

with non-members paying a supplement and EPS Individual Ordinary Members enjoying a reduction.

– To endorse a proposed transformation of the Action Committee for Applied Physics and Physics in Industry into an Interdivisional Group. The proposal, which aims to strengthen Divisional activities in applied physics to encourage physicists in industry to participate, will now be presented to Council.

– To ask the Conference Committee to prepare brief guidelines on how Divisions and Groups should apply to the European Commission for support for conferences.

– To appoint the Register Commission for Professional Qualifications once the number of proposed members is complete. The Working Group on Professional Qualifications has essentially completed all the preparatory work ready for launching the scheme around mid-1995.

Constitution and By-laws

The Council of EPS will have to vote on the following (minor) changes to the *EPS Constitution and By-laws* at its meeting of 24/25 March 1995.

Article 7: Individual members of a national society which has been accepted as an Ordinary Member of EPS may participate in the activities of EPS according to Rules 11 and 29 as National Society Members (NSM's) even if they did not become Individual Ordinary Members of EPS.

Proposed change: after "National Society Members (NSM's)" add "of EPS".

Articles 22.2j) and 24; Rules 25 and 26: Replace "Executive Secretary" by "Secretary General".

Rule 29: Participation in the activities of a Division and/or Interdivisional Group shall be open to Individual Ordinary Members (IOM's) of the Society and to National Society Members (NSM's) according to Article 7 of the *Constitution*, who have stated to the EPS Secretariat their intention to be a member of a Division and /or Interdivisional Group.

Proposed change: after "stated to the EPS Secretariat" add "via their National Society".

Rule 35b): *Proposed addition:* "The total number of copies of *Europhysics News* allocated to National Societies is thus given by (contribution paid minus students contribution)/unit fee plus number of students".

PHYSICS ACTION COUNCIL

Firming up on Specifics

UNESCO's Director-General agreed last year to create a Physics Action Council (PAC) in order to stress the importance of physics as a cultural, scientific and educational resource which can enrich both the quality of life and national economies. Operating as an advisory panel, PAC aims to promote the widest possible participation of physicists in international programmes by examining the situation and recommending actions to both the physics community and UNESCO (in the framework of the organization's two- and five-year plans). The Council would essentially help the international physics community in these critical times to harmonise and coordinate approaches towards a variety of major issues.

The initiative emerged from a consultative meeting held in Paris in June 1993 that pinpointed physics in developing countries, sustaining excellence in east and central Europe and the former Soviet Union, and large-scale projects as priorities. The meeting recommended that programmes involve partnerships between governmental and non-governmental organizations, and that learned societies and the like play a major role as concerted action from the base is needed to develop a consensus for action. With these general principles in mind, three UNESCO-supported working groups were set up following the PAC's first meeting last June.

The groups were able to report on some concrete items at the Council's second meeting in Cancun, Mexico, in September. Details concerning the interest and need for large facilities in developing countries is lacking, so the Working Group on **Large Facilities** chaired by H. Schopper has asked organizations in the region for information about major projects in their various phases (operational, planning, discussion). The information will provide a firm basis for identifying appropriate programmes and potential partners, as well as ways to train experts and to enhance links between academia and industry.

The group also believes that workshops are needed to allow projects in a given-sub field to be presented to the entire physics community so as to reach agreement, at least on the scientific merits, across a broad

base (most existing coordination bodies tend to limit consensus-building activities within a given sub-field). Developing such an approach may need additional coordination to be established in various fields by building on recognized starting points (many of which were discussed at September's *EPS Large Facilities in Physics Conference*).

Finally there is the issue of access to facilities: the ground-rules are moving as government's respond to a changed political climate and apparently reduced public support for the physical sciences. Guidelines for access need to be established that reflect specific requirements in various fields.

True to the spirit of its work, the Working Group on **Communication Networks** chaired by I.A. Lerch (American Physical Society) has set up a pilot computer conferencing system to help out. But the main effort will obviously be spent tackling problems in regions where such things are much more difficult to establish. The group thinks that it can help launch so-called Pilot Network Projects (PNP) for academic and research networks, notably in South America and the former Soviet Union. A PNP funded by the UN Development Programme and the International Science Foundation has recently reached agreement with Ukraine's EARN organization to develop an Internet network, with international connections provided by EARN-Ukraine. Such an approach may help circumvent the privately owned and reportedly avaricious RELCOM organization that handles Internet traffic in Russia. The group's analysis — particularly information relating to excessive traffic charges — will be incorporated into an intergovernmental conference on telecommunications that UNESCO is organizing in 1996.

The Working Group on **University Physics Education** chaired by M. Konuma (Physical Society of Japan) faces a wide range of major topics, mainly because university systems differ so much around the world. Distilling out and identifying priorities by its next meeting will itself represent progress, as well as providing a unique insight into global issues in what has up to now been largely a national and uncoordinated realm of physics.

Internationally sponsored research training is perhaps the most visible and successful aspect today of physics education. The International Centre for Theoretical Physics in Trieste has been proposed by many as the basis for an expanding group of cooperating "Triestinos", and one can perhaps build on the various international schools (e.g., the EPS Southern School and the International Schools of Physics in China and Russia). Similar initiatives are needed at other levels where it may be possible, for instance, to exploit modern technology in using networks to create a virtual university.

The PAC aims to submit a final report to UNESCO's Director-General at the end of 1995, together with recommendations on how the Council may evolve into a permanent body that unifies national and international instruments in physics. Some PAC members argue that a specialised United Nations agency would be the ideal, if ambitious, answer.

Statement in Support of LHC

In the past 40 years CERN, the European Organization for Particle Physics Research, has succeeded in bringing Europe to a position of leadership in the study of fundamental interactions. This is testified by the important number of CERN users coming from outside Europe, and in particular from the United States. At the same time, the number of users from Member States has more than doubled over the past 20 years.

The next logical step towards decisive progress in the field is the LHC. This machine is a 27 km in circumference superconducting proton collider which is foreseen to be installed in the same tunnel as the existing LEP machine. LHC will be the world frontier of high-energy physics; with a 14 TeV collision energy it will be in an unique position to provide answers to new fundamental questions raised by the present great successes of particle physics and cosmology.

The European Physical Society strongly supports this essential project for Europe which will allow to further the excellence of research on the ultimate constituents of matter and keep the momentum of CERN and Europe in this area. Worried by recent delays, the EPS urges the CERN Member State governments to quickly take a positive decision to approve the LHC.

*Geneva and Budapest
1 November 1994*

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