



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.

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-

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.