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### Cover illustration

*Enhanced nuclear binding in magic nuclei. The macroscopic-microscopic model is used to compare the measured properties of exotic nuclear with theoretical estimates. The illustration plots calculated values of microscopic shell corrections as a function of the proton number Z and the neutron number N for the ground-state masses of nuclei with  $N < 100$ . The energy (or mass) corrections are colour coded from +6 MeV (red) through to -10 MeV (violet). Nuclei in the region near the  $^{100}\text{Sn}$  doubly magic  $N = Z = 50$  nucleus are predicted to have large, negative correction energies. [From P. Möller et al., Atomic & Nuclear Data Tables, to be published]. See E. Roeckl, p. 48.*

## Professional Qualification Launched

The decision by the Council of EPS to launch a professional qualification aims to enhance the status of physicists.

The Council of EPS at its meeting in Cracow on 25/26 March agreed with a proposal put forward by a working group to launch a professional qualification in physics. If they fulfill certain requirements relating to education, training and experience, successful applicants may use the title *European Physicist* (*Eur Phys* for short) subject to a review every five years.



Norbert Kroó, the EPS President (centre), and Herwig Schopper, the President-Elect (on the left), with Derek Jefferies who chaired the group that prepared the Council proposal for a European qualification in physics.

The qualification will have a direct impact in some areas, notably applied fields such as medical physics where people often need recognition of their competence as physicists in addition to what is provided by an academic title. It is expected that the scheme will enhance the Society's visibility and improve the status of a physicist in a given field. The process of unification of Europe is tending to increase the importance of professional qualifications as they help ensure the free movement of scientists and general recognition of their competence. Indeed, officials of the European Commission have already expressed positive interest in the Society's initiative, which comes at a time when other disciplines in science are in the process of setting up their own qualification procedures.

The Executive Committee was authorised by Council to implement the scheme by establishing the Commission that will maintain the *Register of European Physicists*. Council will review progress after three years to see if any fundamental changes are needed. It is envisaged that the working group will be expanded to form the Register Commission which will then specify its needs. National societies collaborating in the scheme will help in the distribution this autumn of application forms and guidance notes detailing the requirements and conditions, so we can expect the first *Eur Phys* to be awarded in 1995.

N. Kroó, EPS President

## EUR PHYS

### Recognizing Fundamentals

Someone who is adequately educated and trained as a physicist and has been working as one will soon be able to become a *European Physicist*. The requirements will be straightforward and the procedure simple. The qualification will enhance the status of physicists, although the perceived extent varies depending upon the viewpoint. Most agree that formal recognition by the physics community as a *Eur Phys* will be in-