

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 121 Hotel Holiday Inn Express, Morgan Hill, CA, USA

1. General

This report covers the period from the third meeting of the triennium, ECM 120, in April 2015 to now (mid of October 2015). First I would like to once again thank the Austrian Vacuum Society for organizing an excellent ECM 120 where we had a lot of fruitful discussions about the present and the future of the Union. Of course I would also like to thank our hosts for this meeting, the American Vacuum Society (AVS) for organizing this ECM here in the nice surroundings of Morgan Hill. I would also like to thank the Organizers of ECM 121 for joining the IUVSTA Highlight Seminar to the 62nd AVS symposium in San Jose as an integral part of this successful conference. The seminar was an excellent opportunity for the nine IUVSTA divisions to showcase their activities in the ongoing triennium.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 120 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.

After this meeting three important documents will be sent to the presidents of the member societies being (i) the call for nomination of the president elect, (ii) the call for nominations of the IUVSTA prize, to be awarded at IVC 20 in Korea next year and (iii) the call for bids for IVC 22, due in 2022. In this respect I would appreciate it to have valid electronic and, if possible "real life" addresses of the presidents of the national vacuum societies. From most of them I have received these data, but still the list is not fully complete. All the documents mentioned before will be copied to the councillors and alternates and I would strongly encourage them to fulfil their role as liaison to the national societies if this is necessary.

3. Web Matters

I use our web-site to post relevant up-to-date information. So please use the members section of the website to find information on e. g. 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. Recently I added a very well made power point presentation courteously supplied by the French Vacuum Society which presents the Union in a well designed and informative layout. All presentations can be freely used by members of the Union.

Many other sections of the web page still require updating, especially those of the divisions. Members who have forgotten how to log on to the Members' pages should contact me for the id and password. As always, I would like to thank the team at the University of Illinois, where the web page is hosted, Ivan Petrov and especially John Koudelka for always providing efficient help.

4. New Memberships

After ECM 120, the following update on the negotiations concerning the membership of vacuum societies or of other national scientific societies to the Union can be given:

4.1 Bulgaria

At ECM 120 the status of provisional membership was granted to the "Bulgarian Union of Physicists" by the Executive Council. All necessary documents have been received and are posted on the web. Bulgaria is willing to contribute one share if membership is granted at the General Meeting next year.

The status of provisional membership allows to attend all open meetings and sessions, including the ECM as an observer, i. e. with all rights of a member except for the right to vote.

4.2 Turkey

Following an extensive exchange of information of Anouk Anouk Galtayties with Sefek Suzer and Mehmet Z. Baykara, Turkey is in the process of forming a "Surface Science Society of Turkey (SSSTu)" which will act as the member society of the Union. More information on the progress of this process will be given by Mehmet Z. Baykara who will attend the Emerging Societies Committee meeting on Friday, October 23rd, afternoon.

4.3 Romania

According to Joe Greene Romania was to launch the "Romanian Society for Vacuum Science and Technology" in the first half of 2015 and is interested in joining the Union. More information is yet unavailable.

To conclude this point I would like to express my thanks to all persons, and especially to the members of the Emerging Societies Committee, for their continuous efforts in soliciting new members.

5. Interactions with other Bodies

5.1 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, there is action taken by VSTD to revive this link with TC 112 where the Vacuum Science and Technology Division is involved.

5.2 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.

6. Future Executive Council Meetings

All our future meetings for this triennium are set. ECM 122 will take place in Braga, Portugal in April next year, and ECM 123 and 124 will happen in conjunction with GM 19 and IVC 20 in Korea, August 2016. By tradition, the venue of the first ECM in the new triennium, ECM 125, will be determined by the new president, L. Montelius. Bids for ECM 126 and 127 will be solicited at this meeting.

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 2015