

# An Historic Council Meeting

**A statement by the President, Professor Ricci, following the Council Meeting in Uppsala and his election to a third year in office.**

The meeting of Council in Uppsala, which is reported elsewhere in this issue, marks an important stage in our Society's recent history for at least three reasons.

The first concerns the appreciation expressed by our colleagues from eastern Europe demonstrating very clearly the contribution the EPS has made to their emancipation. This in turn poses the question as to what new approach, for sure not easy but necessary nonetheless, is needed in order to understand their requirements and to harmonise their essential participation in EPS activities. The rapid development of the merging of the national societies of the Federal and Democratic Republics of Germany (it is perhaps sufficient to recall the passionate statements made by Professors Folberth and Röpke) as well as explicit requests by colleagues from the Baltic republics seeking recognition of their physical societies as EPS members, clearly testify to the need. One must explicitly take into consideration these events when talking about not only images but also concrete actions of the EPS in support of European physics.

The second reason relates to the more direct collaboration started recently and to our great satisfaction with UNESCO and the CEC. There is absolutely no doubt that this activity is politically correct and will have its rewards, even though it does not represent a short-term initiative. These collaborations can serve to stimulate further the presence and the direct participation of the Divisions in proposals and initiatives promoted by the Executive Committee, thereby strengthening their bonds. Furthermore, the new structure of the Advisory Committees can facilitate these initiatives and contribute to the reinforcement of common interests and east-west relationships. Valid examples are the workshops organized by the ACPS, the initiatives of ACAPPI directed towards industry and those proposed at a European level by the Physics and Education Committee, and finally the specific actions of the Groups for Physics and Development and Experimental Physics Control Systems. Other examples of our traditional activities and recent undertakings can also be cited when answering the question: "What is the EPS doing for us?".

If by "us" we mean the community "at large" then the question should be: "What is the EPS doing for the physics community?" and the answer would be easy. If instead of "us" we mean each individual who develops an activity in physics to make membership of EPS more

attractive then the answer is more difficult. It can also lead to a basic misunderstanding because the EPS is not a professional body. The same question can be, and often is, asked of the national societies. In addition to their role in satisfying all their members' requirements, the national societies are urged to make a more consistent contribution towards helping the EPS in a concrete manner (in other words, financially). It is very important to remember that this is especially so for societies based in the west, notably the larger, more representative ones. As this form of assistance has never been lacking — the last, namely that of the German Physical Society, demonstrates this very clearly — I would like to express publicly the Society's appreciation.

Moreover, the initiation last year of a meeting of the Presidents of the national societies with the Executive Committee is strengthening relationships with the societies and, as the French delegation to Council pointed out, is encouraging more interest for wider consultation within the Society.

Participation by individuals can also be made more effective through a stronger representation of the IOM's by offering an improved forum in Council and in *Europhysics News*, the aim being above all else

to increase the number of IOM's, as was pointed out very fervently by D. Stacey in Council. May I therefore, without a hint of provocation, be allowed to formulate the final question: "What are you doing for the EPS?" I am sure that a satisfactory and effective reply could involve a membership campaign in which each EPS member undertakes to provide one additional member during the year. Would this task really be too difficult?

I now come to the third reason, which I am sure is not the least important, namely the budget and related financial problems. The President, the Treasurer, P. Choquard, the "task force" and the Executive Committee have already started work on the problem to comply with the Council's decisions to limit the 1990 budget, to present a balanced budget for 1991, and to analyse measures to reduce expenses and actions to increase income.

With this in mind let everyone be aware of the problem of "helping the EPS" so that the Society will not only survive but also make our European role more tangible and effective, thanks to the many initiatives that can contribute to the collective and individual prestige of the community of physicists that has become a reality. Upon this common basis is founded not only collaboration, but also unity between east and west.

It is for this reason above all others that I have accepted a mandate for a third year in office and I thank everyone for their confidence.

**R.A. Ricci, EPS President**

## Decisions of EPS Council

At its meeting in Uppsala on 29/30 March 1990, the Council of EPS took the following decisions:

- To request the Divisions to indicate topics for Europhysics Study Conferences for which funding from the Commission of the European Community will be sought.
- To request the Divisions to submit details of experts to support the CEC's SCIENCE PLAN.
- To initiate the formal application procedures for EPS membership of Physical Societies in Lithuania and Estonia.
- To accept 258 new Individual Ordinary Members and one new Associate Member.
- To commission a task force to recommend to the Executive Committee proposals for a balanced budget in 1991.
- To accept the 1990 budget as an upper limit.
- To maintain the decision made by Council in 1989 to expand *Europhysics News* by adding four pages per issue and an eleventh issue, but to be prepared to consider alternatives.
- To change the following in Rule 35 b) of the By-Laws:

	"all members in excess of 10,000	- 0 units per member"
to:	"next 5,000 members	- 0.3 units per member
	next 5,000 members	- 0.2 units per member
	next 10,000 members	- 0.1 units per member"
- To agree to a proposal by the Netherlands' Physical Society to host a meeting of an organizing committee for a special session on East-West topics at the 1990 General Conference.
- To proceed with a survey of physics education in Europe.
- To strongly recommend that the President serve a two-year turn and be succeeded by the Vice-President nominated following a wide consultation.
- To elect as Executive Committee for the year 1990/91 the following:

<b>President:</b>	R.A. Ricci, Legnaro	<b>Members:</b>	O. Folberth, Stuttgart
<b>Vice-President:</b>	E. Skrzypczak, Warsaw		D. Horn, Tel-Aviv
<b>Secretary:</b>	M. Jacob, CERN		E. Jakeman, Malvern
<b>Vice-Secretary:</b>	H. Ryde, Lund		J. Pozhela, Vilnius
<b>Treasurer:</b>	P. Choquard, Lausanne		C. van der Leun, Utrecht
<b>Vice-Treasurer:</b>	I. Slaus, Zagreb		
- To hold the next Council Meeting on 22/23 March 1991 in Athens and failing this in Bologna or Lisbon.
- To shift the dates of Council Meetings in coming years by one day as follows:

1992: 27/28 March, Nice	1994: 25/26 March, Berlin or Bad Honnef
1993: 26/27 March, Warsaw	1995: 31 March/1 April, Lisbon (if not in 1991)