

Table 2 — Summary of EPS finances for 1991-1993 (in Swiss francs)

Item	1991 final estimate	1992 final estimate	1993 proposed
Total income	866 060	945 206	930 750
Total expenditure	757 600	878 500	921 000
Surplus	108 460	66 706	9 750
Accumulated deficit	82 080	15 374	5 624

— *Travel and special activities:* as the Executive-Secretary will be travelling less there is some reduction in travel expenses. Furthermore, the French Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique has agreed to pay the equivalent of 7 kSFR towards the costs of the Council meeting in Nice. This contribution is intended to compensate for Associate membership fees which were recently overlooked while the organization was restructuring. Special activities (education, east-west, mobility) are slated to receive 12 kSFR in 1993. Summarising, Table 2 shows that the Exe-

cutive proposes a slight fall off in total income, with a 42.5 kSFR increase in expenditure, relative to the estimates for 1992. The target is a modest surplus of 9.8 kSFR, sufficient to essentially eliminate the accumulated deficit in this the 25th anniversary year of EPS. Our Treasurer feels that with good luck and much goodwill, he will have accomplished the mission he set himself. He leaves a sound ship in the very capable hands of his successor, Professor Hans Beck from the University of Neuchâtel in Switzerland, who will be proposed as the next Treasurer.

Letter to the Editor

CERN Membership

I refer to the summary you wrote in *Europhysics News* of the EPS Associate Members Annual Meeting "The Rôle of Large-Scale Facilities" in Grenoble on 10 November 1992.

In the section Particle Physics you state: "Cooperation agreements have been set up with Albania, Romania and Bulgaria (essentially countries that will never become full members)". This statement is incorrect and does not reflect what I said at the meeting. Membership of CERN is open to all countries. The application for membership of the individual countries depends on the level of high-energy physics, and their willingness to join CERN. Also the financial possibilities have to be taken into account, although CERN has made special arrangements in the case of Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in the form of a transition period before reaching full contribution levels.

Walter Hoogland

Director of Research, CERN, Geneva

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION

Central Register and Regional Committees Recommended

The EPS Working Group on Professional Qualifications was asked by Council in 1992 to make detailed recommendations on how to introduce a European qualification in physics. The Group will make the following recommendations in its report to Council in Nice on 26/27 March 1993.

- Establish a Register of individuals who have satisfied the standards required for the award of a professional qualification and who can then use, at their discretion, the designation European Physicist and the abbreviation *Eur Phys*.

- The qualification requires a minimum period involving at least three years of acceptable university education, at least two years' responsible professional experience, and a balance which may include up to two year's training (professional experience is spent exercising education and training; training is the acquisition of special skills needed to exercise a profession).

- The qualification is open to all European physicists (with reduced rates for members of EPS and/or its national member societies).

- The appointment by EPS Council of a European Physicists Register Commission, reporting to Council, responsible for admissions and removals to and from the Register, and for monitoring standards.

- The appointment by the EPS Executive Committee upon the Commission's recommendation, of Regional Monitoring Committees (RMC's) composed of a national society (or societies where there is a some commonality in education). Other national organizations may also be represented in some form. Representatives of EPS member societies are in the majority.

- Applications are submitted to a RMC which makes recommendations to the Commission; the RMC's handle all communications with applicants.

- The RMC's operate through agents chosen

following calls for proposals for their creation and administration.

- A non-refundable application fee is paid to a RMC and a periodically renewable registration fee is paid to the Register Commission.

Next Steps

The Working Group recommends that the next steps should be to:

- Expand the membership of the Working Group with a view to it becoming the first Register Commission;
- Propose terms of reference for the Commission to the Executive Committee;
- Eventually make a call for proposals for Regional Monitoring Committees.

There are obviously many details to be worked out, but Derek Jefferies, the Group's Chairman, is confident that the proposed scheme is both realistic and sound. It will also be flexible enough to meet the needs of



D.R. Jefferies (on the left) and C. van der Leun of the professional qualifications working group. Seen talking in Athens at the 1992 Council, they have done most of the work involved in preparing the report and proposals for the 1993 Council in Nice.

the many physicists who seek professional recognition in addition to an academic qualification. Decentralization through the regional committees means the scheme would be open to all at the start as the Register Commission would welcome proposals for several committees. Meanwhile, a high standard and the all-important uniformity throughout Europe would be ensured by making the Commission responsible for monitoring the scheme, and for appointments to the regional committees.

ATOMIC & MOLECULAR PHYSICS DIVISION

Electronic & Atomic Collisions Section

REELECTION OF BOARD

The Electronic and Atomic Collisions Section of AMPD will reelect all of its Board during the 18th International Conference on the Physics of Electronic and Atomic Collisions (ICPEAC) at Aarhus, Denmark, on Friday, 24 July 1993 (12.30 h). The EACS Board consists of six elected members, serving for three years, plus up to six co-opted members. The previous board members, who have all served for the maximum period, are listed in *Europhysics News* **23** (1992) 130.

Individual Ordinary Members of EPS, who are Section members, and National Societies (Cat. 4b) are invited to make nominations; those made by IOM's should be endorsed by at least six members. Nominations should be sent to the AMPD chair (H. Hotop, Fachbereich Physik, Univ. Kaiserslautern, W-6750 Kaiserslautern; fax: +49-631-205 33 00) and arrive by the end of May, 1993.

The 18th ICPEAC will be held on 21-27 July 1993, at the Concert Hall in Aarhus. For information write to ICPEAC XVIII Secretary, Institute of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University, DK-8000 Aarhus C (fax: +45-86-12 07 40).

H. Hotop, Kaiserslautern