



Minutes of the Second Dresden meeting of the EBSA Executive Committee

Location: ICCD Seminar Room No 5, Wednesday July 22, 2015, 13.00 to 14.30.

Present: Helmut Grubmüller, Manuel Prieto, László Mátyus, John Seddon, Anthony Watts, Tony Wilkinson, José Carrascosa, Jesus Perez-Gil, André Matagne, Rob Gilbert, Pierre-Emanuel Milhiet, Ilpo Vattulainen, and Manuela Pereira (stayed only for item 1).

1. Welcome and Apologies (HG)

Helmut welcomed the Executive Committee and newly elected EC members, and reported that Apologies were received from Pavol Miskovsky, Jacqueline Cherfils, Mauro dalla Serra and Ilpo Vattulainen (from 2pm). Tony Watts introduced Andrew Turberfield (Co-Chair of the 2017 EBSA/IUPAB Congress) to the EC. Helmut thanked Manuela for all her hard work for EBSA, and presented her with a Meissen vase. She thanked the EC, then left the meeting. Helmut reported that he had also sent thanks from the EC to Cathy Royer for her excellent service to EBSA. The Agenda for the meeting was approved.

2. Report on 10th European Congress (HG)

Helmut gave a brief report on the Dresden Congress. There were 1,162 participants registered, of whom 1,039 were paying, and 125 were free. There were 393 students (34%) – this was less than in 2011 or 2013. There were 169 overseas participants (15%). The total revenue from Registration Fees was €364,890. The number of Abstracts submitted was 960, of which 360 were from students. There were 5 satellite meetings (2 held together). There were 34 Exhibitors and Sponsors, and the revenue from this amounted to €78,486. The total Congress budget was €516,411 (Revenue) and €516,081 (Expenditure).

André suggested that, at future Congresses, the Exhibitors should be invited to the Banquet.

The EC recorded its sincere thanks to Helmut, Petra Kellers, and the rest of the organizing team for a truly fantastic job of organizing the Dresden Congress.

3. Report of ISE activities (JC)

A paper was tabled and presented by José. The ISE General Assembly was held in Leuven on 17th Feb 2015. ISE is lobbying against EU budget cuts for science. It has set up a number of working groups: 'integrating scientific advice in politics' - public workshop planned for early 2016; 'research assessment policies'; revision of Horizon 2020 – workshop planned in Barcelona in 2016.

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An Extraordinary General Assembly of ISE was held in Cologne in June 2015. Three categories of membership fees were proposed: €1,000, €2,500, or €5,000. A further meeting will be held in Cologne from 1-2 Sept 2015 to finalize. José plans to attend and he thinks that EBSA will be put into category 1 or 2. Tony Watts commented that our current subscription of €1,000 is supplemented by the travel costs for José to attend ISE meetings, which are also paid by EBSA. The EC asked José to try to negotiate category 1 membership (€1,000) for EBSA. The EC voted unanimously that we should stay within ISE and that José should negotiate the best deal that he can.

Action: José to circulate his ISE report to EC, and prepare a composite report on ISE activities for the EBSA website.

4. **EBSA Website (LM)**

Photos from the Dresden Congress will go on the Congress website, and a selection will then be put up on the EBSA website.

5. **Newsgroup (IV)**

All is going well – nothing specific to report.

6. **Requests for EBSA support and reports (JMS)**

A report was tabled from Bernd Reif on the 5th European School on Biological Solid-State NMR, held in Munich 16 – 21 Nov 2014, with 43 student attendees.

A report from Tony Watts on the pre-congress workshop 'Spectroscopies in Biology' held in Radeberg from 15 – 18 July 2015, was tabled. 46 graduate students attended, and the Workshop was extremely successful. The EC thanked Tony and Manuel for their hard work in organizing this workshop.

A request from Tom Vuletić for €7,500 for the 2016 International School of Biophysics in Croatia was approved.

A request was received from the Armenian Society for support for a workshop on the 'Biological effects of EMF'. The EC agreed that this workshop was outside the scope of mainstream biophysics and therefore will not be supported by EBSA.

Action: JMS to inform Armenian Society. [Done on 24 July 2015]

7. **Future EBSA Schools / Biophysics Courses (PEM)**

Pierre-Emmanuel reported that a bid to IUPAB for support for the 2016 Membranes School (deadline 31st July) was pending. It was suggested that €10,000 might be an appropriate sum to request, but Tony Watts would check this with Dos Remedios before the deadline. It was agreed that EBSA will provide up to €25,000 in support for this School. The confirmed dates are 12 – 16 September 2016, but the location (close to Montpellier) is still to be confirmed. PEM should check possible overlaps with planned German and Finnish meetings on membranes around these dates.

8. **Next EBSA Congresses (HG)**

2017: Planning is already underway for the Edinburgh joint EBSA/IUPAB Congress (AW)

2019: Bids were received from Madrid and from Istanbul.

José and Jesus left the room while the 2019 Congress venue was being discussed. The EC considers that the Madrid bid was very strong, and has confidence in Jesus Perez-Gil and his planned local team. Tony Watts raised concern about the temperatures perhaps being too high in July in Madrid. It was suggested that the summer 2016 EC meeting could be held in Madrid. In the meantime, José was asked to have a look at the venue when he returns to

Madrid from Dresden. He will meet with the organizers and visit next week. The organizers will be asked to consider other venues if the suggested ones are too hot. Tony Watts noted that the largest lecture theatre in the proposed venue has a capacity of 860; Helmut considered that this would be large enough.

The EC discussed the Istanbul bid, but there was a widespread agreement that it is still premature for the Turkish Society to host an EBSA Congress.

A vote of the EC was unanimously in favour of Madrid for the 2019 Congress. Jesus and José will meet with the Rector of Madrid University to inform him that Madrid has been chosen for 2019. Helmut will write to the Turkish Society to inform them that their bid has been unsuccessful.

Action: Manuel to send a copy of his previous letter to the Turkish Society to Helmut.

2021: A bid was received from Finland to host the 2021 Congress. Ilpo left the room while this bid was discussed. It was felt that more details are needed of the commitment of the neighbouring Scandinavian Societies (Sweden, Norway, Denmark) to participating in the organization of the Congress. There were also concerns expressed about the costs of holding the Congress in Finland. Tony Watts commented that computation had been quite prominent at the Dresden Congress; would this also be the case in Finland? Helmut encouraged Ilpo to go ahead with preparing a bid for 2021, but asked him to engage with the neighbouring societies, and to look carefully into the costs.

10. Coopted members of the EC (HG)

The 8 members of the EC eligible to vote unanimously supported co-opting the following onto the EBSA EC with immediate effect:

- László Mátyus, as EBSA Webmaster;
- Ilpo Vattulainen, as EBSA Newsgroup Manager and likely organiser of the 2021 EBSA Congress;
- Jesus Pérez Gil, as organiser of the 2019 EBSA Congress (CV attached);
- Pierre Emmanuel Milhiet, as EBSA Workshops Coordinator (CV attached).

It was agreed that André Matagne will become responsible for Bursaries, and Mauro dalla Serra will act as the IUPAB cross-representative.

Helmut welcomed the newly co-opted members onto the EC.

11. Date of next EC meeting in Edinburgh, Jan 2016

There will be a joint EBSA/IUPAB/IOP/BBS planning meeting for the 2017 Congress held in Edinburgh on Friday 22nd January, followed on Saturday 23rd January by the EBSA EC meeting. Venue to be confirmed.

12. Any other business

It was provisionally agreed that the summer 2016 EBSA EC meeting will be held in Madrid.

Tony Watts informed the EC that the contract renegotiation with Springer will start in 2016, and the new contract should be in place by January 2017. A subset of the EBSA EC may need to meet some 12 months before, possibly in London or Heidelberg.

Helmut thanked Manuel on behalf of the EC for all his hard work and dedication as President, and presented him with a bottle of wine as a token. He also presented a bottle of wine to the incoming Vice-President, Tony Watts.

The meeting ended at 14.30.