



European  
Physical Society

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# Integration and Continuity

Many discussions have been held over the last decade within different forums of EPS on how the Society should be modernized in order to fulfil better the members' expectations. The need for change has been formulated in variety of ways, but the underlying message was clear. It has been a great honour for me to be involved in this process and to devote some of my energies to realizing some of the noble ideas in European physics.

One of the most striking contradictions has been that the total membership of national physical societies is about 70000 while only some 4000 to 5000 people belong to EPS as Individual Ordinary Members (IOMs). It was felt that national society members would be more involved in EPS affairs if they were to receive *Europhysics News* and to participate in the activities of our technical Divisions and Groups. A new membership category, that of National Society Member, was agreed to unanimously by Council last year in Cracow. My hope is that this measure will lead to a steadily increasing number of physicists becoming involved in European-level activities. My other hope is that the number of IOMs will not decrease significantly owing to these changes. I expect that colleagues who want to demonstrate their belief in an integrated Europe, and are ready to do something to achieve this goal in physics (as many of us have done since the foundation of the Society), will remain or join EPS as IOMs.

The professional activity of our Society has always been concentrated in the Divisions and Interdivisional Groups. The impact of our professional work can therefore be strengthened if we increase their influence on the Society's affairs. We have therefore decided to increase the representation of the Divisions and Groups in Council. Their membership should also increase significantly when the many National Society Members become involved. This change — I hope — will lead to the badly needed rejuvenation of EPS.

### Promote Professionalism

I am convinced that the new Europe needs a well organized and strong body in physics which is independent, is more than a learned society and has a very strong professional character. The European Union, for example, is extremely interested in the know-how accumulated in EPS and its making use of the Society can be of mutual benefit. Discussions have taken place on how to achieve this goal and a positive outcome can already be seen in some areas.

Greater activity in the field of applied physics and in the building up of industrial contacts is important from the European Union's perspective. One possible step in this direction, which will be discussed at the next Council in Bad Honnef on 24-25 March, is to reorganize the Action Committee for Applied Physics and Physics in Industry as an Interdivisional Group which is open to all physicists independent of their specialization. It is hoped that this will enhance contacts between the Divisions and Groups. For in the final analysis, the future of physics lies in its ability to address fundamental problems in many areas. A European professional qualification in physics (with the designation *European Physicist*) is in the process of being launched in order to assist members from some applied fields, e.g., medical physics. This represents one initiative to stimulate the participation of industry and industrial physicists in our activities. But we also need to see if EPS could serve this part of the community in other ways.

### Increased Visibility

Other actions are also increasing the visibility of our Society, both among our members and in the outside world. A few deserve special mention. Our student mobility programme — the *European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students* which was launched in 1993 — is at the very centre of my affections. The number of students being exchanged between the participating European universities is increasing continuously. I take great pleasure in thanking George

Soros, whose generous donation helped students from east and central European universities to participate in the scheme. I hope that the students who benefited will stay with us and strengthen our Society with their enthusiasm, work and new ideas. I have also once more to express the thanks of the whole Society to Ernst Heer who launched this extremely important activity.

Physics education is the basis of the future of physics research and of our Society. This explains why we decided to strengthen our efforts in education. An Interdivisional Group has been organized and some actions have already been made. For instance, the first *Amaldi Prize* for the best secondary school physics textbook published between 1987 and 1993 (which was awarded in collaboration with the Amaldi Foundation to a group of Austrian authors) aims to promote high-quality textbooks.

The many contacts with other organizations, notably physical societies (e.g., The American Physical Society, The Physical Society of Japan, and the Association of Asia-Pacific Physical Societies) and international organizations (UNESCO, OECD, ESF, etc.) have been enhanced. For instance, the Society is participating in the recently started work of UNESCO on how this organization could be more efficient and active in tackling some global problems in physics research and education.

Integration processes should also be stimulated within the physics community itself. There are several other physics-related societies in Europe (for astronomy, optics,



The President with the Executive Committee of EPS after the Council meeting in Cracow in March 1994. From the left are: E. Osnes (Vice-Treasurer), A. Taroni (Secretary), C. Sébenne (Vice-Secretary), C.M. Ferreira, H. Beck (the former Treasurer), G. Thomas (Secretary General), H. Schopper (President-Elect), N. Króó (President), G.C. Morrison, J.-P. Ansermet, E Jakeman (former Vice-Treasurer), J.L. Lewis (Treasurer). C. van der Leun is not shown.

materials, medical physics, etc.) which could be brought together with EPS into an European Institute of Physics. Channels to collaborate with societies in other disciplines (chemistry, biology, etc.) should also be found.

Regarding publications, *Europhysics Letters*, whose scientific well-being is an EPS responsibility, remains a success both financially and in terms of how it meets the professional needs of the physics community. The next key issue is electronic publishing. We have started to consider how the journal could find a major presence in this increasingly important environment.

**Norbert Króó**, the President of EPS, is the Director of the Research Institute for Solid State Physics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. His two-year term of office ends immediately following the annual meeting of the Council of EPS (Bad Honnef; 24-25 March 1995). He will be proposed to Council as the Vice-President since his term of office on the Executive Committee lasts for another year. Herwig Schopper from CERN, who was elected as the President-Elect for one year at the 1994 Council in Cracow, will be proposed to Council in Bad Honnef as the next President.

#### SOLIDARITY FUND

### Applications Sought

An EPS Solidarity Fund was set up last year to help provide some starting capital to organizers of new conferences, workshops and schools, and to fund grants to help participation at EPS conferences by young people and scientists from economically weak regions. The aim is to transfer to the Fund 20% of a SFR 20.- levy made on each participant at an EPS conference (the remaining 80% would be earmarked for use by the Division or Interdivisional Group that organized the conference).

Some SFR 10000.- that was set aside in last year's budget for Division and Group activities but was not taken up has been transferred to the Fund. Moreover, the High-Energy and Particle Physics Division has made a voluntary contribution of SFR 5000.-. So meetings' organizers and conference participants coming from the economically weaker parts of Europe are encouraged to submit applications. This can be done by contacting the Chair of your Division or Group who will forward your application to the Secretary of the Conference Committee which manages the Fund. The names and addresses of Chairs are listed in the EPS Directory published in the July 1994 of *Europhysics News* and available on World-Wide Web at <http://192.16.199.1/www/pub/eps/eps.html>.

The *European Journal of Physics*, which is published in partnership with The Institute of Physics (UK) and specializes in physics teaching, is operating extremely well. I have to pay tribute to George Series, the first Editor, who died recently and express my happiness that Lennart Samuelsson, the previous chairman of the Education Committee, took over in January from A.B. Pippard as the Editor.

#### Redefined Goals

Europe is changing very rapidly. We in physics must react more quickly in finding the optimum path. We expect this first of all from ourselves. But I am convinced that the outside world expects it as well. We have to hand over to future generations a Society capable of continuously regenerating itself so that it can host and breed the good ideas that will strengthen European physics, and in so doing foster an increasingly integrated continent.

I therefore consider the structural changes, and the increased emphasis on some of our activities, as important steps towards a more efficient and widely respected Society in the fully integrated Europe which I believe will emerge one day. For we can

only compete with other regions in the world if we exploit all of our intellectual resources, whether they be from east or west, north or south.

New goals have to be defined following the collapse of the Iron Curtain since the Society's bridge-building role between east and west has already lost much of its meaning. The main task now is integration and here physics, as in the bridge building of former years, can again make a major contribution. We should not give this up as one of our ambitions.

Young scientists — their interest in research, their access to jobs and their involvement in a broader range of issues than their own scientific work — should also be one of our central concerns. We have to help them find ways and means to be able to expand their horizons.

But in redefining our objectives we should, of course, not forget our traditional activities such as the organization of workshops, conferences and schools, publishing, the safe-guarding of scientific and intellectual freedom, and efforts to articulate the opinion of the physics community on important scientific issues.

**N. Króó, Budapest**

### EPCS Board Elections

Members of the EPS Interdivisional Group for Experimental Physics Control Systems (EPCS) are invited to nominate candidates for the election of four Board Members to take office on 1 July 1995. Members normally serve for three years, with the option of re-election for another three years. The Board presently comprises:

**Chair:** A. Daneels (CERN, Geneva)

**Vice-Chair:** W. Busse (HMI, Berlin)

**Treasurer:** T. Blumer (PSI, Villigen)

**Members:** P. Clout (VISTA Control Systems; IEEE contact)

M. Clausen (DESY, Hamburg)

L. Trasatti (INFN-LNF, Frascati)

T. Katoh (KEK, Tsukuba).

W. Busse, T. Blumer, P. Clout and A. Daneels have come to the end of their six-year terms of office so they will have to be replaced.

For a nomination to be valid the nominee must be a member of EPCS and the nomination form should be signed by three EPCS members, be accompanied by a statement of consent from the nominee, and be received by 15 March 1995. Nominations should be sent to W. Busse, Hahn-Meitner-Institut, Glienicke Str. 100, D-14109 Berlin. Nomination forms can be requested from W. Busse by fax (+49 30-80 62 20 97) or e-mail ([busse@vax.hmi.d400.de](mailto:busse@vax.hmi.d400.de)).

The EPS Interdivisional Group for Experimental Physics Control Systems (EPCS) is the platform for control specialists from several companies and more than 40 physics facilities world-wide. Know-how flows freely via privileged communication channel so ideas, opinions and problems can be discussed in an open, friendly environment. Smaller com-

panies and laboratories are also able to have a say in a domain that in the past appeared more the business of large organizations.

EPCS contributes significantly to promoting closer collaboration between laboratories and with industry, which in turn uses the Group to evaluate and disseminate products and to promote their development. The outcome is a rather homogeneous marketplace in which favourable terms for purchasing products are often established.

Individual Ordinary Members and National Society Members of EPS are encouraged to join EPCS if they would like to contribute to the Group's work. As for all EPS Divisions and Groups, there is no membership fee.

### Agreement on General Conference

The Board of the EPS Condensed Matter Division (CMD) has reached agreement with the French Physical Society, the Condensed Matter and Materials Physics Division of the Institute of Physics (UK) and the Solid-State Physics Division of the German Physical Society to hold the CMD General Conference jointly every three years together with the Divisional meeting of one of the three national societies. In the intervening years, the CMD conference will hopefully tend to be held in smaller countries, perhaps also in collaboration with national societies. The first joint event will be held with the French Physical Society's *Journées de Matière Condensée* in 1998. The agreement follows much discussion on the future of the CMD conference and the need to hold conferences in smaller countries while ensuring that all condensed matter physicists attend.