



networked at an international level. The centres considered at the meeting involved condensed matter, chemistry and nuclear physics facilities in Bratislava, Ljubljana, Prague, Rijeka, and Zagreb.

Wide Ranging Criteria

The evaluations were based on oral presentations followed by discussion according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality.

- Friendliness and advantages for **external users** and the capability to give high quality support for research and education and to increase regional mobility on both individual and interdisciplinary bases.

- Impact on technical **education** and transfer in terms of both present and potential exchange with industry or with social and health services.

- The need to avoid a long-term **brain-drain**, to promote the optimum utilisation of past investments, and to induce a more widespread recovery of research and technological activities.

- The extent to which evaluation explicitly helps funding agencies choose between excellent activities in the light of different institutional and political **missions** (for example, the opening to international use of unique facilities, the involvement of educational institutions, the impact on human or cultural mobility, etc.)

Recommendations

1. General recommendations

The joint UNESCO/CEI Evaluation Committee recommended that national and

CEI-UNESCO Evaluation Committee

The Joint Meeting of the Working Group (Chair.: H. Schopper) on Large Facilities of the UNESCO Physics Action Council (PAC) and of the Working Group on Science and Technology of the Scientific Committee (Chair.: C. Rizzuto) of the Central European Initiative (CEI) was held in Vienna on 6-7 July 1995. Present were members of both Committees as well as observers and delegates of governments and funding institutions, the European Commission, IUPAP and of EPS. The participants acted as a joint Evaluation Committee for initiatives brought to its attention through the CEI, PAC and the EPS. The meeting was sponsored by UNESCO and the Austrian Ministry for Science and the Arts.

Existing and proposed facilities will help rebuild a lasting fabric of personal and institutional links throughout central Europe.

●: sites of facilities considered by the UNESCO/PAC Evaluation Committee;
○: sites of existing major physics facilities in western Europe.

international funding agencies support a series of such initiatives because the development and expanded use of several planned or operating facilities in central Europe can make important contributions to rebuilding and strengthening a lasting fabric of personal and institutional links. They would help expand the growth of science and technology in the region by inducing mobility and high intellectual standards without creating a long-term brain drain. Priority should be given to supporting new users of existing unique facilities, to upgrading to a unique level existing facilities, and to constructing unique new facilities.

2. Specific recommendations

Specific recommendations (see table) were based on internationalizing existing world-class laboratories and networks in Budapest, Trieste, Vienna, and Warsaw, and on creating and linking new regional-level laboratories and educational and technology-transfer initiatives. Although the evaluation was limited mainly to physics and materials science it is believed that it addressed most of the major multidisciplinary initiatives that have been proposed.

Personalities

The European Commission has formally confirmed the appointment of **Jorma Routti**, currently President of the Finnish National Fund for Research and Development, as the new Director-General of DG-XII (Science, Research and Technology). He replaces Paolo Fassela. Professor Routti was formerly Dean of the Department of Technical Physics, Helsinki University of Technology.

Jan Borgman, the chairman of the European Science and Technology Assembly (ESTA), reports that ESTA has advised on common criteria for handling Framework proposals (to make decisions more transparent) and pushed for more inter-Directorate collaboration (new EC task forces for specific areas partly meet this need). ESTA working groups will consider programme evaluation, coordination with national programmes, academic-industrial research links, 5th Framework (F5), and ways for ESTA to address other topics. Advice on F5 is a priority since the EC seeks input by April 1996. He thinks Framework, in going beyond pre-competitive research, should promote research aimed at profitable innovations within 5-10 years and strategic industrial alliances in selected areas.

The winners of the 1995 ITALGAS Prize include **Olli Lounasmaa** (Finland) for physics and **Maurizio Cumo** (Italy) for energy sciences. Possibly the most valuable European prize in science, it is awarded every year by ITALGAS, in collaboration with the Academy of Sciences of Turin, to three scientists working in one of the European Union countries. Subject fields alternate between physics, materials science, energy, chemistry, ecology, and communications. Further details from: S. Bocca, Segreteria del Premio IALGAS, Via XX settembre, 41, I-10121 Turin (fax.: +39-11-239 43 06).

It was felt that national authorities and international funding institutions would have a definite advantage and increased impact by accepting advice based on the meeting's evaluations.

3. Policies

Policies for science and technology were considered, and the Committee urged that every avenue for generating joint support for multilateral cooperation and/or access to facilities of major intellectual and technical interest must have the highest priority. This applies, in particular, to ensuring that European Union (EU) Framework Programme projects remain open to scientists and groups from central and eastern Europe, to the advantage of both east and west. The Committee therefore urged the EU to establish, as soon as possible, the administrative procedures for participation in the current Framework programme and to aim to improve the fairly limited opportunities for EU support for the types of activities in basic science that were being evaluated.

This report, based on the minutes of the Evaluation Committee meeting, was prepared by the Editor in consultation with H. Schopper and C. Rizzuto.

Herwig Schopper, the EPS President, has been elected as an Honorary Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest.

In the Wings of Physics by **Maurice Jacob** (EPS President from 1991 to 1993) that recounts some of the "backstage" activities in scientific research has been published by World Scientific.

Erdal Inonu who chaired the 1981 EPS General Conference has been appointed Turkey's Foreign Minister.

Robert May (Oxford, UK), an Australian-born theoretical physicist turned mathematical ecologist, has been appointed as the UK Prime Minister's Chief Scientific Adviser.

The Senate of Germany's Max Planck Society (MPS) has appointed **Hubert Markl**, professor of biology at the University of Constance, as the MPS President (replacing Hans Zacher). **Barbara Bludau**, Hamburg's Minister for Industry and Research, replaces Wolfgang Hasenclever as the MPS General Secretary.

Some 51 national teams of 5 students competed at the 1995 **Physics Olympiad** held in Canberra, Australia on 5-13 July. China was the top team (Chinese students came 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th) followed by the US and Iran. Germany came 6th and the UK 7th. In a change around, Vietnam came 4th and Korea 5th, replacing east European countries that have historically come in the top seven. The 1996 **Olympiad** (Oslo; 30 June-7 July) will be organized by the Norwegian Physical Society.

Grenoble's European Synchrotron Radiation Facility has launched a competition **100 Years of X-rays** for the best 1000-word article by 18-25 year olds on the most imaginative future application of X-rays. Closing date: 30 September 1995; entries to X-ray Competition, ESRF, BP 200, F-38043 Grenoble.