

EPS Consolidates

A report of the Council Meeting held in Uppsala,
Sweden on 29/30 March 1990

The sixty delegates to Council who ventured north to Uppsala, Sweden found parched earth instead of the metre of snow that was expected. A warm welcome was also extended by our host, the Swedish Physical Society, which had some difficulty in finding a venue owing to an end of term rush to cram in extra lectures. We ended up in a church hall — albeit very comfortable and well equipped. But this did not make the event in any way sombre. Far from it; everyone spoke up and most left feeling that substantial progress had been made in consolidating EPS activities and charting future directions.

The meeting set off with some well-received criticism from the IOM delegates who felt that the agreement in Dresden in 1988 to allow them to present a report to Council had not been met. An additional item was therefore quickly added to the agenda. A further procedural point immediately arose when members indicated that meetings scheduled two weeks before Council by the national societies were sometimes poorly prepared because all the necessary documents had not been sent from Geneva. It was agreed that minutes of Council would in future be distributed within three months and that other documents, Division reports especially, should be received no later than two months before the next Council Meeting.

The President Reports

The President then brought us to the real task of the meeting by reviewing the initiatives with UNESCO and the European Community. The latter is the more recent and several items are being closely followed, specifically the provision of experts and support for study conferences and the like. Professor Ricci announced that a representative of the EPS will participate on a committee that will meet in May to discuss the possibility of initiating Gordon-like conferences in Europe.

The east-west question was foremost in everyone's minds — not least because physical societies in Lithuania and Estonia were in the process of applying for membership. Indeed, the Estonian delegation made an impressive presentation of an application during the meeting. Council accepted the Executive Committee's proposal that the correct response was to start application procedures as laid out in the Society's by-laws. It was also clearly necessary to launch some specific actions of the types outlined in the Presidents' and Executive Committee meetings preceding the Council Meeting — but more of this later.

Publications also drew attention because they are perhaps the most visible aspect of the Society's work. The President indicated that the Executive Committee wished to proceed with the decision made in Zagreb

to allow *Europhysics News* to expand adiabatically in working towards a situation where a larger, more attractive bulletin would be produced at no increase in cost to the Society. However, further discussions with national societies and other potential joint publishers would continue to be carefully explored. *Europhysics Letters* had meanwhile evolved into a self-supporting, successful venture although future profitability was clearly linked to increasing the number of subscribers by a further 10 per cent. Later in the meeting the Editor-in-Chief, W. Buckel, announced that the journal would accord accelerated publication to exceptional contributions (perhaps one each month). There was a welcome increase in contributions from eastern Europe, but the continuation of a disquieting tendency for articles dealing with atomic and molecular physics to be contributed by mainly French authors.

Running The Society

In the Secretary's report, M. Jacob reiterated many of the President's themes as they affected the everyday running of the Society. P. Boswell, the new editor of *Europhysics News* was introduced as the successor to Ted Shaw, whose contribution to the Society over so many years was warmly acknowledged by a round of applause. It was emphasised that maintaining other aspects of an active and dynamic society entails attracting and keeping competent staff in Geneva, but that the financial situation was making this more difficult.

Dr. Jacob had over the year been actively involved in fostering relations with the CEC to the point that an administrative procedure

— which all the Society's members were encouraged to follow — for applying for support for conferences had been set up through Geneva (an information sheet describing the scheme is available upon request). Further details of the Gordon-like conferences were presented and he announced that the Divisions were soon to be asked to indicate possible topics as it would be the Divisions that would ultimately be responsible these events. A total of 10 conferences (one per division) each year was envisaged, comprising a sort of CEC supported "umbrella" for a series akin to **Europhysics Study Conferences**.

Regarding the refereeing of proposals submitted to the Community's main programme for research, namely SCIENCE PLAN which will evolve into RESEARCHERS' EUROPE at the end of the year, the CEC has indicated that the EPS should be ready to supply, by 31 May 1990, a list of about 80 names of people — from anywhere in Europe and elsewhere. CODEST, the committee that decides upon SCIENCE PLAN proposals, would then short list experts who would in turn select referees for the so-called **Network Programme** (which assesses proposals sent to CODEST) and formulate recommendations. A letter will shortly be sent to each Division asking for about eight names and listing their affiliation, field of activity and specialisation. The final list will be circulated to the national societies to keep them fully informed.

As delegates were quick to point out, this type of work will never be a gold mine (the CEC essentially covers costs) but it is nevertheless vital that the Society participates — not only because of enlightened self-interest so that more members will have first hand information on how best to apply for CEC funds, but also because the scheme represents a genuine opportunity to help direct physics research and to make EPS a proper coordination centre.

In the

Laboratory for High Energy Physics of the University of Bern (Switzerland)

a post doctoral position

is open for an

Experimental Physicist

to take part in experiments at the SPS and in the detector development for the LHC at CERN. Experience in experimental particle physics is desired.

Applications (including curriculum vitae, list of publications, and names of two referees) should be sent as soon as possible to:

Prof. K. Pretzl
Laboratorium für Hochenergiephysik
Universität Bern
Sidlerstrasse 5
CH - 3012 Bern
Switzerland
Tel.: ++41 (31) 65 85 66 / 65 40 64

Finances

The Treasurer's report is always a charged affair and P. Choquard did well to point out that this year's budget was more or less balanced owing to the generosity of the W-E Heraeus Foundation which led to a one-time contribution of DM 50000.— through the German Physical Society to help meet the costs of an expanded *Europhysics News* in promoting improved communication among physicists. Donations solicited from the IOM's and the raising of the minimum fee for Associate Members also added useful sums. Secondly, the estimates for 1991, showing a substantial deficit for the year adding to an increasing accumulated deficit, were simply based upon linear extrapolations of existing incomings and outgoings. This forecast took into account the increased income (voted in later in the day) generated by raising the annual unit fees per member for the larger national societies.

Professor Ricci nevertheless emphasised that the underlying financial picture was serious. The importance of the Associate Members was also highlighted, prompting several delegates to illustrate how the AM's were catered for and encouraged (the organization of the General Conference in Amsterdam in September — at which there will be a meeting of the AM's — is partially tailored to their needs).

Attention then shifted back to the budget with a former Treasurer, E. Lingeman, outlining the problem of blocked reserves in the East — which are not of great help right now given the way the Society presently operates; and the need for 2000 new IOM's — which would effectively solve the financial problem. Before tackling this fundamental issue, The President asked P. Boswell to introduce himself and to describe the situation regarding *Europhysics News*. The new Editor, with a background in physics research worldwide in universities, industry and under contract conditions, emphasised that he believed the journal filled a definite need which, skillfully exploited using targetted issues, would be commercially attractive. Before seeking to launch any further expansion every effort was being made to exploit the existing earning potential (e.g., sales of the conference listing, reprint volumes).

The subsequent discussion underlined that delegates were generally not in favour of cutting back *Europhysics News* at this critical stage in its development. Any cut-back would have a disastrous effect on advertising income which is now being attracted at a rate two to three times larger than only two years ago. Some even suggested that the unit fee should somehow mirror the expansion in the journal but these remarks only drew attention to the basic fee structure of the Society, with D. Stacey arguing passionately that the route to take would be to reduce the fee for IOM's and make all members of national societies automatically IOM's — a move that Professor Folberth pointed out would have to be driven forward by the larger national societies.

Discussion on resolving the financial difficulties being largely exhausted, an amendment to a motion to accept only a balanced budget for 1990 was rejected by 27 votes to 12 with 5 abstentions. The motion itself approving this year's budget as an upper limit and calling for a statement from the Executive Committee on how a balanced budget can be arrived at for 1991 passed unanimously. It was envisaged that a task force chaired by the Treasurer, meeting soon after Easter, would make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

Elections

Elections were preceded by discussion of a motion presented by French delegates on behalf of their national society to modify the selection procedure for President. A fixed term duration was proposed by changing the Society's Constitution but it was agreed that in order to maintain flexibility, the usual procedure, with a President serving for two years, would remain. However, it was strongly recommended that the President be succeeded by the Vice-President, who would be nominated following a wide consultation.

Professor Ricci agreed to continue in office for a third year and this was accepted. Owing to a serious illness, Louis Cohen has decided to retire from the Executive Committee; E. Jakeman was nominated by The Institute of Physics as his replacement. The following were then elected to the Executive Committee for the year 1990/1991:

President:	R.A. Ricci, Legnaro
Vice-President:	E. Skrzypczak, Warsaw
Secretary:	M. Jacob, CERN
Vice-Secretary:	H. Ryde, Lund
Treasurer:	P. Choquard, Lausanne
Vice-Treasurer:	I. Slaus, Zagreb
Members:	O. Folberth, Stuttgart D. Horn, Tel-Aviv E. Jakeman, Malvern J. Pozhela, Vilnius C. van der Leun, Utrecht

Action Committees

Physics and Society had an eventful year with two environmental workshops and a special symposium scheduled for EPS-8. Satisfactory arrangements had also been made for the various proceedings. Some new, self-financing, initiatives were also described by the Chairman, E. Lingeman, including a survey of national physical societies, another possible workshop in 1992, and a register of consultants active in environmental issues. C. Leubner outlined the **Physics Education** committee's plan to survey physics education in Europe. A draft of a questionnaire was circulated to delegates for comment. It is intended to analyse (by 1992!) the results of a questionnaire sent to over 150 departments. The CEC will be approached for support as this type of initiative falls well within the scope of the type of activity that is being encouraged. F. Mezei described the **Publications Committee's** promotion of a workshop on electronic publishing and reflected upon how to make conference proceedings published by the

Society more popular. J. Goedkoop of **ACAPPI** confirmed that the industrial workshops were now well-established (three will be held this year including one in Leningrad — described elsewhere in this issue) and running successfully. He also recapitulated the special arrangements for Associate Members at EPS-8, but chose not to dwell upon the issue of an European professional qualification for physicists in spite of interest in Italy, France and the UK. When shall we see some serious consideration of the idea?

Divisions and Groups

All agreed that it would help to have clear-cut guidelines for Division reports drawn up to encourage prompt returns. **Astronomy and Astrophysics** seems poised for some profound changes as steps are being taken to sound out the opinions of the 4000 members of the International Astronomical Union in Europe to gauge the support for forming a European Astronomical Society that would become a Collaborating Society. The Division would then probably be re-named Astrophysics.

Nuclear Physics is also witnessing some redefinition of its territory now that the NuPECC committee is functioning and the European Science Foundation is in the process of forming a special committee to assess European requirements in the field. Professor Ricci will be visiting the ESF in Strasbourg shortly and it is hoped that one discussion topic will be ways to integrate European expertise.

Condensed Matter continues to run an extensive programme of meetings while **Plasma Physics** is setting about to correct a recent bias towards tokamak physics by adjusting its own conference programme. **High Energy Physics** organized a highly successful divisional conference in Madrid that culminated in the award of a newly created EPS prize. It had been decided earlier in the meeting to maintain the decision not to sponsor conferences held outside Europe (in the US especially) in spite of the view expressed by the Division's Chairman, W. Bartel, that development of the SSC was inevitably leading to greater overseas interaction. Solving the problem by joining IUPAP was considered inappropriate.

Physics for Development is firming up on proposals to run several workshops in building upon the success of an earlier workshop in Nairobi that served to focus (pun unintended) solar energy research. Meanwhile, the **Experimental Physics Control Systems** Group goes from strength to strength (it now has 32 institutional members — up from 24 this time last year). The Group is busy preparing a special issue of *Europhysics News* that will appear in the autumn. 1989 saw the creation of two new interdivisional groups — **Accelerator Physics** and **History of Physics** — and both have set off to flying starts.

East-West: "What can we do?"

Planning a constructive response to changes in the east was on everyone's

minds. A. Hoogenboom presented on behalf of the Netherlands' Physical Society, a proposal to hold a meeting at the end of EPS-8 that would try to answer the question: "What can we do?". The Dutch society has agreed to find funds to host one meeting of a small organizing committee.

Commenting upon Council's agreement, delegates expressed some individual opi-

nions. Each country must be treated rather differently, especially since east-west contacts operate fairly well in some cases. Specific priorities were voiced such as visits by academic staff, an increase in conference activity, improved computer communications, the need to make eastern institutes true partners. Some ideas were starting, including an appeal to western diplo-

mats and political figures to exert pressure on their eastern counterparts to resist cuts in funding for education and research.

The two days finished on an encouraging note when O. Folberth, the President of the German Physical Society, pointed out that the speed and ease with which the physical societies in the Democratic and Federal Republics have been able to coordinate their activities, with the aim of an eventual merger, would not have been possible without the all-important personal contacts that were formed over many years by working together within the EPS. The example brought home in the best possible way an idea of what can be achieved for European physics.

Future Meetings

It was decided to hold future meetings of Council on a Friday and Saturday so that most could benefit from cheaper travel arrangements. The Hellenic Physical Society will be contacted to establish if the 1991 meeting scheduled for 21/22 March (now changed to 22/23 March) can be held in Athens. Bologna and Lisbon were offered as alternatives. Thus:

- 1991: 22/23 March, Athens
(otherwise Bologna or Lisbon)
- 1992: 27/28 March, Nice
- 1993: 26/27 March, Warsaw
- 1994: 25/26 March, Berlin or Bad Honnef
- 1995: 31 March/1 April, Lisbon
(if not in 1991)

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE (I.N.F.N.)

Post-doctoral fellowships for non-Italian citizens: Theoretical Physics (No. 8) Experimental Physics (No. 14)

One of the grants is reserved for a young Polish theoretical physicist in memory of Professor Grzegorz Bialkowski and of his activity for the cooperation between Poland and Italy.

Applications are invited for one year fellowships, starting on May-November 1991. Fellowships are intended for young post-graduates (candidates should not be more than 35 years of age at the time of application).

Each fellowship is granted for one year, and may be extended for a second year.

The annual gross salary is LIT 24,000,000, corresponding to LIT 1,600,000 net per month, plus travel expenses from home Institution to I.N.F.N. Section or Laboratory and return.

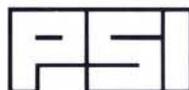
Candidates should submit an application form and a statement of their research interests, including three letters of reference.

Applications should reach INFN not later than 30 September 1990.

The successful applicants may carry on their research at any of the following laboratories and sections of INFN: National Laboratories of Frascati (Rome), National Laboratories of Legnaro (Padova), National Southern Laboratories (Catania) and National Gran Sasso Laboratory (L'Aquila).

INFN Sections in the universities of: Turin, Milan, Padua, Genoa, Bologna, Pisa, Rome "La Sapienza", Rome II, Naples, Catania, Trieste, Florence, Bari, Pavia, Perugia, Ferrara, Cagliari, Lecce and National Institute for Health (Rome).

Enquiries, requests for application forms, and applications should be addressed to: **Fellowship Service - Personnel Office, Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN); Casella Postale 56; I-00044 Frascati (Roma), Italy.**



PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT

Our institute, formerly the Swiss Institute for Nuclear Research (SIN), represents the largest national research centre and is situated in Northern Switzerland, not far from Zurich. The department for Nuclear and Particle Physics (F1) operates a 600 MeV isochronous cyclotron which is used to produce a number of pion-, muon- and nucleon beams. The facility is presently being upgraded to deliver a 1.5 mA proton beam to feed a neutron spallation source and, in combination with new secondary beam lines, to provide the world's most intense low energy pion and muon beams. The F1 research group also participates in experiments at CERN and other laboratories. On a contractual basis we are looking for the

Head of the Experimental Research Division for Nuclear and Particle Physics

The ideal candidate is an experienced and a creative experimental nuclear and particle physicist who can enthusiastically lead a research group with 20 physicists, and efficiently use the good infrastructure support of the Division. He/she should be able and willing to attract external collaborators and to expand the contacts with Swiss and international universities and research laboratories.

For additional information or nomination of candidates please contact:
PD Dr. H.K. Walter (Tel. ++ 41-56-99 36 44 or 99 32 54).

Formal applications for this position should be accompanied by a curriculum vitae, a list of publications, a statement of research interests and the names and addresses of referees, and should be sent as soon as possible, but not later than 15 July 1990 to: **Paul Scherrer Institute, Personnel Division, ref. code 1100, CH-5232 Villigen PSI, Switzerland.**



Mathematica™

A System for Doing Mathematics by Computer

A Wolfram Research Inc. product

Numerics - Works with numbers of arbitrary magnitude and precision.

Symbolics - Encyclopaedia of mathematical functions and operations used in arithmetic, algebra and analysis.

Procedural, functional and mathematical programming.

Graphics - 2D, 3D and animated PostScript graphics.

Text processing - Fully interactive reports and textbooks.

Runs on - MS-DOS based computers; Macintosh, Apollo, Hewlett Packard, IBM AIX/RT, MIPS, Silicon Graphics, Sony, Sun, VAX.

Now available in Europe from:

MathSoft Overseas, Inc.

POB 641, 1211 Geneva 3, Switzerland

Tel. ++41 (22) 46 52 60

Fax ++41 (22) 46 59 39