

published by a partnership between EPS and 16 national societies. EPS handles business management as well as manuscripts up until acceptance for publication. It is significant that as a result of the arrangement the venture generates income, with a new issue appearing every 10 days.

The *European Journal of Physics* publishes scholarly articles for university staff. Initiated by EPS, it is a very successful partnership between the EPS and the Institute of Physics Publishing that brings income.

The *Europhysics Conference Abstracts* series of extended abstracts of Divisional Conferences are published by EPS in collaboration with conference organizers.

#### • Special Activities

In recent years, two administrative responsibilities have been undertaken by the Secretariat. First, the International Association for the Promotion of Cooperation with Scientists from the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union (INTAS) provided EPS with some half million Swiss francs in 1994,

and again in 1995, for the provision of journals to the FSU. Second, the *Soros Foundations* provided 350 kSFR in 1994 and the same in 1995 to facilitate the movement of students from East and Central Europe within the framework of the EMSPS scheme.

#### • New Activities

The *Solidarity Fund* financed by a levy on participation at Divisional conferences is administered by the Secretariat. It has been established to provide seed money for new conference series and to make it possible for people from economically poor parts of Europe to attend EPS conferences, workshops and schools.

The *Lapereau Fund* was established recently, with an annual budget of SFR 10 000, so that small sums could be made available at short notice during the year for an activity that was not included in the budget approved each year by Council in March. In this way the Society can give encouragement to *lapereau* (French for "little rabbit") that might grow into something larger.

## EPS CONSTITUTION

# Executive Proposes Amendments

#### • Article 1 (Legal Basis and Seat)

At its meeting on 24-25 March 1995, the EPS Council accepted an Executive Committee proposal that the Society consider consolidating its Geneva and Budapest Secretariats in a European Union Member State. The Executive Committee then set up a working group to report in June on possible alternative locations for the Secretariat (it is presently split between a Secretariat in Geneva and another in Budapest) and a request for proposals was sent to National Member Societies. Offers were received from Amsterdam, Graz, London, Mulhouse, and Vienna, and from a science park located on French territory beside Geneva. On the basis of the working group's recommendations, the Executive Committee decided in June to recommend moving the Secretariat and to seek further information with the aim of having a final proposal in November. Meeting on 17-18 November in Budapest, the Executive Committee accepted the working group's recommendation to move the Secretariat to a science park located near the University of Mulhouse on the outskirts of Mulhouse in France.

The Executive Committee plans to propose this move of the Secretariat to Mulhouse to Council on 22-23 March 1996. If Council accepts the proposal (by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting), it will have to take a formal vote on changing Articles 1.1 and 1.3 of the EPS Constitution. Since any amendment of the Constitution must be communicated to members at least three months before Council shall decide on a proposal, the present Articles 1.1 and 1.3 and the proposed amendments are given below.

- Present Article 1

.1: "Under the name of *European Physical Society (EPS)*, an association has been organized and incorporated; it is governed by Article 60 and the following of the *Swiss Civil Code* and by the present Constitution."

.3: "Its seat is in Geneva, Switzerland."

- Proposed Article 1

.1: "Under the name of *European Physical Society (EPS)*, an association has been

organized and incorporated; it is governed by Article 21 and the following of the *Local Civil Code (Alsace/Moselle)*."

.3: "Its seat is in Mulhouse, France."

#### • Article 21 (The Executive Committee)

The Constitution's formulation of eligibility to serve as the EPS President is slightly contradictory. The Executive Committee will propose to Council the following amendments to Article 21 of the Constitution:

- Present Article 21.3 shall become Article 21.2 and the first sentence which reads:

"The President shall be in office for two years." shall read:

"The President shall be in office for no more than two years."

- Present Article 21.2 shall become Article 21.3.

If Council accepts the amendments, the decisions will be communicated in writing or in an equivalent form to all members. A mail ballot of Ordinary Members is required if one-eighth request within 40 days that a decision be submitted to the EPS General Meeting.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISIONS

The Executive Committee of EPS decided the following at its meeting in Budapest on 17-18 November 1995:

• *EPS Constitution*: To propose to Council in March 1995 that the EPS be established as an association under the law of Alsace/Moselle. To propose to Council to rectify a minor contradiction in the Article governing the term of office of the President. (see above for the statutory announcements to members).

• *EPS Secretariat*: To propose to Council that the EPS Secretariat be consolidated on site in Mulhouse by moving the Geneva Secretariat at some date after the EPS-10 General Conference in September 1996 and by a phased running down of the Budapest Secretariat. The move from Geneva would take place independently of whether or not the editorial staff and business management

of *Europhysics Letters*, representing about one-half the total Secretariat staff, also moves. To consult with National Member Societies before the proposal to Council.

• *Finances*: To accept the Treasurer's report that envisages a provisional surplus of some 41 kSFR in 1995, which would reduce the deficit (subject to the 1995 audit) to 21 kSFR. To accept a proposed budget for 1996 based on the Secretariat not moving and which envisages a surplus of 30 kSFR, with expenditures broken down according to activities. A revised budget would be prepared if Council agrees to move the EPS Secretariat.

• *European Union (EU)*: That the President formulate a statement to the EU Commissioner for science suggesting ways to improve the EU's science policy.

• *EPS Lecturer*: To accept the nomination by the Quantum Electronics and Optics Division of A. Zeilinger as the next EPS Lecturer.

• *EPS Prizes*: To propose to Council that the regulations of EPS Division and Group prizes contain a statement to the effect that the final recommendation (of the awarding body) is submitted to the Executive Committee for ratification within a few days, together with a short description of the motives.

• *Europhysics Letters*: That E. Osnes serves as the Chairman of, and the Executive Committee representative to, the Management Board of *Europhysics Letters* as from 27 November 1995, replacing N. Kroó, whose term of expires, as delegate, and A.M. Hoogenboom, the representative of the junior partners, as Chairman.

• *National Member Societies*: To accept applications, subject to Council's approval, for National Society Membership from societies and associations based in countries that already have a National Member Society.

• *Honorary Members*: To propose to Council four nominations for election.

• *European Physicist*: To approve the nomination by the Register Commission of 21 appointments to the European Register of Physicists. To accept the Commission's proposed Code of Conduct for European Physicist and the proposal that appeals be referred to the EPS President.

• *Mobility Scheme*: To accept five new participating institutions, bringing the total number to 174. To appoint E. Elbaz (Lyon), the Mobility Committee nominee, as the Vice-Chair replacing E. Heer (Geneva). H. Latal (Graz) remains in the Chair.

• *Conference series*: To accept the Conference Committee's proposal that conferences in a series that moves from time-to-time out of Europe can be sponsored by EPS if there is at least one delegate of a Division or Group on the programme advisory committee when the conference is held outside Europe, and at least one delegate on the Programme Committee when it is held in Europe.

• *Publications*: To accept a recommendation from an *ad hoc* working group of the Publications Committee that EPS consider a proposal to supervise a distributed system of servers for prepublications.

• *EPS-10*: To accept a proposal from the European Astronomical Society that it sponsor symposia on space physics at the 1996 EPS-10 General Conference.

• *EPS-11*: To await Council and Executive Committee decisions on moving the EPS Secretariat to Mulhouse before deciding upon the venue and date of the EPS-11 General Conference.