



EPS COUNCIL

Positive Launch of a New Phase

The Council of EPS held its 1995 annual meeting in Bad Honnef at the German Physical Society's Physikzentrum on 24-25 March.

The EPS Council met this year for the first time in the configuration that corresponds to the revised *EPS Constitution* whereby members of national societies participate as National Society Members (NSMs). Each member society now sends one delegate to Council instead of a variable number depending on the number of members. Second, the importance of the NSMs who elect to join EPS Divisions and Groups is reflected in increased representation.

Implementation, starting in January, of the NSM category was bound to present some difficulties which Council needed to iron out. H. Schopper, who was elected as the next EPS President, acknowledged on closing the meeting that a very positive atmosphere ensured that most issues could be resolved. He was confident that the Society "has the strength to make itself even more attractive".

The New Phase

N. Króo, who's two-year term as President ended at Council, opened the meeting by stressing that in the period immediately following the Society's restructuring one needs to pay special attention to some specific areas. He emphasised the importance of strengthening the Society's Divisions and Groups, its visibility, its capacity to handle professional matters, and its activities, notably those in education and applied physics. Regional groupings of physical societies should be considered more closely, along with east-west initiatives. Professor Króo, who still has one year to serve on the Executive, has agreed to become Vice-President and to take care of refocussing east-

west initiatives following Council's agreement to end the East-West Coordination Committee.

The menu is fairly long, but a start has already been made. For instance: the professional qualifications scheme will be launched very shortly; Council would be asked to accept a proposal to turn the Action Committee for Applied Physics and Physics in Industry into an Interdivisional Group (it agreed unanimously); special surveys have been undertaken for the European Commission; and EPS participates fully in UNESCO's Physics Advisory Council. Programmes such as the very successful European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students are contributing greatly to improving the Society's visibility because they combine an "integrating character with the involvement of young people". Meanwhile, the formation of the Astrophysics Division jointly with the European Astronomical Society illustrates how working arrangements can be developed with physics-related societies. They may represent precursors for an eventual European Institute of Physics.

Europhysics News and the Budget

The Society's new configuration essentially involves national societies paying fees based membership categories. They then receive *Europhysics News* in bulk, unless separate arrangements are made for direct mailing to individuals. The exceptions are the UK's Institute of Physics and the German Physical Society who publish separately the *Information to EPS Members* section of *Europhysics News*. Springer-Verlag recently concluded an agreement with EPS to sponsor *Europhysics News*. There will be a cash payment of DM 50000.- p.a. for up to three years in return for publicity and the understanding that there will be negotiations for another agreement whereby Springer would cover production and maybe distribution, with EPS responsible for generating editorial material. Planning new sections of what should one day become a substantially larger publication has already started. Some will be introduced during the transition period, but progressively and to a limited extent as the contents will eventually have to reflect the need to enhance the magazine's commercial appeal. Council approved the agreement without any reservations.

Council also accepted the auditors' report for 1993 showing that the budgeted surplus of about 32 kSFR had turned into a deficit of 28 kSFR after taking into consideration items such as outstanding debts and exchange losses. Pending final accounts due

Published by EPS to inform members.
Editor: P.G. Boswell, EPS, BP 69, CH-1213
Petit-Lancy 2. E-mail: peter.boswell@cern.ch
Tel.: +41-22-793 11 30 - Fax: +41-22-793 13 17

MARCH-APRIL 1995



M.J. van der Wiel, on the left, who was elected at Council as a member of the EPS Executive Committee, with H. Schopper, who was elected President.

shortly, it seems that the audited surplus for 1994 will be larger than the budgeted amount. Council approved the proposed budget for 1995 which is based on national societies contributions following the agreed formula (one unit fee per full member and scaled fees for other categories depending on the fee paid to the national society). The budgeted surplus of about 47 kSFR for 1995 combined with the likely surplus for 1994 will probably not eliminate the Society's accumulated deficit despite earlier reports based on budget estimates. Although the Society is well on the road to making up the deficit without jeopardising activities, Council insisted that the auditors should furnish accounts from now on according to a tighter schedule.

Member Societies

The need to have timely auditors' reports is not helped by the late payment of fees. Council decided to ask national societies to pay their fees by 1 April, but that in the case of difficulties they should contact the Secretary General. These may arise if a national society depends, for example, on a government grant. Further discussion rapidly led to the decision not to automatically exclude any member society which is in arrears.

There is a general willingness to help societies who have difficulty in paying annual membership fees, so Council was very pleased to hear that the Finnish and Swedish physical societies had agreed to continue for another year with the arrangement to cover two-third's of the Estonian Physical Society's fee. The Italian Physical Society has also undertaken to cover the Albanian Physical Society's fee.

Council voted unanimously to accept as new members the Latvian Physical Society



Council unanimously elected the Latvian Physical Society and the Society of Physicists of the Republic of Macedonia as EPS Members. V. Urumov (on the right) the President of the society from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is seen here with C. Helmis, the President of the Hellenic Physical Society.



G. Benedek (upper, left) seen with C. Sébenne, was elected to the Executive Committee along with L.F. Schegolev (lower).



and the Society of Physicists of the Republic of Macedonia. In presentations to Council, their Presidents had made it clear that the prerequisites for membership existed, namely that the societies are legally established and active and that financial commit-

ments would be honoured. The only complication was the name chosen by the Macedonian society. The official United Nations designated name (the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) will only be used when referring to the country since EPS cannot oblige a group of physicists to adopt a particular name. So EPS is now a home to all of Europe's physicists except for those in parts of the former Yugoslavia.

The way NSMs are enrolled continues to generate some misunderstanding. It is perhaps natural for societies to consider sending EPS lists of the names of members who wish to join the various EPS Divisions and Groups. But such arrangements cannot be rushed as formal votes are often needed. There are in fact not yet any exceptions to the general practice that a NSM joins a Division or Group by contacting a national society. Individual Members of EPS should of course contact the EPS Secretariat in Budapest.

nized conferences, there must also be a Division or Group Board Member on the organizing committee. The committee continues to try to ensure that meetings to do not **overlap**, a valuable tool being the Europhysics Meetings Database, output from which will be listed in November by *Europhysics News* and will shortly be available on the World-Wide Web.

Physics and Society

The Action Committee for Physics and Society aims to promote an understanding of the broader implications of physics. It has organized employment surveys, analyses of energy-related issues, and topical study conferences and encouraged the incorporation of general topics in the main EPS events. R. Dekeyser, the Chairman, reported that a European task force will carry out a new survey of **employment** in physics. He has already written to national societies asking them to forward all available information. There will be a preliminary report at a symposium during the EPS-10 General Conference (Sevilla; 9-13 September 1996) and the final results will be taken up by a Europhysics Study Conference.

The committee has organized workshops to stimulate the rationale use of **energy**. The last, in 1993, concluded that it is necessary to integrate political and sociological aspects into the scientific and economic analyses which have been dealt with so far. The next energy workshop, tentatively set for May 1996, is being planned accordingly. A natural extension proposed by Council concerns environmental issues and emission reduction. The committee is an appropriate forum for discussion and analysis provided the focus remains on scientific issues.

The Europhysics Study Conference *Industry-University Collaboration in Research* (Bad Honnef, 30-31 January 1995) which the committee co-organized turned out to be a great success. A short report appeared in last month's *Information to EPS Members* and the full proceedings will be published shortly as a supplement to *Europhysics News*.

On the vital issue of the public awareness of science, the Chairman has written to national societies asking for information about their experience. An audit will be the basis for formulating concrete proposals for action.

Publications

The Action Committee for Publications advises the Executive Committee on issues relating to publications, including the electronic dissemination of information. It also plays an active role in making **electronic publishing** accessible to physicists. A major initiative has been a working group that developed a Document Type Definition table (DTD) to define the logical structure of maths and physics documents prepared

ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Applied Physics and Physics & Industry

Council accepted a proposal presented by P.M. Melville, the Chairman of the Action Committee for Applied Physics and Physics in Industry (ACAPPI), to transform the committee into an Interdivisional Group with the same name. ACAPPI has been organizing the very successful **Europhysics Industrial Workshops** (EIW) that bring together scientists and technologists from industry and universities to discuss leading-edge topics at the critical stage of their transition from research to application. EIWs on nanocrystalline materials and on vapour deposition are planned for autumn 1995.

A **survey** of national society activities in applied and industrial physics was completed last year. It revealed a surprisingly broad range of activities and the need for some coordination at the European level — an aspect which may be taken up by the IGAPPI.

ACAPPI has in the past been responsible for ensuring that applied and industrial physics receives the attention it deserves in major EPS initiatives. For example, it participated in the scheme to award a new qualification in physics called the *European Physicist* which was accepted by last year's Council (the scheme will be launched very shortly). ACAPPI has also helped in deciding the **programmes** of the main EPS meetings such as the triennial General Conference: *Trends in Physics*. Applied and industrial physics figures strongly in most of the Divisions' activities so the new IGAPPI aims to liaise to a greater extent with the Divisions. This is an opportune moment for such an initiative because the NSM cate-

gory implies that the Divisions are now open to many new members.

Conferences

Coordinating contacts with the **European Commission** (EC) and other international bodies features strongly on the agenda of the Action Committee for Conferences. E. Thomas, the Secretary, reported on behalf of R. Pick, the Chairman, that the EC's DG-XII for science values recognition that a conference is organized by an EPS body. So conference organizers are urged to co-ordinate EC applications with the committee. At present, the EC would prefer not to fund EPS conferences, say Division conferences, *en masse* and leave it up to the Society to decide how funds are spent.

Unlike its predecessors, the European Union's (EU) Training and Mobility (TMR) Programme will support **schools** so ideas for new schools are sought. Regarding **European Research Conferences** in Physics, which are proposed by EPS and organized by the European Science Foundation: support for six events in 1995 is sought from TMR (the other four for 1995 are already funded). The emphasis on training remains and support for invited speakers, hitherto *ad hoc*, has been formalised but at a low level — a worrying feature for advanced workshops.

The Committee has extended criteria for **EPS sponsored and recognition** in view of the increased international character of many conferences. For a meeting held outside Europe, sponsorship will be considered if it is one of a series involving European locations. For EPS organized or co-orga-

electronically using the Standard Generalised Markup Language (SGML). The work led to the adoption last year by the International Standards Organization of the **ISO 12083** maths and physics DTD which has been taken up very vigorously by US publishers. P.G. Boswell, the Committee's Secretary, reported to Council on behalf of F. Laloë, the Chairman, that European physics publishers agreed at the Committee's *Electronic Publishing in Physics* workshop (Paris, 2-3 March 1995) to accept ISO 12083 tagged texts while maintaining in-house DTDs. The next step possibly lies in enhancing the mathematics part of the DTD so the committee is being enlarged accordingly. Another aspect is publishing via Internet's rapidly growing World-Wide Web (WWW) which uses texts tagged according to the Hyper-Text Markup Language (HTML) using a simple DTD. HTML and its DTDs are approaching SGML in complexity to cater for, amongst other things, mathematics. So it is important to participate in the development of HTML and to ensure that the international WWW initiative caters for physicists' needs. The Secretary was able to report that the project leader of WEB-CORE (the European arm of the initiative) had agreed to join the committee.

The committee has collaborated in surveys of journal requirements in the former Soviet Union (FSU) and in east and central Europe (E&CE). This resulted in a 600 kECU **Journals for the FSU** programme for 1994-5 funded by the INTAS association. A. Landesman, who coordinates the programme, has reported that over 450 subscriptions are being sent, and a survey has revealed that most journals are reaching their intended destinations. A possibility to extend the programme is being followed up. In the meantime, the Committee is promoting **journal exchanges** as they represent a valuable means for the region to obtain literature.

The Committee attributes the designation **Recognized Journal** to improve and maintain the quality of physics journals. A second evaluation round for the next five-year period resulted in 53 titles being recognized from among an increased number of applications. The scheme has certainly helped in stimulating journals from E&CE to become more attractive.

With regard to EPS publications, the Committee is pleased to hear that L. Samuelsson from Linköping, the Editor of the *European Journal of Physics* who took over in January 1995, intends to invigorate the journal (which is published by the Institute of Physics Publishing on behalf of EPS). A first step will be to make new appointments to the Editorial Board. J. Hoogenboom, who chairs the Management Board of *Europhysics Letters* (which is published under EPS editorial responsibility in partnership with 16 national societies), re-

ported that the journal plans to go on-line in January 1996. Meanwhile, titles and abstracts will be available as from 1 July 1995 on the Editions de Physique WWW server (<http://WWW.edf.fr/EPL>). Finally, P.G. Boswell will prepare proposals for further developing the Society's electronic information services, notably World-Wide Web file servers.

15th GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE CONDENSED MATTER
DIVISION OF EPS

22-25 April 1996

Baveno-Stressa, Lago Maggiore, Italy

Second Announcement and Call for
Abstracts in October 1995

For information, contact:
PRAGMA, CMD-EPS '96,
Via S. Giovanni in Borgo, 4, I-27100 Pavia.
Tel. +39-382-30 28 59 - Fax +39-382-276 97

NOMINATIONS & PROPOSALS

The Executive Committee will be contacting national member societies to seek:

- Nominations for **Honorary Members** to be announced at the EPS General Meeting which will be held during the EPS-10 General Conference (Sevilla; 9-13 September 1996). Council can award honorary membership in recognition of outstanding contributions to physics to up to 50 people (there are presently 13 Honorary Members).
- Proposals for appointments to the **Editorial Board** of *Europhysics News* (Divisions and Interdivisional Groups will also be contacted). The bulletin is now sent to full members and students belonging to all national societies except those in the UK and Germany (which receive the *Information to EPS Members* section for publication). The EPS Executive Committee wishes to extend editorial coverage to reflect this change.
- Proposals for possible locations in a European Union Member State of the **EPS Secretariat**. Proposals should indicate salary levels, available space and infrastructure, access to electronic networks, and travel costs.

DECISIONS - The Executive Committee and Council made the following decisions at their meetings in Bad Honnef on 24-25 March 1995.

Executive Committee

- East-West:** - To hold an annual meeting with the representatives of national physical societies from East and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union and the surrounding regions.
- To end the East-West Coordination Committee; N. Króó is nominated to establish initiatives.
 - To maintain contact with the American Physical Society's Committee on International Scientific Affairs by correspondence.
- EUPRO:** To nominate M.J. van der Wiel to replace C. van der Leun as the EPS representative to the European Union of Physics Research Organizations.
- Professional Qualifications:** To appoint D.A. Jefferies to the Register Commission as a non-voting Coordinator.
- European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students:** To accept three participating institutions.
- EPS-10:** That the President should write to funding agencies encouraging them to support attendance by young people at the EPS-10 General Conference.
- Electronic services:** That P.G. Boswell report in June on proposals for information services.
- Secretariat:** To report in June on the possible alternative locations for the EPS Secretariat.

Council

- Constitution & By-laws:** To accept the changes published in *Europhys. News* 25 (1994) 190.
- New Members:** To accept as members the Latvian Physical Society and the Society of Physicists of the Republic of Macedonia located in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. To accept 17 Category (4a), 151 (4c) and 9 (4d) members.
- Divisions/Groups:** To transform the Action Committee for Applied Physics and Physics in Industry into an Interdivisional Group.
- Auditors:** That the Auditors be asked to furnish the audited accounts for 1994 by 1 May 1995. That audited accounts for each year, together with the usual management advice, be received by Council in the following year.
- Membership Fees:** That annual membership fees for a given year be received by 1 April, or in special cases upon notifying the Secretary General by 1 June. That in the event of non-compliance, Council must be notified so as to avoid automatic exclusion.
- Budget:** To approve the proposed budget for 1995 seeking a surplus of about 47 kSFR, where it is assumed that national society subscriptions follow the agreed formula. That the Executive Committee report to the next Council on ways to find additional income without specifying the source.
- Europhysics News:** To endorse an agreement with Springer-Verlag GmbH & Co. K.G. that can last for three years whereby the company contributes DM 50000.- to *Europhysics News* in exchange for publicity and the option to take over production and possibly distribution.
- Professional Qualifications:** To ratify the nominations to the Register Commission.
- Executive Committee:** To elect the following:
- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| President: | H. Schopper, Geneva | Members: | G. Benedek, Milan |
| Vice-President: | N. Króó, Budapest | | C.M. Ferreira, Lisbon |
| Secretary: | J.-Ph. Ansermet, Lausanne | | G.C. Morrison, Birmingham |
| Vice-Secretary: | C. Sébenne, Paris | | I.F. Schegolev, Chernogolovka |
| Treasurer: | J.L. Lewis, Malvern | | M.J. van de Wiel, Nieuwegein |
| Vice-Treasurer: | E. Osnes, Oslo | | |