

europphysics news



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Europhysics Letters **Your Letters Journal**

After years of the most thorough discussion on the needs, the means, the structure, the people... during which the physics community of Europe through the EPS Divisions and the national societies has been fully consulted, EPS is able formally to announce the publication from 1 January 1986 of a new fortnightly journal:

Europhysics Letters
Incorporating
Journal de Physique Lettres
and
Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere

Readers of *Europhysics News* have been kept informed of the progress of negotiations, but no apologies are made for recalling some of the information already published as we bring together the threads that have been woven together to produce the pattern that has now emerged.

What is it?

Europhysics Letters is a journal made up entirely of letters that are judged to be of high quality on topics that fall within the fabric of what we call physics — and to quote George Marx, “physics is what physicists do”.

A letter is a short communication normally of about 3000 words equivalent, i.e. including headings, illustrations and references, designed to fit into about four pages of the journal. A certain flexibility on length will be retained, but an absolute limit has been set at six pages (4500 words equivalent). A letter should contain sufficient argument and supporting information for the results or formulations that are the essence of the communication to be intelligible to other physicists working in the same field. It is assumed that a full paper will later be prepared for publication elsewhere.

In the past, the phrase ‘general letters’ has been frequently employed to signify that it is letters of general interest that should be submitted — but no definition is offered of what this means precisely. In practice, almost all letters will be essentially specialised in that they will relate to a fine detail in the cloth of physics, but there is a level of fineness at which nicety turns into triviality and abstruseness into obscurity. The borderlines are necessarily subjective. Nevertheless authors are urged to try and make their work understandable to physicists working in other fields.

And **Euro?** — does it refer to authors or to readers? To neither: Euro signifies the collective European effort that has gone into the creation of the journal and which will motivate its organisation and its management. Readers and authors worldwide are to be encouraged, and communications on new physics wherever it is done will be welcomed.

What will it look like?

Europhysics Letters will be type-set and published as a B5 format — 16 cm × 24 cm — twice per month (the first and 15th). The number of pages per issue is expected to approach 64. Letters may be submitted in English, French, German or Russian and if accepted will be published in the original language.

Who edits it?

Editorial control is vested in EPS and EPS chooses the people who exercise that control. With the Editor-in-Chief, who has a general responsibility, are Co-Editors each of whom has a specific responsibility in a given sector of physics. They are the people who decide on acceptance or rejection of a contribution on the advice of referees who are themselves physicists of reputation. The names of the Editor-in-Chief and Co-Editors are given below:

Editor-in-Chief: N. Kurti, University, Oxford
Co-Editors: G. Barbiellini, CERN, Geneva
F. Bassani, Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa
E. Brezin, CEN, Saclay
B. Cagnac, Université Pierre & Marie Curie, Paris
J. Demaret, Université, Liège
L.D. Fadeev, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad
P. Fulde, MPI für Festkörperforschung, Stuttgart
C.J. Joachain, Université Libre, Bruxelles
M. Kaufmann, MPI für Plasmaphysik, Garching
T.W.B. Kibble, Imperial College, London
F. Mezei, Academy of Sciences, Budapest
R.H. Siemssen, K.V.I., Groningen
J.P. Toennies, MPI für Strömungsf., Göttingen
G. Weber, DESY, Hamburg

Other names may be added in due course.

For monitoring the scientific levels of acceptance and rejection adopted, the balance between sectors and the overall operation, a body of Advisory Editors is being assembled. These are more numerous and chosen, in contrast to the Co-Editors, with a conscious awareness of geographical coverage. They are additionally expected to encourage "use" of the journal by both readers and authors, and to help with refereeing and finding referees in special situations.

A panel of referees able to make impartial judgments and act rapidly has been selected by the Divisions to span all sectors of physics.

Each letter submitted will be sent to two appropriate referees whose opinions will then be passed to the relevant Co-Editor. If both recommend instant acceptance or outright rejection his problem is simple. In the case of disagreement it will be up to him to act as he sees fit. A rejected MS will be returned with a brief note signed by the Co-Editor of the reason, but the names of the referees reading a particular paper will not be given. A Co-Editor has no obligation to enter into correspondence over any submission although he may offer recommendations for improvement or for an alternative outlet.

Who are the publishers?

The publishers are the Partners who make the initial investment namely:

- The French Physical Society**
— which donates *Journal de Physique Lettres*,
- The Italian Physical Society**
— which donates *Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere*,
- The Institute of Physics (UK)**
— which provides an initial working capital of Sw.Fr. 150.000.—
- The EPS**
— which provides the scientific background.

The Partners are supported by the following societies which have given guarantees of further capital should this be needed:

- The Austrian Physical Society**
- The German Physical Society**
- The Hungarian Physical Society**
- The Portuguese Physical Society**
- The Scandinavian Physical Societies** acting as a group
- The Swiss Physical Society**
- The Turkish Physical Society**
- The Yugoslavian Physical Societies**

Editions de Physique, Paris, a subsidiary of the French Physical Society, together with the Italian Physical Society have been awarded the contract for the publishing operations. Manuscripts will be prepared for the printers and set in Bologna; the printing will be done in Paris from where the journal will be distributed.

As an Author what should I do?

Manuscripts suitable for publication in *Europhysics Letters* — typed in double spacing and accompanied by illustrations in ink on paper (or positive glossy photographs) and prepared according to the Europhysics Style Manual (*Europhysics News*, Sept. 1979, copies available on request from the EPS Secretariat) should be sent to the EPS Secretariat where they will be dealt with immediately.

MSS should be addressed to:

Staff Editor, Europhysics Letters
EPS
POB 69
CH - 1213 Petit-Lancy 2 (Switzerland)

Four copies in total are required including one set of original figures. Marked on the MS should be the field of physics concerned as defined in the ICSU A/B (PACS) Classification. This is reproduced in the Style Manual to two significant figures but a more detailed classification may be helpful in certain instances. Authors are asked to circle not more than 20 words in the text which can act as key words when preparing the index published at the end of a volume. A standard guide to authors giving more details of all these aspects is in preparation.

Provided a manuscript is acceptable without or with only very minor modification, the author can expect it to be published within three months of receipt at the EPS offices.

Manuscripts can be accepted by the Staff Editor from 1 September 1985.

Manuscripts submitted to *Journal de Physique Lettres* or *Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere* and which will not be published in 1985 will automatically be submitted to *Europhysics Letters*, unless already rejected or the author objects.

As a Reader what should I do?

First make sure your institution will be receiving *Europhysics Letters* and that it has taken out a subscription through Editions de Physique; forms will be circulated shortly. If your library is already a subscriber to either *Journal de Physique Lettres* or *Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere*, it will automatically receive notification of the transfer mechanism and any special terms.

Then if you are an individual member of EPS, Category 4a), c) or d) (not just a member of one of the EPS member societies) you may receive a copy at run-on price by ordering through the EPS Secretariat on the form provided or when paying your annual membership fee.

Basic prices are as follows:

Institutions: Sw.Fr. 550.— / a
EPS Individual Members: Sw.Fr. 55.— / a

Note that the standard price to Institutions is well below the combined price of *Journal de Physique Lettres* and *Il Nuovo Cimento Lettere*. The price to Individual Members is obviously exceptionally low.

Europhysics News, June 1985

Contents

Europhysics Letters	1
EPS Directory	3
Members and Executive Committee	3
Advisory Committees	5
Divisions and Sections	6
Associate Members	7
Meetings Up-date	8
Physics of Amphiphiles, Micelles and Microemulsions	9
ICFA - Int. Committee for Future Accelerators	13
Physics in Iceland	15