

# The Main Lines of Action

Jaroslav Nadrachal from Prague who chairs the EPS East-West Task Force reports that the task force met on two occasions with the Presidents of physical societies from east and central Europe during the *EPS-10 General Conference* (Seville; 9-13 September 1996). An Action Plan has been drafted and is now being discussed. While it is too early to say how it will look in its final form, the main lines of action that will be proposed are essentially agreed and can be summarised.

It is proposed that the EPS East-West Task Force (EWTF) consist of delegates of national societies in east and central Europe (E&CE) and three members nominated by the EPS Executive Committee. Communication within the task force will mostly be via e-mail or ordinary mail, although a few personal contacts between members are envisaged.

It is felt that one of the task force's responsibilities should be to recommend people whose participation at conferences organized by the Society could be supported by EPS grants. The most important criteria proposed for the grants are: based on a proposal which is endorsed by a National Member Society; applicants preferably less than 35 years of age; active participation at the conference (e.g., an accepted contribution).

Regarding the question of E&CE membership of the Boards of EPS Divisions and Interdivisional Groups, etc., it is noted that active participation by people from the region is often difficult owing to financial constraints. This is the main reason for their reluctance to become Board members. The task force will recommend that EPS Divisions and Groups use their funds to support participation on Boards and suchlike.

Governments and scientific institutions in E&CE formerly cooperated on a multilateral basis. This stopped after the recent political changes, so scientists and teachers from the region now in fact often find it easier to collaborate with colleagues in western Europe. There are probably few opportunities and no need to renew multilateral cooperation, but the organization of bilateral cooperation within E&CE should be supported wherever a need is felt, or conditions are good. It will be suggested that the EWTF encourage these cooperation agreements, and in the event that it proposes a grant to support this type of activity, the task force will refer the proposal to the Executive Committee.

Another proposed area of action is to initiate and enhance the official basis for relations between E&CE scientists and large-scale facilities in Europe. The aim

will be to support special activities that move in this direction.

Scientists from E&CE travelling abroad are in some cases subject to restrictive conditions (visa requirements, limited lengths of stay, complex administrative procedures, etc.). These complicate efficient cooperation so it is suggested that the Society should be prepared to help by providing special guarantees.

The task force believes that journals published by national physical societies should be offered to science libraries in E&CE free-of-charge for a limited period



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Tel +41-22-793 11 30 – Fax +41-22-793 13 17

of time, in much the same way as *Europhysics Letters* has been distributed in the region. Arrangements should be based on national society recommendations, and the EPS may be asked to help cover some of the mailing expenses.

Finally, institutes and physical societies in the west should be encouraged to disseminate information about old but usable equipment that could be made available, either free-of-charge or at a reduced price, to colleagues in E&CE.

## 10th EPS General Conference *Trends in Physics*

Sevilla; 9-13 September 1996

A report of the 10th EPS General Conference will be published in *Europhysics News* in two parts as follows:

- *Europhysics News* 27 (September/October 1996)
  - Summary and introduction (H. Schopper, Geneva; C. Lozano Leyva, Sevilla)
  - Powell Memorial Lecture* - Public Understanding of Physics: The British Experience (Sir Arnold Wolfendale, Leeds)
  - Symposia reports:
    - Bose-Einstein Condensation* (J.T.M. Walraven, Amsterdam)
    - Results of ESA Satellites ISO and SOHO* (M.C.E. Huber, ESA/ESTEC)
    - Physics with Ion Storage Cooler Rings* (M. Larsson, Stockholm)
  - Special items based on presentations in the symposia:
    - European Opportunities for Young Physicists: Job statistics*
    - Physics and Education: Trends in physics education in schools* (A. Olme, Sweden)
- *Europhysics News* 27 (November - December 1996)
  - Summaries of plenary talks
  - Symposia highlights: quantum computing and cryptography; fullerenes.
  - Symposia reports:
    - Job Opportunities for Young Physicists and University and Industry*
    - New Perspectives in Nuclear Physics* (R.A. Ricci, Legnaro)

## 1996 Quantum Electronics Prize

The first Quantum Electronics Prize of EPS was awarded jointly at EQEC-1996/CLEO-Europe (Hamburg; 9-13 September) to Claude Cohen-Tannoudji (Paris) for *developing the dressed-atom approach in quantum optics and for fundamental contributions to the understanding of radiative forces with ground-breaking experiments in laser cooling and trapping of atoms*, and to Sune Svanberg (Lund) for *pioneering laser applications in the fields of combustion diagnostics, remote sensing and biomedicine*. The Prize is awarded every two years on the occasion of the EQEC/CLEO conference through the Board of the EPS Quantum Electronics and Optics Division of EPS for outstanding theoretical or experimental contributions of a pure or an applied nature that have appeared in print.



C. Cohen-Tannoudji (left) and S. Svanberg (right)

**Claude Cohen-Tannoudji** completed his Ph.D. with A. Kastler and J. Brossel in 1962 at the Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris) where he has spent his entire career.

He joined the French CNRS in 1960 and was Professor at the Université Paris VI from 1964 to 1973. Since 1973, he has been Professor of Atomic and Molecular Physics at the Collège de France. Professor Cohen-Tannoudji co-authored *Quantum Mechanics* with B. Diu and F. Laloë, *Photon and Atoms* with J. Dupont-Roc and G. Grynberg and *Atom-Photon Interactions*, also with J. Dupont-Roc and G. Grynberg. He has published selected reprints in *Atoms in Electromagnetic Fields* (World Scientific). He is a member of the French Académie des Sciences and of the European Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sci-

ences and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Among many distinctions, he has received the Ampere Prize of the Academie des Sciences, the Thomas Young Medal and Prize of the Institute of Physics, an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Award, the Lilienfeld Prize of the American Physical Society, the Charles Townes Award of the Optical Society of America, the Matteucci Medal of the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze, and the 1996 CNRS Médaille d'or. In 1978, he was the first EPS Lecturer.

**Sune Svanberg** received his Ph.D. from the University of Göteborg in 1972, and after a postdoc year at Columbia University, New York, he returned to Sweden to introduce laser spectroscopy to the Scandinavian scene. He became Professor of Atomic Physics at Lund Institute of Technology in 1980. With the establishment of the

Lund High Power Laser Facility his research interests in basic atomic physics led to the formation of the Lund Laser Centre, where he is the Director. Professor Svanberg is the author of the textbook *Atomic and Molecular Spectroscopy - Basic Aspects and Practical Applications* (Springer). He is a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Academy of Engineering Sciences (both in Stockholm) and was for many years a member of the Swedish Space Board, where he served as chairman of its Remote Sensing Committee. He was awarded an M.D. *honoris causa* at the Faculty of Medicine, Lund, for work in laser medicine. He has served on the Boards of the EPS Quantum Electronics and Optics Division and of the Society's European Group of Atomic Spectroscopy. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and was recently elected to the Board of the Optical Society of America.

such as the solar interior and oscillations (Paterno, Italy; Weiss, UK), the physics of flux tubes and waves (Solanki, Switzerland; Roberts UK), structure and flows in the upper atmosphere (Schmieder, France; Carlsson, Norway), restructuring of magnetic fields (Nordlund, Denmark; Benz Switzerland), particle acceleration physics (Trottet, France; Sarris, Greece), as well as current issues in the heliosphere and cosmic rays (Sanderson, ESTEC; Burgess, UK) and new instrumentation (Mein, France; Antonucci, Italy). A special afternoon session was devoted to SOHO with talks by P. Martens (ESTEC), E. Antonucci (Italy) and G. Simnett (UK).

This year's event was attended by 170 participants from 24 countries including the USA and Venezuela. Thanks to the generous contributions from several institutions, notably the European Commission, the Greek Ministry of Education, the Greek General Secretariat of Science and Technology, the Greek National Committee for Astronomy, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, and the University of Ioannina, the Local Organizing Committee could offer 70 accommodation grants, 35 of them to Ph.D. students and 15 to participants from east and central Europe (together with 12 travel grants). Moreover, the registration fee was waived for all east and central European participants as well as for those from Greece.

The programme committee made a determined effort to balance observation and theory in all contributions. A total of 45 invited oral contributions were presented and some 90 posters were on display throughout the meeting. An abstract volume (edited by C.E. Alissandrakis) was distributed to participants at the time of registration. The invited reviews will be published in *Lecture Notes in Physics* (Eds. C.E. Alissandrakis, G. Simnett and L. Vlahos). Contributed papers (including posters) which authors decide to submit will be refereed and possibly published in a special volume of *Solar Physics* with P. Heinzel and G. Simnett acting as proceedings organizers.

The meeting was very lively, thanks to the presence of many young participants from all over Europe and the splendid facilities of the Hotel Athos Palace in Chalkidiki. The proximity of the beach and the pleasant weather did not affect the meeting and all sessions were very well attended. A boat trip around the Athos peninsula and a dinner accompanied by traditional Greek dances offered extra relaxation and plenty of opportunity to socialize.

The local organizers succeeded to large degree thanks to the tireless efforts of Despoina Papadaki, the conference secretary, and students from the University of Thessaloniki's Physics Department. It is worth mentioning that 500 initial applications were received and more than 2,000 e-mail messages were exchanged with applicants and participants. We believe that in the future other bodies which collaborate with the Solar Physics Section, e.g., CESRA and JOSO, should join forces so that every European solar physics meeting can be a truly unique opportunity for all solar astronomers to get together while at the same time sharing the financial cost of such a large gathering. **L. Vlahos, A. Anastasiadis**

## QUANTUM ELECTRONICS AND OPTICS

The following were elected to the Board of the Quantum Electronics and Optics Division during a meeting of members held in conjunction with the *EQEC-1996/CLEO-Europe* conference (Hamburg; 9-13 September 1996): W. Ertmer (Hannover), J.-P. Huignard (Orsay), S. Svanberg (Lund), and W. Gawlik (Warsaw). They replace Z. Bor (Szeged), E. Giacobino (Paris), A. Kujawski (Warsaw), J. Mlynek (Constance), and O. Poulsen (Copenhagen).

Future *European Quantum Electronic Conferences (EQEC)* will be held in conjunction with the *Lasers and Electro-optics Conference* as follows: *EQEC-1998/CLEO-Europe - Glasgow*; 7 - 11 September 1998; *EQEC-2000/CLEO-Europe - Nice*, 4 - 8 September 2000. The Division will be participating in the organization of the Topical Meetings *Adaptive Optics* and *Novel Laser Devices at Laser 1997* (Munich; 16-20 June 1997; <http://www.messe.muenchen.de>). A new edition of *Who's Who in Quantum Electronics* can be ordered (DM 30.- for Division members; DM 200.- for a floppy-disc version) from W. Ertmer ([ertmer@mbux.igo.uni-hannover.de](mailto:ertmer@mbux.igo.uni-hannover.de)) or H. Welling, Institute for Quantum Optics, University of Hannover, Welfengarten 1, D-30167 Hannover (fax: +49-511-762 22 11). Finally a leaflet describing the Division is planned and an informal quarterly newsletter edited by R. Corbalan (fax: +34-3-581 21 55; [ifopo@cc.uab.es](mailto:ifopo@cc.uab.es)) that is published in *Optics Communications* can be emailed to members (contact R. Corbalan for information). It is also available on EurophysNet at <http://epswww.epfl.ch/dir/division.html>.

## Atomic and Molecular Physics of Ionized Gases

**13th Europhysics Sectional Conference**  
Poprad, Slovakia; 27-30 August 1996

About 230 scientists from 27 countries attended the 13th Europhysics Sectional Conference on the *Atomic and Molecular Physics of Ionized Gases (ESCAMPIG)* which was held in a pleasant town at the foot of the High Tatras mountains. ESCAMPIG, which focuses on the collisional and radiative aspects of atomic and molecular physics in ionized gases and plasmas, is approved by both the Atomic and Molecular Physics Division and the Plasma Physics Division of EPS.

The 13 invited talks, to be published in *Plasma Sources Science & Technology*, covered the following topics: atomic and molecular processes in plasmas; particle energy distribution functions; discharge physics: sheaths, transport processes and modelling; plasma

diagnostics; laser and beam assisted plasma processes; physical bases of plasma chemistry and plasma-surface interaction.

A special workshop with three invited speakers was organized under the title *Plasma and ecology - basic problems*. It was chaired by P. Lukác from Comenius University, Bratislava, who also chaired the local organizing committee. About 250 contributions presented during the poster sessions are published in *Europhysics Conference Abstracts 20E* (1996) in the form of two-page extended abstracts.

The next (14th) ESCAMPIG will be held in Malahide (near Dublin), Ireland on 25 - 28 August 1998. The local chairs will be Prof. Bill Graham, Physics Department, The Queen's University, Belfast BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland (+44-1232-438918; [b.graham@qub.ac.uk](mailto:b.graham@qub.ac.uk)) and Dr. Mike Hopkins, Plasma Research Laboratory, School of Physical Sciences, City University, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland (+353-1-704-5951; [hopkinsm@physics.dcu.ie](mailto:hopkinsm@physics.dcu.ie)). **H.G. Lergeron**

## Solar Physics

**8th European Meeting**  
Thessaloniki, Greece; 13 - 18 May 1996

*Solar and Heliospheric Plasma Physics* was the title of the 8th triennial Sectional Conference organized by the Board of the Solar Physics Section of the joint EPS - European Astronomical Society Astrophysics Division. Traditionally, the European solar physics meeting tries to be broad. But it also keeps a

focal point which is related to the most active area of research at the time of the meeting. This year's focal point was the interaction of the Sun with the heliosphere, since two major satellites (Ulysses and SOHO) with an important European involvement were at the time of the meeting already in orbit.

The invited reviews (two were presented at each of the seven scientific sessions together with several oral contributed papers and a poster session) covered "traditional" topics

## European Group for Atomic Spectroscopy (EGAS)

28th Conference – Graz; 16–19 July 1996

The outcome of this year's EGAS conference gave the impression that atomic spectroscopy flourishes and is still developing very rapidly. A special feature comprising four invited lectures and several contributions which together formed a symposium dedicated to *Lasers in Medicine* (see insert) confirmed this feeling. The conference itself opened with a talk by M.O. Scully (Texas Laser Lab and Garching) on *Lasers without inversion – accomplishments and perspectives*. The first experimental realization of such a laser and its theoretical modelling, based on quantum interferences, was discussed along with the potential of this type of lasing for future applications (e.g., UV lasers; improvement in the efficiency of free-electron lasers). H.-P. Winter (Vienna) followed with a talk entitled *Interaction of multicharged ions with solid surfaces: production of hollow atoms and related phenomena*. Electrons from the surface are captured by these ions into highly excited electronic states, emitting later on X-rays. Besides this relaxation, many other processes, e.g., emission of Auger electrons and potential sputtering, accompany the interaction process.

A talk by R.C. Thompson (London) on *Spectroscopy and quantum optics with trapped ions* not only reviewed the different types of traps and the spectroscopy of trapped ions, but also paid special attention to several mechanisms of laser cooling of trapped ions. Quantum mechanical experiments, such as the investigation of quantum jumps, can be performed using these trapped, ultra-cold particles. G. Werth (Mainz) continued with examples of *High-resolution spectroscopy on simple and complex atomic ions in traps*. A highlight of his talk was the extension of spectroscopic applications of ion traps to hyperfine states of excited states using coherent Raman excitation (so-called "dark resonances").

D. Charalambidis (Heraklion) reported on *Light induced modification of continua and ionization dynamics* by reviewing recent results on light-induced mixing of autoionizing states and on modifying continua structures by intense light pulses in one-valence electron systems and doubly excited autoionizing states. J. Dalibard (Paris), in a lecture entitled *Quantum phenomena with ultra-cold atoms*, discussed developments in laser cooling of atoms made during the last few years. They have allowed one to lower the kinetic energy of neutral atoms to values corresponding to temperatures in the sub-mK range. Besides phenomena involving single atoms, such as atom optics and atom interferometry, special attention has been paid to collective effects. The condensation of an ensemble of bosonic atoms to the potential ground state of a magnetic trap following successive laser and evaporative cooling cycles was discussed. Such a dilute system of a large number of atoms in the same quantum state should have several applications, and may be seen as a first step towards a coherent atomic source.

H. Kleinpoppen (Stirling) reported on

*Coherence and polarization analysis of the two-photon radiation from metastable atomic hydrogen*. This two-photon decay of long-living metastable states, which provides insight into the validity of local or quantum mechanical theories, lends support to the latter theory. Especially important are measurements on the coherence length of the emitted correlated photons: the lifetime of 1/8 seconds for the 2S state corresponds to about 37500 km (one-photon decay), but the measurements showed a very short coherence length of some 390 nm. This can be explained by Heisenberg's uncertainty principle and be attributed to the large wavelength region (and therefore to the energy uncertainty) of the detected photons.

The final two lectures were devoted to small molecules. First, L. Krause (Windsor, Canada) reported on *Laser spectroscopy of Hg<sub>2</sub> excimers*. Pump-probe techniques were used to produce rotationally resolved excitation spectra of monoisotopic mercury dimers, leading to very accurate values of spectroscopic constants that allow meaningful comparisons with *ab initio* calculations of

potential-energy diagrams. G. Gerber (Würzburg) then spoke on *Molecules in intense ultrashort laser fields*. The real-time dynamics of sodium dimers has been studied in femtosecond pump-probe molecular-beam experiments. Coherent control of molecular multiphoton ionization by a single phase-shaped, chirped femtosecond laser pulse has been shown in electron and ion spectra of Na<sub>2</sub>.

The entire manifold of atomic spectroscopy was mirrored in the contributed papers, beginning with the classical analysis of the spectra of several neutral or ionized atoms in order to determine the properties of atomic energy levels. This was followed by a wide range of topics such as: atomic theory; hyperfine structures; spectroscopic instruments; trapped neutrals and ions; atomic collisions; interactions with photons; radiative lifetimes; XUV and X-ray emission; plasma spectroscopy; highly resolved molecular spectra. These themes stretched to topics in quantum optics.

In general, one can say that this year's EGAS conference was ideally suited to enhancing contacts between research groups and to promoting discussion on the methods and results of atomic spectroscopy. The next EGAS will be in 1998.

## Lasers in Medicine

The EGAS *Lasers in Medicine* symposium, which opened with an overview by S. Svanberg (Lund) entitled *New developments in laser medicine*, concentrated on non-thermal applications of laser light for therapeutic and diagnostic purposes, emphasizing especially spectroscopic methods and applications. For example, using laser-induced auto-fluorescence of human tissue, regions of cancers at the surface can be distinguished from healthy tissue using the profile of the fluorescence spectrum. Laser-induced fluorescence analysis can also easily be performed inside the body, e.g., within the bladder, by combining it with endoscopic techniques. Hence the interest in the talk by D. Contini (Florence) on *Models for*

*photon migration and optical properties of biological tissue*.

The lecture by G. Nilsson (Linköping University), *Tissue blood-flow mapping*, introduced a method of blood-flow diagnostics based on investigating the Doppler broadening of laser light reflected from skin. In this case, a fast spectroscopic technique disperses the scattered light. The resulting information can be used, for example, to determine blood flow after severe burns in order to identify areas where a skin transplant is necessary, thus keeping the total area treated as small as possible. Finally, S. Avriillier (Paris) reported in detail on *Laser-induced autofluorescence diagnostics of tumours*.

## EGAS-28

The 28th Conference of the European Group for Atomic Spectroscopy (EGAS) was held on 16–19 July 1996 at the Institut für Experimentalphysik der Technischen Universität Graz. The programme consisted of 13 invited lectures and 340 contributed papers, presented to 250 spectroscopists from 32 countries. The conference was organized by H. Jäger, T. Neger, C. Neureiter, G. Pottlacher, and L. Windholz (Chairman). One of the principles of the EGAS conferences is to maintain low costs in order to allow young researchers and graduate students to participate. A major effort is also made to support colleagues from east and central Europe and to make their participation possible. In this way the exchange of ideas between different regions of Europe will be enhanced by direct and informal contacts during the conference. To maintain this goal, EGAS gave substantial financial support to approximately 40 % of the conference participants. Therefore, we would like to thank the following for generous support: the European Commission (Eastern Europe Programme), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, the Province of Styria,

the City of Graz and the Technical University of Graz. Several companies also contributed to the conference budget by participating in a technical exhibition or by placing an announcement in the conference booklet.

It should be mentioned that this is the second time that the EGAS conference has been held in Graz, the first being in 1988 with the same team. Many personal contacts were established in 1988 and they led to several cooperations between the institute in Graz and scientists from Russia, Bulgaria, Poland, and Germany. So the 1988 event remains fixed in the minds of most EGAS participants. This provided a special reason to make the 1996 conference at least as successful and enjoyable as the previous one. As far as can be concluded from the response of the participants, the goal was reached. People were satisfied not only from the scientific level of the lectures and contributions but also with the social events, including receptions hosted by the Governor of Styria and the Lord Mayor of Graz and a scenic tour of the Styrian Alps. Some participants ended their stay in Austria by taking part in a post-conference hiking tour which included climbing the Zirbitzkogel (2396 m above sea level).

L. Windholz

## General Meeting of EPS Members

Seville; 11 September 1996

The President, H. Schopper, in his report to the 1996 *General Meeting of EPS Members* stressed the need to adapt to changes in the outside world. The Executive Committee's response had been to formulate a strategy plan with four main lines of action. It was now necessary to "give it life" by planning an implementation based on inputs from Action Committees and Interdivisional Groups. It was also necessary for the Society to become more efficient so that there would be funds available to make it more visible. The Executive had therefore decided to move the EPS Secretariat to Mulhouse, France, on 1 January 1997. The President then gave a brief review of some current activities where they have been important developments, notably east-west relations, student mobility, physics education, and professional qualifications. In stressing the need to establish firm contacts with the European Commission (EC), he referred to a memorandum on basic research which had been sent to the Commissioner for science following a visit to the EC Director General for science.

The Secretary (J.-P. Ansermet) began his report by saying that for an established society, EPS was "quite youthful": it had recently changed its *Constitution*, decided to relocate its Secretariat (which would start up with an entirely new staff), appointed a Secretary General Designate, changed the distribution arrangements for *Europhysics News* so that national society members received the bulletin, and entered into an agreement with Springer Verlag for its publication. He thanked the staff for their hard work; some had been asked to leave, others would transferred full time to *Europhysics Letters* which remains in Geneva and only the Secretary General would stay on (until retirement in August 1997). He stressed that all members of national societies are now able to join EPS Divisions and Groups through their societies, and he urged the societies to enable members to do this with charging a fee.

The Treasurer, J.L. Lewis, summarised the Society's finances by saying that the accumulated deficit had been eliminated and that with the move to Mulhouse there would be additional funds available for activities since staff salaries were lower in Mulhouse.

The questions and comments from members focussed on the arrangements for the production and distribution of *Europhysics News*, and on the continuing role of Individual Ordinary Members and the benefits they enjoy. S.F. Edwards, E. Heer and H. de Waard were endorsed as Honorary Members.

## Executive Committee Decisions

The EPS Executive Committee decided the following at its meeting on 8 September 1996:

- **Secretary General Designate** – To appoint J.H. Williams as the Secretary General Designate from 1 January 1997. He will share responsibilities with the Secretary General until the latter retires on 31 August 1997.

- **Action Plan implementation** – Several members of the Executive Committee were appointed to give guidance for action plans to be submitted by Action Committees and Interdivisional Groups before 31 October 1996.

- **Publications Committee** – It was decided to wind up the present Action Committee for Publications and to ask its Chairman (F. Laloë) to propose a new committee for communication in science and electronic publishing (a name has yet to be selected). There would be 6-7 physicists as members and alternative arrangements for liaison with publishing companies which are also Associate Members should be explored.

- **Conference sponsorship** – To ask R.M. Pick, who chairs the Action Committee on Conferences, to formulate proposals that would strengthen EPS sponsorship of conferences by sponsoring only the most representative Euro-

pean conferences and workshops in physics.

- **European Physics Education Network (EUPEN)** – To help support the secretariat of the recently created EUPEN network based at the University of Ghent with a grant for the purchase of a computer.

- **European Mobility Scheme for Physics Students (EMSPS)** – To ask the Mobility Committee to formulate a recommendation for the future EMSPS secretariat. The secretariat is presently at the EPS Secretariat, and there have been offers from EUPEN and the Polish Physical Society to host it.

- **EPS-11** – To accept an Institute of Physics proposal to hold the next EPS General Conference in London on 6 - 10 September 1999.

- **Executive Committee** – To request National Member Societies to make proposals for replacing four members of the Executive Committee whose terms of office end shortly.

## EPS Secretary General Designate Appointed

Jeffery Williams, who has been appointed as the EPS Secretary General Designate to replace Gero Thomas, the Secretary General, when he retires in 31 August 1997, has been the Assistant General Secretary and Information Officer of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry at its Secretariat in Oxford, since 1994. Born in 1956, he studied chemistry at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and received a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1981 from Cambridge University for research on the electrical properties of small molecules. He then worked as a postdoc at Manchester University and a further two years in the USA at Harvard University and the University of Illinois. On returning to the UK he was a Research Scientist with Schlumberger Cambridge Research for three years before rejoining the Cambridge University Chemistry Department where he established several projects. Dr. Williams joined the Institute Laue-Langevin in Grenoble in 1987 as a staff physicist on contract, and in 1993 he became Editor for Physical Sci-

ences in the Europe office of *Nature*.

The Secretary General Designate takes up office on 1 January 1997 and will be based full-time in the new EPS Secretariat located on the first floor of one of the buildings on the Technopôle de la Mer Rouge in Dornach on the outskirts of Mulhouse. The centre of Mulhouse is some six kilometres away. There is a bus (No. 18) which leaves the railway station (*Gare Wilson*) every 30 minutes approximately (week-days; early morning to evening; 25 minutes duration) and stops in front of the building – 34, rue Marc Seguin, F-68060 Mulhouse; Cedex tel.: +33 (0)3 89 32 94 40, fax: +33 (0)3 89 32 94 49 – which houses the Secretariat. It is planned to have 4-5 people working in the Secretariat (the Secretary General Designate, the Editor of *Europhysics News*, two secretaries, and a half-time accountant). Gero Thomas, who is also the Business Manager of *Europhysics Letters*, will spend most of the week in Mulhouse (the *Europhysics Letters* editorial office is to remain at the present EPS Secretariat in Geneva).



Jeffery Williams and a photograph of a building on the Technopôle de la Mer Rouge that is very similar to the one which will house the EPS Secretariat (the map gives the location in Mulhouse).

