

**European Physical Society**

EPS Secretariat, Rue Marc Seguin 34  
F-68060 Mulhouse

Telephone: +33-3- 8932 9440

Telefax: +33-3- 8932 9449

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**Managing Editor**

C.C.J. Schneider, EPS Mulhouse

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# The Aims of EPS

The European Physical Society (EPS) is the forum for physicists in Europe and beyond, a fully European Society of physicists working together to implement or improve the links between scientists of all European nations. The Society aims to promote research and teaching, and the opportunities for the young. In the interests of international scientific cooperation, great importance should be attached to research collaboration mutually beneficial to all participating partners – particularly the developing nations. There are many economic and social advantages to be gained by sharing technological know-how and experience.

It is significant that membership today should also be seen in the context of research for development, affording a plenum for discussion of research policy within the European agenda. Vital topics here are the selection of priority fields of research; divergent interests of policy-makers and researchers; research programmes and organisation of cooperation. The latter should certainly encompass research capacity enhancement, joint R&D activities, technological transfer, the use and communication of research results. In short, the rôle of a Society such as the EPS in our modern community is as a primary element of innovation and productivity.

How does the EPS meet these objectives? Members may participate in various Action Committees: for example, Conference; Physics and Society; Publications; and the Mobility Scheme. For scientific activities, they may join Divisions: Astrophysics; Atomic and Molecular Physics; High Energy and Particle Physics; Nuclear Physics; Plasma Physics; Quantum Electronics and Optics. Or they may be active in Sections for Solar Physics, Atomic Spectroscopy, Chemical Physics, Electronic and Atomic Collisions, Molecular Physics, Condensed Matter, Liquids, Low Temperatures, Macromolecular Physics, Magnetism, Metals, Semiconductors, Surfaces and Interfaces. To these comprehensive lists may be added the EPS Interdivisional Groups: Accelerators; Applied Physics and Physics in Industry; Computational physics; Experimental Physics Control Systems; History of Physics; Physics Education and Physics for Development. The EPS Directory 1996 (EPN 27/4, pp 135–142) lists contact addresses of chairmen, secretaries and members.

This is the unique forum that constitutes the EPS and embodies the attraction of both corporate and individual membership: active participation in all aspects of physics today.

Europe is strategically placed to act as a cultural and political bridge between the Eastern and Western hemispheres. The balance of our involvement and care is currently tipped towards the Eastern (former communist) countries that are in need. This need is for all our understanding, support and goodwill. To incorporate our Eastern members more strongly within the community that is the Society, we are called upon to show our support by sponsorships: a generous act is for members who can afford it to pay the subscriptions of those that cannot. Historically, Europe is the cradle of our civilization, to which we must refer for our cultural and moral unity, and for our intellectual affinities upon which, despite all past enmities, our future growth must be based.

The EPS can make a real contribution towards a basis for better mutual understanding as this century draws to a close and the next one dawns. We are a European focus demonstrating that many languages may be understood and interpreted well. Can science represent a new humanism for the anticipated structure and brotherhood of societies? The EPS is an independent association which effectively contributes to the strengthening of relations between physicists individually and in national groups – let us continue to wholeheartedly support all its aims. Not least of these is that this magazine, *Europhysics News*, continue to be an articulate and informative agent for the interaction within the EPS: the editorial office welcomes your articles, reports, news and opinions.