

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 119 Hotel Adria, Dubrovnik, Croatia

1. General

This report covers the period from the first meeting of the triennium, ECM 118, in April this year to now (Beginning of October 2014). First I would like to once again thank the Italian Vacuum Society for organizing an excellent ECM 118 where, at least to my subjective impression, a lot of activity in the Union could be observed. Also in the time following I had frequent contacts with members of the Union and I think that IUVSTA is increasingly noticed also by outside persons and bodies. Of course I would also like to thank our hosts for this meeting, the Croatian Vacuum Society for organizing this ECM in the beautiful surroundings of the city of Dubrovnik.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 118 were posted on the web site by the Recording Secretary. As so often, some reports are missing and I would urge all Committee Secretaries to ensure that the Recording Secretary receives these as soon as possible for posting. This is important as the web pages are printed off and placed in our Archives to form the Record of the Union. If reports are missing, the record is incomplete. Please ensure that he receives reports of this meeting by the deadline dates so that they too may be posted in good time.

3. Web Matters

Step by step I try to reduce my e-mail communication with the bodies of the Union. For instance, I have not bothered you with this report via email. I increasingly use our web-site which is now much more user-friendly to update and maintain, to post relevant information. So please use the members section of the website. Up-to date information between ECM's and for the respective upcoming ECM can be found in the "Meantime" section. Files which contain the names and contact e-mails of all persons involved in the Union, Officers, Councillors and Alternates, Division Officers, Division Members and Committee Members can also be found there. PowerPoint presentations or flyers for printout which contain information on IUVSTA are available. Many other sections of the web page still require updating, especially those of the divisions. Those responsible should please give this some priority. There is a copy of the tutorial on editing available on the Meantime page. Members who have forgotten how to log on to the Members' pages should contact me for the id and password. Please also use the opportunity to enter your data into the Directory available in the Members Section, if you have not already done so. Finally, I would like to thank the team at the University of Illinois, where the web page is hosted now, Ivan Petrov and especially John Koudelka for always providing efficient help.

4. Interactions with other Bodies

4.1 International Bodies

Most material now comes from UNESCO, ICSU and ISO by email, although there is, however, some hardcopy material, especially from UNESCO. Concerning the liaison of the Union with ISO, the technical committee TC 201 is handled by the Applied Surface Science Division (Laszlo Köver and David Sykes). There is also TC 112 where the Vacuum Science and Technology Division was involved, and I observed that some discussion in VSTD was going on to revive this link.

In general, I would like to add that getting more involved in the organizations which we are affiliated to is desirable, but persons who really want to do that should be aware that this may be tedious and time consuming since these bodies may have statutes and procedures which are even more baroque than ours.

4.2 Commercial Bodies

Many convention centres, travel agents, etc., contact me with offers to host conferences and meetings. If your Society is looking for a venue, contact me and I will check to see if I have any information on anything in your vicinity that might be of interest.

5. Future Executive Council Meetings

During this meeting we will select the location of ECM 121, for which there is one bid which is posted in the Meantime section of the web site. This bid also contains suggestions on the Highlight Seminar, so please study it carefully.

6. Finally

I would like to thank all officers and representatives of the Union cumulatively. Whenever I contacted any person from this group I always received a very fast response and efficient help regarding all my questions and demands. Of course this is mutual, so whenever I can provide help to anyone it will be given, if I am able to provide it.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
October 2014