



MESSAGE FROM

THE PRESIDENT

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(University of Karlsruhe)

First of all I should like to express my cordial thanks for the great honour conferred on me by the Council of the European Physical Society and for the trust they have placed in me. As Vice-President over the past two years, I have had a good opportunity to become acquainted with the problems that should be confronted and, if possible, solved by the Executive Committee and the Council. I was able to appreciate how smoothly and successfully our former President, Professor Stafford, managed his task. For his guidance and for all his effort to promote the EPS, I am very grateful. I can only hope that I shall be able to emulate him.

The idea to found a society of European physicists was first discussed in Pisa at a meeting which was arranged by Professor Gilberto Bernardini on 16 and 17 April, 1966. Some 80 eminent physicists were present when Professor Bernardini initiated the discussion which led ultimately to the establishment of EPS in 1968. If we go back to these first roots, the idea of EPS is now just 20 years old.

In the two decades since the Pisa meeting, the idea has become a reality, and the EPS has grown to be a well established organization with numerous activities. Over 4000 Individual Members, 29 Group Members and nearly 80 Associate Members form the three pillars on which our Society is based, while the number of Collaborating Societies is increasing steadily. Eight Advisory Committees support the Executive Committee and the Council; eight Divisions and three Interdivisional Groups represent the scientific life. Many highly successful in-

ternational conferences and topical workshops have been organized by the Divisions and their Sections, and a number of the annual conferences have already a fixed place within the scientific life of Europe. These facts are very encouraging.

However, one has always to keep in mind, that this level was reached only by surmounting serious obstacles. The financial situation of our Society has at times been very precarious. It is now balanced, but by no means rosy. The difficulties in the past were only overcome through the enthusiastic commitment of many European physicists. I feel strongly that we owe them all our warmest gratitude. Furthermore our Executive Secretary, Gero Thomas, and all the members of our main Secretariat in Geneva, have done much more than their normal duties through the years. I have learned this during the past two years and I express my deep thanks.

The idea of bringing European physicists together and creating a common feeling among them, is still as alive as it was 20 years ago. To realize this idea, step by step, we need the help of as many scientists as possible. I cordially ask all our members and member organizations to continue their support.

One may ask — as I have often been asked — whether it is at all worth while aiming at this goal. Is physics not a global affair? We have our colleagues and friends in Los Angeles as well as in Tokyo and elsewhere. Why do we need a European Physical Society? My answer to this question is clear. I am convinced that EPS is an important ac-

tivity of the physicists of Europe. Europe has a long and admirable cultural history of which, over several hundred years, science, and especially physics, has formed an important part. We should try to maintain this tradition in the future also and for this, we need a common feeling among European physicists.

As another consequence, a friendly competition can develop between Europe and, e.g., the United States of America or Japan. Such a competition in which, I am sure, European physicists will not be lost, can on this larger scale be very stimulating for all concerned.

Finally, I should like to mention the new journal "Europhysics Letters". This journal is published under the scientific policy and control of the EPS, is owned by the EPS, the French Physical Society, the Italian Physical Society and The Institute of Physics and is supported by a number of other physical societies. It is not just a new journal, as it incorporates "Lettere al Nuovo Cimento" and "Journal de Physique Lettres". I urge all research groups in Europe to support this important project by submitting excellent papers. If, within its pages, we succeed in presenting a representative cross-section of European physics, no scientific library in the world could neglect it. Moreover, our Individual Ordinary Members can get this journal for only SFR 55.— per annum, an excellent offer!

I am sure, the European Physical Society is on the right road. I shall do all that I can to promote our Society in the future, but I need the help of all physicists who are willing to support the idea "Europe".

Contents

Message from the President	57
Council	58
Seminar on International Research Facilities	60
Non-linear Waves in Plasmas	63
Charge Exchange in Atomic and Molecular Collisions	66
Boost for Laser Fusion	70
Inter-Divisional Group on Experimental Physics Control Systems	72