

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 125 Hotel Natura, Rogla, Slovenia

1. General

This report covers the period from the last meeting of the triennium 2013 - 2016, ECM 123, in August 2016 to now (March 2017). Within this period the Union had its 19th General Meeting, on August 24th, 2017 during a very successful IVC 20 in Busan, Korea. During this General Meeting the presidency was transferred from Mariano Anderle to Lars Montelius. On the following day, the first meeting of the new Triennium 2016 – 2019, ECM 124 was held. During this meeting Sander Otte, by invitation of the new president Lars Montelius, gave an exciting presentation on his work on data storage on the atomic level. This new item of a top level scientific presentation at an ECM was suggested and introduced by Lars Montelius and it is planned to have such talks also at other ECM's in an irregular basis.

I also sincerely would like to once again thank the Korean Vacuum Society (KVS) for the excellent organization of ECM 123 in Gyeongju as well as for organizing an exciting and memorable IVC 20 in Busan, Korea. IVC 20 was outstanding in respect to organization, scientific quality and the quality of the conference venue.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 123, GM 19 and ECM 124 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.

The venue of IVC 22 in 2022 was selected at ECM 123. IVC 22 will take place September 11 (Sun) – 16(Fri), 2022 in Sapporo, Japan.

All delegates of the member societies to the Executive Council as well as the new division officers and members are fixed. The standing committees of the Union are operational, committee chairs have been appointed and many interested persons have signed up for committee work. Please let me remind you, that signing up for committees is possible for interested persons during the whole triennium.

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. All relevant data have been updated by now, but if any of you spots errors or inconsistencies, please let me know.

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

At GM 19 two new member societies have been admitted to the Union unanimously: The Bulgarian Union of Physicists and the Vacuum Society of the Philippines. Both new members are willing to contribute 1 share to the finances of the Union.

The emerging Societies Committee is keeping track on potential new members, among them Turkey and Romania. At this time no new developments are known.

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

At ECM 125 no call for bids for future Executive Council Meetings was issued. The reason for this is that the meeting schedule has to be adapted to a relatively early IVC 21, July 1 – 5, 2019 in Malmö, Sweden. A set of possible dates to adjust for this timeframe will be issued after this meeting and bids for ECM 127 and 128 will be solicited at ECM 126, Sept. 29 – Oct. 1 in Sofia, Bulgaria.

6. Finally

At this first Meeting in the Triennium 2016 - 2019, I would like to express my best wishes to our new President, Lars Montelius. It can be anticipated that we will enter a very exciting period of the Union, in which we will considerably change and hopefully improve our interaction with the outside world. A driving force in this process is also our new President Elect, Anouk Galtayries, who, as chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, will carry these initiatives into the next triennium. Last but not least I would like to thank the Past President, Mariano Anderle, for guiding the Union through the last triennium. I highly value this time and look forward to working with him as Past President for the coming three years.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
March 2017