

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 126 Hotel Best Western Expo, Sofia, Bulgaria

1. General

This report covers the period from the first meeting of the triennium 2016 - 2019, ECM 125 in Rogla, Slovenia, in March 2017 to now, September 2017. I sincerely would like to once thank the Slovenian Vacuum Society for hosting us in the beautiful surroundings of the Slovenian mountains. I am sure that this meeting will be remembered for the generosity of our hosts and for the relaxed atmosphere which allowed for planning the future of the Union. I would also like to thank our new member society, the Union of Physicists in Bulgaria, for taking the effort to organize ECM 126 here in Sofia.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 125 were posted on the web site by the Recording Secretary. As 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.

At ECM 125 the name change from "Publications Committee" to "Communications Committee" was decided. This name change reflects a new direction of the committee which will deal with the inception, design and implementation of a variety of methods for communicating the issues of the Union to the outside world. Communications Committee will, in close collaboration with Long Range Planning Committee, be involved in the redesign and relaunch of our website. I would like to specially thank Anouk Galtayries and Ivan Petrov for their tireless work on this topic during the last months.

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, but if any of you spots errors or inconsistencies, please let me know.

As said, a new design and a relaunch of our website are planned. At this point I would urge especially the division chairs to think about content which presents the respective fields of their divisions.

As always, I would like to thank the team at the University of Illinois, where the web page is (and also will be) hosted, Ivan Petrov and especially John Koudelka for providing fast and efficient help, whenever problems occur.

4. New Memberships

The emerging Societies Committee is keeping track on potential new members, among them Turkey and Romania. At this time no new developments are known. 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. Within the liaison of the Union with ISO, ASSD and VSTD links to selected Technical committees.

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 126 a call for bids for ECM 127 and ECM 128 was issued. A timeline for optimal dates of these meetings was distributed, which reflects the fact that we will have a relatively early IVC 21, July 1 – 5, 2019 in Malmö, Sweden.

7. Finally

At this Meeting we will conclude the first year of the triennium, and we will meet again in 2018. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Union which was founded in 1958 in Namur. In 2018 we will have several meetings associated to the Union, like EVC-15, 17 - 22 June 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland and VASSCAA-9 in August 2018 at Cronulla, Australia. It is anticipated to include special events to celebrate the 60 years anniversary in some of these events, and the celebration cycle will culminate at IVC 21, July 1 – 5, 2019 in Malmö, Sweden.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
September 2017