

Turning Points Reached

EPS Council meeting in Cracow on 25-26 March agreed to introduce the category of National Society Member, a professional qualification scheme, and measures to boost Division activities. The Ukrainian Physical Society became a Member so physicists in all of Europe's major countries are now represented in EPS.

Following a short welcome to Cracow by Professor Jerzy Niewodniczański, Vice-President of the Polish Physical Society, Norbert Kroó, the EPS President, opened Council in the Jagiellonian University's Institute of Physics by remarking that the preparation of the proposed revisions to the *Constitution and By-laws* had come to an end; it was now up to Council to decide at a time when east and central Europe is in transition and western Europe is integrating more and more. The work included proposals to strengthen the Society's non-federative aspects to expand unified action throughout Europe. New activities, improved contacts, and attracting young people would increase visibility, complementing the important rôle played by the Society's journals and bulletin. Cooperation is increasing and funding agencies try to organize new initiatives so the Society's advisory capability becomes more significant. He referred to EPS participation in UNESCO's physics panel and a report on particle accelerators to the OECD's Megascience Forum. Proposals to The Soros Foundations for support for journal subscriptions in the former Soviet Union and in east and central Europe should be settled quite soon. The Society also acts in key areas such as the relationship between science and technology, the rôle of education, and qualifications.

Council was asked by C.A.P. Foxell, the President of the UK's Institute of Physics, to thank Professor Kroó for being so successful in obtaining substantial support from The Soros Foundations for student mobility from east and central Europe [see *EN 25* (1994) 42].

Andrea Taroni, the Secretary, had little to report other than it will be necessary to see how the Secretariat's work load evolves in handling the new category of National Society Member that was voted in (see below). Regarding the financial result for 1993: the Treasurer, Hans Beck, reported a surplus of 42 kSFR which essentially eliminates the accumulated deficit. Membership income from national societies was 20 kSFR higher than budgeted for since the Russian Academy of Sciences had been able to pay its contribution. Also higher was income to *Europhysics News* and to *Europhysics Letters*, this being partly compensated for by overall Post Office-related costs which were about 5% more than anticipated. The 1994 budget accepted by Council sees a small surplus of 8 kSFR. Income is estimated to be as in 1993 while Secretariat salaries increase by 26 kSFR and costs attributed to *Europhysics News* and the Secretariat expenses remain essentially unchanged.

An ariel view of Cracow's Main Market Square (upper). In the centre, Professor Henryk Szymczak, President of the Polish Physical Society that hosted the 1994 EPS Council in Cracow. With him are the Society's General-Secretary Professor Ireneusz Strzalkowski (on the right), and Szymon Bauch (on the left).



Solidarity Fund

All the targeted activities singled out at the 1993 Council for support are financed in 1994, with a significantly larger amount for professional qualifications (10 kSFR) because the scheme is launched this year (see p. 46). The main new targeted activities are labelled Division activities (20 kSFR) with some 13 kSFR available on application to support the participation of Board representatives at Council and at one Executive Meeting. The remainder is for mailings and administrative support for the Divisions which have been covered up to now by the general budget.

Also with the boosting of Division activities in mind, Council accepted a proposal by Hartmut Hotop, who chairs the Atomic Molecular Physics Division (AMPD), that a mini-

mum levy of SFR 20.– from conference fees (except for students) be earmarked for the organizing Group, Section of Division, with the proviso that one-fifth goes to a Solidarity Fund administered by the EPS Conference Committee. The Fund will finance grants for young participants at conferences and starting loans for organizing meetings. Some Division representatives strongly supported the Fund as Divisions need independent resources (Jürgen Mlynek, Chair, Quantum Electronics and Optics); others felt one should relate the EPS percentage to the size of the meeting (Elisabeth Rachlew-Källne, Vice-Chair, AMPD), while Frans Sluiter (Chair, Plasma Physics) was concerned that the Fund implied the persistence of undesirable features (such as Divisions without allocated finance). Council therefore decided to create the Fund subject to a review after three years. So the Conference Committee will start contacting the Divisions, etc. as well as meetings' organizers to explain what should be done with regard to the levy, earmarked funds and requests for support. Division, Section and Group chairs are invited to contact the Executive Secretary if they think they may need travel support.

Upper: Council voting unanimously to accept the revised Constitution and By-Laws. Lower, Norbert Kroó, the EPS President (second from left) with the Ukrainian Physical Society delegation. From the left, Professor I.O. Vakarchuk, the UPS Vice-President, Professor Kroó, an interpreter, and Professor E.M. Rudenko.



Voting in Council

Looking ahead to 1995 and the new membership scheme involving a scaled unit fee and National Society Members (NSMs – see below), the President remarked that while some details needed working out for a small critical region, there was certainly no catastrophe in sight. This set the scene for a discussion leading up to the, by all appearances, unanimous open vote to approve the revised *Constitution and By-laws*. Most remarks concerned voting rights in Council. For votes other than the value of the unit fee, today's national society (NS) and Division/Group memberships result in the following distribution: