

period since the last increase; the remaining SFR 0.50 would allow an extra 14 kSFR to be set aside for special activities. Several delegates supported the full increase saying that EPS needs resources but the final vote, taken after a discussion on restructuring (see next column), was for SFR 1.00.

Professional Qualifications Scheme Proposed

D.A. Jefferies, Chairman of the Working Group on Professional Qualifications, presented a draft report of a survey of qualifications together with the group's recommendations. Generally speaking, academic circles in western Europe had mixed feelings while industry in east and central Europe was very positive. Pressure was clearly mounting within medical physics and radiation protection for European recognition. Wide consultation on a possible scheme was still taking place, the emphasis being to seek support from organizations representing industry and employers. A meeting was also expected shortly with the EC Directorate for social affairs, responsible for harmonising employment conditions, as the CEC has already shown interest in an initiative from the physics community itself.

Dr. Jefferies stressed that there was no intention to enforce regulation and that the scheme would be decentralised, with regional committees acting through agents doing most of the work; EPS would have overall control and be responsible for ensuring standards. These features would allow countries wishing to go ahead to do so. Physics needs such a tool (M. Jacob) and if EPS in its "flagship" position (C.A. Foxall, President, IoP) does not take the necessary steps someone else will. P.M. Mandrillon (Accelerators Group) who heads a medical ion therapy facility in Nice confirmed the difficulties physicists working in medicine face. Even basic inputs for planning such as appropriate salaries cannot be agreed without formally defining a physicist. D. Kaplan said the results of recent survey in France showed that physicists working in medicine were a special case; discussion should be restricted accordingly. M. Balkański (IOM Delegate) noted that the CEC will be carrying out a survey of what would be needed for a professional qualification in materials science, so the move to qualifications in science was picking up steam. R.A. Ricci (President, Italian Physical Society) stressed that the question was more general and related to employment opportunities for all physicists. The fact that physicists in Italy do not have a legally recognized status limits opportunities. Fairly serious problems will also develop as the EC

FULL MEMBER SOCIETIES

Mandate to Plan Phased Implementation

The Executive tabled at the 1993 EPS Council a proposal to create a new membership category called Full Member Society (FMS), open to Member Societies, whose members would receive *Europhysics News* and be eligible for activities on the same footing as Individual Ordinary Members (IOM's). Each FMS would pay a scaled unit fee per member (say a full unit for a research scientist and a fraction of this for a student) and would distribute *News*, bulk mailed to the society, to its membership. The German Physical Society (GPS) and the Institute of Physics (IoP) would increase their present contributions by agreed amounts to offset disparities. Their members would initially not receive *News* but their societies would publish in their national bulletins a "news section" from *Europhysics News* edited by EPS.

At the Executive Meeting the day before Council, the GPS agreed to a scaled unit fee for all its members since it wished to be treated like any other society. As the GPS would not be receiving *News* in bulk, integrating the German position implies modifying the proposal to mean that all members of a FMS would simply qualify for receiving *News*.

The President opened the discussion on the modified FMS proposal by proposing three motions on: a) whether the FMS scheme was a desirable objective in the spirit of the 1992 Council; b) whether Council agreed to provide a tool for restructuring by creating

the FMS category; and c) whether the Executive could be mandated to go ahead and draw up specific conditions for the timing and implementation of the FMS category. Following a financial assessment, Member Societies may be invited to submit, one week before EPS-9 in Florence on 14 September, letters of intent to join as FMS's.

Norbert Kroo, the new EPS President, pointed out that the FMS proposal was for "a long transition period with many boundary problems", and the best way to handle the situation is to have the Executive sort out details. Some societies urged caution but several (Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Israel, Italy, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, and France) indicated that in spite of obvious difficulties they were ready to become FMS's from 1994 (France in 1995). All three motions were overwhelmingly endorsed.

In order to work out the implications of admitting FMS's, the Executive Secretary is asking Member Societies to indicate the numbers of members of different types each has, the percentage of the full fee the various types pay to the society, and the number of copies of *Europhysics News* each would distribute. Under Article 18 of the Constitution, implementation of the new category will eventually require the formal announcement to all members by Council of amendments to the Constitution.

becomes more integrated. People are changing jobs more frequently so it is important to ensure "flexibility from a sound basis" (P.M. Melville, Chairman, ACAAPI). Young scientists face tremendous economic pressures to move into engineering (G.C. Morrison, IOM Delegate) and the weak status of physicists was one reason why students did not take up physics; physics must be, and be seen to be, relevant and having a professional qualification helps. A priority may also be to ensure that the special courses developed for professional branches of physics (notably in the UK and The Netherlands for medical physics) become more widely available.

The possibility that EPS would be liable for professional misconduct (H.R. Ott, Associate Members Delegate) is not a problem. Undermining the authority of universities is a major concern (G. Benedek, IOM Delegate) and it largely explains the German position that a qualification may not be needed. However, H. Schopper (President, German Physical

Society) said other countries could go ahead *à la carte* if they wished provided this was cost neutral. N. Kroo recommended endorsement of the proposals as part of the Society's membership was clearly in favour. It was agreed to endorse the working group's recommendations while at the same time seeking further comments.

Action Committees

P.M. Melville, the ACAAPI chairman, reported that the Europhysics Industrial Workshops had been relaunched in 1993 with two events. A third was already settled for 1994 and one or two others were almost finalised. The committee continues to provide input and advice on the question of professional qualifications, and to encourage the inclusion of applied physics topics in meetings' programmes. The annual meeting with the Associates in Grenoble last autumn on the rôle of facilities was worthwhile and he hoped a similar event will be held in 1993. The committee has teamed up with the **Physics and Society** committee to organize a study conference, tentatively slated for February 1994, on the important topic of industry-university relations. E.W.A. Lingeman, who chairs Physics and Society, reported that contacts with a group based in Alushta, Ukraine, and with the European Nuclear Society had resulted in a proposal for a study conference on materials science and nuclear technology to be held in October 1993. A similar event, but this time on using energy intelligently, is scheduled for May 1993 in Griefswald.

The **Conferences** committee continues to represent EPS on the Steering Committee of the European Research Conferences (ERC).



From the left, A. Calboreanu (Secretary, Romanian Physical Society), N. Erduran (President, Turkish Physical Society), I.J. Lalov (President, Union of Physicists in Bulgaria), K.G. Akdeniz (Delegate, Turkish Physical Society), and K.C. Makropoulos (President, Hellenic Physical Society). On the right, N. Mankoc-Borstenik (President, Society of Mathematicians, Physicists and Astronomers of Slovenia)