

Changes on the Way

A report of the Council Meeting held in Zürich, Switzerland on the 24-25 May 1991.

The 1991 Council meeting of EPS took place last month in a splendidly renovated wing of the University of Zürich's Senate building, where only a few slightly dusty and discretely positioned examples of the former occupants bore testimony to its once being the city's Paleontology Museum. Hosted by the Swiss Physical Society, it was the retiring President, Professor W. Kündig, who in personally contributing so much to the excellent arrangements, stepped in when Professor Ricci, the EPS President, decided to postpone the meeting by two months and transfer it to Zürich from Athens. This decision was taken at the height of the Gulf crisis last January, in consultation with the Hellenic Physical Society, after receiving a two-third's majority in replies to a postal ballot among the national societies.

Immediately after calling the meeting to order, Professor Ricci asked for a one minute silence in memory of Professor Jan Zofka, the President of the Czecho-Slovak Physical Society and a delegate to Council, who died suddenly last month at an early age (an obituary is published on page 119). He then thanked everyone for making a special effort to attend, tacitly acknowledging the difficulty of rescheduling travel arrangements at short notice to a date falling in the middle of the university semester. Professor Ricci, who retired from office at the end of the meeting after a three year term and is succeeded by Dr. Maurice Jacob following a vote taken in Council, called for greater "homogeneity" in his opening address. He highlighted, in particular, the importance of contacts between the Divisions and the central organization because the EPS's relationships with international bodies often concern scientific issues handled by the Divisions. For example, EPS as a whole is responsible for certain aspects of the European Research Conferences in physics but it is the Divisions who propose and run the meetings. Similarly, Executive Committee proposals to Council stemming from the formation of European societies for optics



Professor W. Kündig

and astronomy involve a restructuring of the traditional branches of physics which necessarily involves the Divisions. Indeed, most of the Society's activities call for close links with the Divisions and he cited relationships with other learned societies (notably the recently formed European society for mathematics, as well as those for optics and astronomy), with industry and with the Interdivisional Groups as the latter must be encouraged to further develop contacts between the Divisions and not simply represent isolated, specialized interests.

Turning to the Society's finances, the President pointed out that the Executive Committee had responded vigorously to last year's vote in Council to have a balanced budget in 1991. A specially constituted task force, which had recently been enlarged to include the President, had made appropriate recommendations and the outcome was the 1991 budget that had been reported by the Treasurer (*Europhysics News* 22 (1991) 18). It implied strengthening the Society's presence in central Europe and decreasing administrative costs by temporarily transferring Gero Thomas, the Executive Secretary, until the end of 1992 to an expanded Budapest Secretariat. Concerted action by the task force had also produced some improvement in the Society's income, although gains in Associate Members had been partially offset by the disappointing departure of others.

Professor Ricci thought that proposals for restructuring EPS should be a priority of the new Executive Committee which was voted in at the meeting: he hoped they would be presented, following proper consultation, at the next Council meeting. Several approaches have been aired in discussions that started in Eindhoven in 1989. A recent discussion paper, submitted for comment by the Council (Executive Committee) of the Institute of Physics to the Presidents of the national societies, argues for a federation of national societies to act as the powerful and fully representative voice of European physics. A more general proposal is the Bordeaux initiative, signed by the Board of the Atomic and Molecular Physics Division, calling for all members of national societies to become IOM's. Meanwhile, the Belgian Physical Society seeks a readjustment of the unit fee structure so smaller societies do not continue to contribute more per member to EPS. Finally, some specific recommendations have emerged from a survey of the national societies by The Netherlands' Physical Society, a report of which was sent to Council delegates on 15 May 1991.

Given the Society's success in reconciling the interests of both large and small national societies, Professor Ricci was confident that any restructuring of EPS could be managed satisfactorily. There exists, overall, a need to enhance the representation of the national societies in EPS owing to the increasing number of issues affecting physicists that can only be tackled at the European level in collaboration with national societies (*e.g.*, professional qualifications and student mobility schemes). Representation would also have to acknowledge the presence of active physical societies in parts of Europe (the Cyprus Science Association has recently made known that it may be interested in applying for membership) and of the USSR (*e.g.*, the Baltic republics). A. Berezin (Council Observer, Leningrad) reminded us that there are now nine physical societies in the USSR other than the Department of General Physics and Astronomy of the USSR Academy of Sciences, the official member, and several have indicated a wish to adhere to EPS in some form.

The Secretary Reports

The outgoing Secretary, M. Jacob, who is now the President, thanked Gero Thomas

From the left, M. Jacob, R.A. Ricci and G. Thomas.



The Council Meeting.

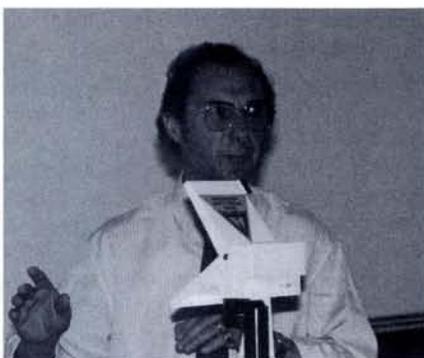


and his colleagues for successfully reorganizing the Secretariats, and P.G. Boswell, the Editor of *Europhysics News*, for putting together some interesting topical issues with greater news coverage, all within the framework of adiabatic growth. Boosting income from the Associate Members had also been another priority concern and here the strategy was to develop a partnership with industry. It was hoped that smaller organizations would respond to the potential afforded by a more pragmatic collaboration with EPS.

Improving the relationships with other organizations had also been pursued, notably the Commission of the European Community (CEC). Unfortunate delays in the implementation of the latest Framework Programme for science and technology was causing some concern in activities such as the European Research Conferences (ERC). The situation is not as critical as once feared as meetings are being held and new proposals are being accepted. However, Chairmen have been asked by the European Science Foundation (ESF) that organizes the meetings to reduce expenditures by limiting the number of speakers (a full report by K. Bethge, Chairman of the Action Committee on Conferences and Chairman of the Working Group on ERC's, is given on page 109).

The Divisions would be kept fully informed of the situation regarding the panels of experts for the successor to the current EC SCIENCE Plan (40% of the panelists were chosen from among candidates put forward by the Divisions). M. Jacob felt that the relationship with the ESF needed clarification and strengthening as the ESF and EPS are effectively partners in the ERC programme and in certain aspects of the Nuclear Physics Division's activities. NuPECC is now an associated committee of the ESF and its journal has representatives from the Division on the Editorial Board.

He also returned to the question of links with the national societies in hoping a pragmatic approach would emerge following wide consultation. Further afield, the Australian Institute of Physics, a Collaborating Organization, wishes to strengthen relations with EPS. Recent discussions by M. Jacob (with the Executive Committee's mandate) with the American Physical Society (APS) had led to several initiatives for consolidating north Atlantic links being examined by the Executive Committee. The decision has been taken to appoint R.M. Salmeron as an EPS representative on the APS's Sub-Committee for International Scientific Affairs. Other possible initiatives include a joint prize, Fellowships, joint membership of the Editorial Boards of journals, and improved contacts between the Divisions with the aim of holding joint meetings. The APS had written to say that it wished to set up an extended collaboration with EPS and that it welcomed the idea of having a person responsible for liaison on each of the Division and Group Boards. Chairman will be fully consulted about this in due course as the preliminary indications were favourable.



Ph. Choquard, EPS Treasurer

On the question of relations with IUPAP, J. Fischer (Delegate, IOM's) remarked that the last IUPAP General Assembly had discussed the issue and was suggesting that there also be a IUPAP representative on Division and Group Boards, the survey of national societies by The Netherlands' Physical Society having indicated that the majority of societies who responded were not in favour of the EPS becoming the European arm of IUPAP.

The Treasurer Reports

Some small adjustments to the 1990 and 1991 budget figures reported in *Europhysics News* were summarized by Ph. Choquard, the Treasurer. The surplus for 1990 now stands at an estimated 12 kSFR bringing the accumulated deficit to 160 kSFR. The Executive Secretary agreed with a comment that audited accounts are long overdue and he promised to have those for 1989 and 1990 available by the end of the year. Based on the latest figures, the budget for 1991, which was required by last year's Council to be in balance, sees a 10 kSFR increase in membership fees and a 14 kSFR increase in the income from Associate Members. A 15 kSFR reduction in the pro-

duction costs of *Europhysics News* as the result of supplying material to the printer on diskette was partly offset by a 9 kSFR increase in mailing costs. The outcome of the budget proposed by the Executive Committee and accepted by Council should be a surplus of about 90 kSFR bringing the accumulated deficit to an estimated 160 kSFR by the end of 1991.

The increase in the unit fee, put forward by the Executive Committee to compensate for inflation over the past three years, and which was agreed to by Council without opposition, meant Professor Choquard was confident that the accumulated deficit would be eliminated by the end of 1993 provided some 35-40 kSFR in arrears in membership payments from both national societies and Associates did not have to be written off. Apart from this problem, the goal of the finances task force and Executive Committee was now to ensure that the perennial "red shift" would not reappear in 1993 when G. Thomas returned to Geneva.

A show of hands was sufficient to endorse the Executive Committee's decision that its proposal to index the unit fee to inflation rate be withdrawn as it was too open-ended. Even if it had been put to the vote and accepted, this measure would not have netted sufficient income to cover the costs of the Executive Secretary's return. Thus, there is effectively a time limit to the breathing space during which proposals to restructure the Society and its finances can be developed and implemented: the Executive Committee now aims to submit them to Council next year.

Restructuring

Commenting on a possible restructuring in 1993, R. Blin-Stoyle (President, IOP) argued that the terms of reference and an indication of the "general thrust" needed to be agreed by the IOM's and the national

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, invites applications from both women and men for three Limited-Term Lecturers in Physics available from 1 November 1991 in the DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICAL PHYSICS. The University of Adelaide wishes to appoint three lecturers in physics. Applications will be considered from candidates with research interests matching one of the Department's existing research areas, namely: atmospheric physics, high-energy astrophysics/cosmic rays, UV molecular physics, lasers and opto-electronics, mathematical and theoretical physics. Favourable consideration will be given to candidates who have demonstrated an ability to attract female students to the discipline. Because the funding of these positions is partially linked to the appointment of Professor A.W. Thomas FAA to a Senior Research Fellowship, preference for one position may be given to candidates with research expertise in theoretical nuclear and particle physics. These positions are offered for a period of four years. However, it is expected that there will be at least one and possibly two tenurable posts available during the period of appointment for which the appointees would be encouraged to apply. For an exceptional candidate it may be possible to make a tenurable appointment. Further information may be obtained from Professor A.W. Thomas, Head, Department of Physics and Mathematical Physics. Annual Salary: AUS\$ 33,163 X 7 - \$ 43,096.

APPLICATIONS IN DUPLICATE, quoting reference numbers 8871, 8872 and 1775, giving personal particulars (including whether candidates hold Australian permanent residency status), resume and names and addresses of three referees should reach:

The Director, Personnel Services, University of Adelaide, GPO Box 498, Adelaide, South Australia, 5001 - Telex UNIVAD AA 89141 - Facsimile (61 8) 223 4820 not later than 19 August 1991. THE UNIVERSITY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.



R. Blin-Stoyle,
President, IOP.



C. van der Leun, Member,
EPS Executive Commit-
tee (on the left) and P.H.
van Vuren, Delegate, The
Netherlands' Physical So-
ciety.

societies as soon as possible so that detailed discussions could start right away. A. Landesman (Delegate, French Physical Society) appreciated that the IOP discussion paper had raised some interesting questions and offered some possible solutions, but that further thought and time was essential. Others remarked upon the need to consider the historical context of representation in EPS (Ph. Choquard), the inclusion of teachers (G. Tibell, President, Swedish Physical Society), to consult the Associate Members (L. Feldtkeller, Delegate, Associate Members), the IOM's (F. Netter, Delegate, IOM's) and the Divisions (M. Barat, Chairman, Atomic and Molecular Physics) as some of the IOP's ideas were similar to those proposed in the Bordeaux initiative. Support from the Divisions was vital (P.L.

Knight, Chairman, Quantum Optics Division) as the Divisions' profits were credited to an account of the central, legal entity, namely EPS. These funds have been used, interest free, to cover the accumulated deficit. The Treasurer intervened to halt further discussion of this point by saying that the situation, which dates back to the early 1970's, had been considered many times in Council and was accepted since the Divisions could make withdrawals at any time.

In conclusion, Professor Ricci thought there was much work to be done by the Executive Committee during the coming nine months in formulating satisfactory proposals given that that several different aspects had to be addressed. The need was urgent, not only to handle the Society's finances after 1993 but also to enhance the

status of EPS *vis-à-vis* international organizations: EPS has an excellent image but insufficient power. The impending closure of the SERC Daresbury Laboratory's Nuclear Structure Facility (see *Europhysics News* 22 (1991) 50) was a case in point. G. Goldring (Chairman, Nuclear Physics) had called for a strong statement by EPS in support of the facility, arguing that it was inadmissible to close a major European centre with important European links without prior consultation, not least because planning was thrown into chaos (J.M. Irvine, Delegate, IOP). P.H. van Vuren (Delegate, The Netherlands' Physical Society) maintained, on the other hand, that national governments were fully entitled to dispose of their resources as they see fit. Whatever the pros and cons, Professor Ricci said he would respond to an SERC invitation asking the EPS for a written submission to the SERC's Review Panel on Nuclear Structure Physics that was considering the "best means to support nuclear structure physics in the UK in the future in the light of [the SERC's] decision to close the Daresbury NSF in 1992". He would, of course, restrict himself to purely scientific issues.

Lobbying and Exchanges Will Help

Romania's present economic squeeze and the country's shift to a free-market economy mean that maybe about 1000 physicists could lose their positions. There is also a worry that new graduates about to enter the first free market for many years will not find posts. Current difficulties are made more serious by the organizational structure that had been built up. The present trend is to subdivide the very large (4000-5000 employees) Institute of Atomic Physics which concentrated virtually all of the country's physics resources, and to direct it towards mainly applied topics.

The physics community is now represented by the Romanian Physical Society (RPS) set up in March last year. The General Secretary, Dr. A. Calboreanu, a senior scientist at the Institute of Nuclear Physics, Bucharest, told the EPS Council in Zürich last month that the RPS's priority was to find ways to hold the Institute together while developing a coherent plan for physics research. The aim is to persuade the government to continue providing adequate financial support to provide a "healthy home for physicists". The RPS is therefore appealing to international organizations, professional bodies and eminent scientists to assist in lobbying the government. A RPS delegation has already visi-



A. Calboreanu, General Secretary,
Romanian Physical Society.

ted government officials and the Society is aiming to develop links between ministries and the research institutes.

A vigorous programme of exchanges for visiting scientists, fellows and students encourages an open-minded atmosphere so help in this area is much appreciated. A survey by the RPS of physics teaching and research in the universities is now in progress. It seeks details of contacts with institutes and universities outside the country, and how they can be improved: the results should allow opportunities to be fully exploited.

Activities

The activities of Divisions and Groups represented at the meeting have been reported elsewhere (*Europhysics News* 22 (1991) 47) so it is only necessary to highlight certain recent developments. E.W.A. Lingeman (Chairman, Physics and Society), in summarizing the work of the east/west task force, noted that the response to a questionnaire sent to national societies in central Europe concerning missing and required journals and books had been excellent. The data were being analyzed and a final report reviewing the situation and the needs would be available shortly. It seemed that approaches to potential sponsors should be made on the basis of a 100-200 kECU *per annum* programme lasting at least three years. A Management of Science meeting is to be held in the Saarland, Germany on 18-21 August 1991. Finally, the task force is hoping to provide means for national societies in the region to connect to the EARN computer network which is being extended by IBM for use without charge until the year 2000.

Problems in meeting the EC Directive on professional qualifications were described by D. Jefferies, the Registrar of the IOP and Chairman of the working group on profes-

sional qualifications. The group finds that some physicists will be required to satisfy legal obligations in the course of their work so a questionnaire is to be sent to the national societies asking for information on the status of professional recognition in their countries (see page 119). The results will hopefully provide the basis for a European scheme or for some form of cooperation between national societies.

E. Heer said a call for expressions of interest in a European **mobility scheme** for physics students (*Europhysics News* 22 (1991) 82) had resulted in some 140 positive replies within only six weeks. The task force on mobility is now drafting a convention which will probably be submitted to physics departments after being discussed by the Executive Committee. An email information service has also been implemented (see page 114). He discussed the requirements (*e.g.*, a central data base, travel funds, language training, *etc.*) for having a working scheme in 1993, emphasizing that any arrangements would complement and coordinate with existing EC initiatives such as ERASMUS and the EC Course Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS). Commenting on the recommendations, it was thought important not to overlook transfers between universities and industry (J.A. Goedkoop, Chairman, ACAAPI), existing local initiatives such as the scheme centered on Imperial College, London (M. Jacob) and linguistic problems (P.L. Knight), especially since some universities were no longer admitting



*E. Heer, Chairman,
Student Mobility Working Group.*

ERASMUS "free movers", not covered by specific agreements, in order to cope with an excess of incoming over outgoing students in countries such as the UK with popular languages.

The President reported that the location, date and Chairman of the Programme Committee of the next **General Conference** scheduled for 1993 would be decided within one month. Three alternatives in Italy are being examined but, after questioning by Ph. Choquard, Council thought that if there remains insufficient time to make the necessary arrangements it may be necessary to consider having a separate, smaller event to mark the 25th Anniversary of EPS.

The first EPS **Southern European School** of Physics is to be held this September in Avila, Spain. The principle sponsors are UNESCO and the Spanish Ministry of Information and a 30 KECU grant has been pro-

mised by the CEC. A small residual emphasis on theoretical aspects of the topic ("Dynamical Processes in Molecular Physics") that survives the Executive Committee's request for a balance between experiment and theory largely reflects the make-up of the local community. E. Lillethun (Chairman, Physics for Development) suggested that future arrangement would be improved by having the School managed by a small Advisory Board. Council agreed and the Executive Secretary indicated that its future Chairman would have the priority task of handling contacts with the national societies in potential host countries, including Greece which has indicated it was considering submitting a proposal for a school in Crete titled "Lasers and Applications". It should be encouraged as the local community active in the field was strongly endorsed by the Chairman of the Quantum Optics Division.

Regarding EPS publications, G. Thomas, the Business Manager of *Europhysics Letters* reported that the journal was developing as planned and that a biophysicist had recently been appointed as a Co-Editor. A new Editor-in-Chief to replace W. Buckel when his term expires this year is being sought. In reply to a question from E. Netter, the delay from the receipt of a manuscript to publication averages 8-10 weeks. G. Thomas also reported that financial arrears accrued to the *European Journal of Physics* had been eliminated and that the priority was to increase the number of contributions submitted. P.G. Boswell, the Editor of

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Cryophysics



P.L. Knight, Chairman, Quantum Optics Division, and E. Jakeman, Member, EPS Executive Committee.

Europhysics News, reviewed changes to the Editorial Board of the journal and described the editorial policy, which was to expand adiabatically while maintaining an equal balance between articles, news and topical items and Society affairs, including the semi-annual meetings listings and the Directory. This balance had been maintained over the last 12 months.

Divisional Reorganization

The recommendations of the working group on the future of the **Optics** Division were presented by E. Jakeman, the group's Chairman. The situation is that the Division's Board resigned on the formation of the European Optical Society (EOS, see *Europhysics News* 22 (1991) 92) and it was impractical to consider forming a new Board as most of the senior figures in optics were committed to the new society. However, the postal ballot of the 260 members of the Optics Division gave only 53 members in favour of the Division being dismantled. Meanwhile, some 106 members of the Division are also members of Quantum Electronics. Council felt a home was needed for optical physicists and the Executive Committee's recommendation, endorsed by Council, was to have the Optics Division taken over by the Division with the most overlap, namely Quantum Electronics, until arrangements could be finalized following consultation with other Divisions, notably Atomic and Molecular Physics, as to areas where optics activities could be expanded.

Changing the Division's name to reflect its increased scope may eventually be desirable. In any event, P.L. Knight, the Chairman of the Quantum Electronic Division, will present the recommendations to members in August.

Commenting on discussions between the Executive Committee and officers of the recently formed European Astronomical Society (EAS), M. Jacob pointed out that historically, the **Astronomy and Astrophysics** Division had organized the IAU conference when it was held in Europe and that there was a very active Solar Physics Section. EAS, on the other hand, is a new society representing interests well beyond physics. M. Jacob noted the interest in fostering coherent, harmonious and strong links between astronomy and astrophysi-

cists whilst keeping much of the astrophysics activities within EPS. The Executive Committee had discussed the idea of having some form of joint division subject to an agreement limited in time. The immediate aim, however, was to invigorate the Division to ensure that it covered all aspects of astrophysics, during which time the Solar Physics Section would represent the Division Board pending new elections. The majority seemed in favour of M. Jacob's suggestion that it may eventually be appropriate to change the Division's name to Astrophysics.

In closing the meeting, Professor Ricci, who retires after serving six years on the Executive Committee, remarked that the work as President was not always as gratifying as he would have liked as one could not always do what one wanted since the Society was not organized in the most effective manner. However, if one assumed one's responsibilities, the atmosphere with-

in the Executive was extremely friendly and constructive. He wished his successor, Maurice Jacob of the Theory Division at CERN every success for his Presidency. No proposals had been received by the Executive Committee up to the Friday evening, over and above those announced earlier following the procedure agreed in Council last year of having a wide consultation. The same procedure also calls for the Vice-President to become a candidate for the next President. A further recommendation relating to the procedure for electing the Executive Committee was put forward by J.M. Irvine. It entails having Council make recommendations before the Executive Committee puts forward its proposals, but this would be difficult to implement.

A formal vote gave near unanimous endorsement of the appointments to the next Executive Committee listed below. Dates for future Council Meetings (see below) were also agreed.

Decisions of EPS Council

At its meeting on 24-25 May 1991, the Council of EPS made the following decisions:

- To accept the budget for 1991 that seeks an estimated surplus of about 60 kSFR.
- To increase the unit fee from the current level of 12 SFR to 13.50 SFR, taking effect on 1 January 1992.
- To accept the Executive Committee's suggestion that the proposal to index the unit fee to the inflation rate in Switzerland be withdrawn.
- To strongly recommend that the Executive Committee present restructuring proposals at the 1992 Council Meeting that include financing arrangements for 1993 and beyond, when the Executive Secretary returns to Geneva.
- To accept 420 new Individual Ordinary Members and 7 new Associate Members.
- To maintain the existing cooperation with the European Science Foundation for organizing European Study Conferences in physics, but to allow Divisions to hold Europhysics Study Conferences independently if necessary.
- To support an initiative of the Working Group on Professional Qualifications to establish the status of, and requirements for, a qualification scheme throughout Europe.
- To support an initiative of the Working Group on Student Mobility to prepare and negotiate a Convention for a European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students, pending final approval by Council and implementation.
- To endorse the activities of the East/West Task Force, noting that efforts to attract funding should be coordinated.
- To seek the agreement of the members of the Quantum Optics Division to expand the activities and interests of the Division, in collaboration with other Divisions, with the aim of integrating optical physics.
- To encourage the incoming President of EPS to develop the full range of interests of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Division, while ensuring that the Division and the European Astronomical Society work in harmony.
- To strongly recommend that the Solar Physics Section temporarily represents the Astronomy and Astrophysics Division.
- To nominate a representative of EPS to the Sub-Committee on International Scientific Affairs of the American Physical Society.
- To authorize the Executive Committee to discuss with each of the Divisions the interest in nominating a Board Member responsible for contacts with equivalent bodies in the American Physical Society.
- To authorize the retiring President to make a written submission to the SERC Review Panel on the future of nuclear structure physics in the UK.
- To elect as the Executive Committee for the year 1991/92 the following:

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| President: | M. Jacob, Geneva | Members: | A.F. Andreev, Moscow |
| Vice-President: | N. Kroo, Budapest | | O.G. Folberth, Stuttgart |
| Secretary: | H. Ryde, Lund | | D. Horn, Tel-Aviv |
| Vice-Secretary: | A. Taroni, Brescia | | E. Jakeman, Malvern |
| Treasurer: | Ph. Choquard, Lausanne | | C. van der Leun, Utrecht |
| Vice-Treasurer: | I. Slaus, Zagreb | | J. Pozhela, Vilnius |
- To hold future Council Meetings as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1992: 27-28 March, Athens | 1995: 31 March-1 April, Berlin or Bad Honnef |
| 1993: 26-27 March, Nice | 1996: 29-30 March, Lisbon |
| 1994: 25-26 March, Warsaw | |