sent to the personnel division, IKO Oosterringdijk 18, Postbus 4395, Amsterdam, within two weeks of the appearance of this advertisement and should include curriculum vitae, list of publications and/or references. Information can be obtained from R. van Dantzig, IKO, tel. 020-930951.