

this difficult task. A few countries had already established, or were creating, national titles in science but the European Community's intentions were unclear, especially since it now appeared possible to obtain an "EC endorsement".

Publications

E. Buckel handed over the position of Editor-in-Chief of *Europhysics Letters* to R. Balian for whom the "privilege had given me duties". Professor Balian is the proud co-author of the very first paper to have appeared in the journal. Professor Buckel explained that *Letters* had to cope with an increase in the number of submissions by increasing the number of annual volumes.

P.G. Boswell speaking on behalf of F. James (Chairman, *Europhysics News* Editorial Board) described the progress that had been made in publishing more Directory-type information and more news — both technical and otherwise. The number of general review articles was significantly smaller in 1991 than in 1990, this being compensated for by "targeted" collections of shorter features. Lower costs arising from the introduction of electronic production techniques had unfortunately been swamped by increases in mailing charges. It was planned to modernise distribution to the IOM's by introducing more cost-effective plastic wrappers.

Council closed a constructive, busy and largely optimistic meeting with a short tribute by H. Ryde to the President's enthusiasm and drive.

Decisions of EPS Council

At its meeting on 27-28 March 1992, the Council made the following decisions:

- To admit the Physical Societies of Albania, Croatia, Estonia, and Lithuania.
- To accept 397 new Individual Ordinary Members and 8 new Associate Members.
- To accept the proposed budget for 1992 that seeks a surplus of almost 60 kSFR.
- To endorse the proposals for a restructured society, as outlined in the discussion document *A New EPS Structure*, and to have detailed proposals for implementation tabled at the next Council Meeting.
- To approve the formation of an Astrophysics Division jointly with the European Astronomical Society.
- To accept the appointment of A. Landesman as the Chairman of the East-West Task Force which now becomes the East-West Coordination Committee (EWCC).
- To endorse the initiatives of the East-West Task Force (now the EWCC) and its plan to develop further actions in cooperation with the American Physical Society.
- To endorse the proposed arrangements for the 1993 General Conference and for the 25th Anniversary of EPS.
- To approve the launching of the European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students.
- To accept the notion of a European professional title in physics and to seek proposals for its implementation at the next Council Meeting.
- To consider nominations for Honourary Membership at the next Council Meeting.
- To elect as the Executive Committee for the year 1992/3 the following:

President:	M. Jacob, Geneva	Members:	A.F. Andreev, Moscow
Vice-President:	N. Kroo, Budapest		C.M. Ferreira, Lisbon
Secretary:	A. Taroni, Brescia		E. Osnes, Oslo
Vice-Secretary:	C. van der Leun, Utrecht		E. Schopper, Geneva
Treasurer:	Ph. Choquard, Lausanne		I. Slaus, Zagreb
Vice-Treasurer:	E. Jakeman, Malvern		

— To hold future Council Meetings as follows:

1993: 26-27 March, Nice	1996: 29-30 March, Portugal
1994: 25-26 March, Cracow or Warsaw	1997: 21-22 March, Spain
1995: 31 March-1 April, Berlin or Bad Honnef	



Europhysics Notes

Compiled from correspondents' reports.

Contributions should be sent to the Editor.

● Dutch React to Shortened Degree

Degree courses for physicists in The Netherlands were reduced in length in 1982 to four years in both the universities (*doctorandus*, drs.) and technical universities (*ingenieur*, ir.). The average graduation time has meanwhile gone from 6.9 years to 4.9 years in 1991. A report of The Netherlands Physical Society by G. Maurice, published last month, of a survey finalised in October 1991 gauges the effects of the change for the first time. Considering students starting "old style" (OS) courses in 1979-84 and "new style" (NS) courses in 1985-90, the percentage of the numbers of drs. and ir.

moving on to further studies (mostly Ph.D. level) increased from 64% for OS to 77% for NS. Of students moving to full-time employment, the percentage of drs. moving to major industrial companies nearly halved (35% to 19%) as compared with ir. where the decrease was much less (55 to 48%). Smaller industry increased its share of physicists in first-time employment by roughly the same amount for both drs. (37 to 44%) and ir. (26 to 37%). Drs. moving to (semi)-government organisations increased from 27 to 36% while the percentage for ir. actually decreased from 19 to 15%.

E.W.A. Lingeman, the secretary of the Commission which made the survey, thinks the trends reflect the belief among graduates that industry seeks a longer training. It will therefore be interesting to see if new style Ph.D.'s presently starting to enter employment favour industry. For old style Ph.D.'s covered by the survey, the main part (44%) moved to (semi)government, 35% to major industry, and 19% to small companies. Moreover, will equivalent reactions materialise elsewhere? Germany is thinking about reducing, and the UK extending, first-degree courses.

The 1982 changes also led to a surge in the numbers (both total and first year) of physics students enrolled in Holland's four technical universities [*FOM Report 68747*

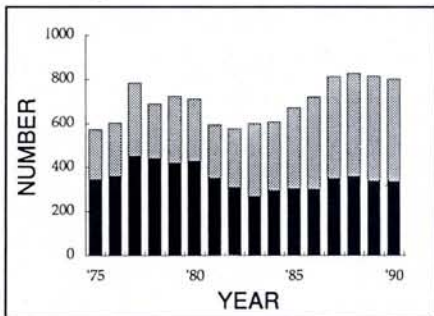


E.W.A. Lingeman, Chairman of the EPS Physics and Society Committee and Secretary of the EPS East-West Coordination Committee, speaking at Council in Athens.

(May 1991)]. The number of first years at TU Delft, the largest, in fact now appears to exceed the number at the largest university physics department for the first time (this is currently being checked). The universities have responded by opening technical physics departments of their own.

● FOM towards 2000

In outlining the rôle it sees for itself in the coming years, the Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM), Holland's largest government-supported organisation in physics, recently published a strategic plan (*FOM Towards 2000*) as an



The numbers of first-year student in physics (solid black) and technical physics (shaded) in The Netherlands [*FOM Report 68747* (1991)].