

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 118 Hotel Villa Madruzzo, Trento, Italy

1. General

With this report I would first of all like to thank the previous Secretary General, Ron Reid, for his help and assistance in taking over the task of the Secretary General of the Union. During the last months he was always open to questions about the working procedures of IUVSTA and rapidly provided the necessary assistance. I would also like to thank the French Vacuum Society for organizing an excellent ECM 117 and the organizers of IVC 19 for an exciting conference and for the flawless organizations of all IUVSTA meetings related therewith.

I also want to thank our hosts for this meeting, the Italian Vacuum Society.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 116 and 117 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.

As always I receive many emails many of which are of little or no relevance to the operation of IUVSTA. If I were to take up all the invitations to view Conference Centres or to participate in seminars, etc., I would be constantly on the move.

3. Web Matters

I would like to paraphrase the header of this section by: "The web matters!". Now that our web-page has become manageable relatively easily, I will use it to distribute agendas, working papers and general information rather than harassing you all with frequent e-mails. So please use the members section of the website. Relevant up-to date information between ECMs can be found in the "Meantime" section. I have also posted files there 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. Also information about the Union is available there as PowerPoint presentations or as flyers for printout. With the changes in IUVSTA, exemplified by the generation of the Biointerfaces Division, these files are now not completely updated. I will update them gradually, but I would appreciate any input from you in this matter. Many other sections of the web pages 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. The procedure is very short and uncomplicated and being in this directory allows other persons involved in the Union to obtain some basic information on you.

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. Without John's actions the web-site would have been down for rather long periods of time on several occasions.

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, but right now this link seems to be lost. Maybe it would be good to revive this involvement.

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 locations of ECM 119 and ECM 120. There are three bids for ECM 119 and two for ECM 120, all of them being very well presented. The bids are also posted in the Meantime section of the web site. For me personally the high number of bids is a sign of vitality of the Union, which I hope will be continued throughout the Triennium.

6. Finally

As this is the first ECM of the Triennium, I would like to express my best wishes to our new President, Mariano Anderle. I may say that we all are looking forward to a new and exciting period of the Union. But, of course, not only the present matters, but also input from our past president, Jean-Jacques Pireaux and from our President Elect, Lars Montelius will highly be valued.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner

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