

European Biophysical Societies' Association



Minutes

of the 5th EBSA General Assembly

13th August 1996 at 1.30 pm Amsterdam Rhei Congress Centrum Room C/D

Participants:

EBSA Executive Committee: Manuel Cortijo (President), Fritz Parak (Secretary-Treasurer), Sandor Damjanovich (Vice-President), Peter Bayley (Past-President), Philippe Devaux (Coopted)

Member Societies of EBSA: Belgian Biophysical Society, Croatian Biophysical Society, Danish National Committee for Biophysics, Egyptian Biophysical Society, French Biophysical Society, German Biophysical Society: P. Fromherz, H. Rüterjans, British Biophysical Society, Hungarian Biophysical Society, Israel Biophysical Society: H. Eisenberg and I. Pecht, Italian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics: B. Salvato, Dutch Biophysical Society, Norwegian Physical Society, Polish Biophysical Society, Romania: E. Katona, Slovenian Biophysical Society, Spanish Biophysical Society: B. Soria and J. Laynez, Swedish Biophysical Society: Bengt Nordén, Sektion Biophysik der Schweizerischen Biochemischen Gesellschaft.

1. The following agenda is adopted:

1. Adoption of agenda
2. National Societies delegates and new members
3. To approve minutes 4th General Assembly held in Budapest 27/7/1993
4. Past EBSA activities and finances
5. Charitable character and European Biophysics Journal
6. Next EBSA Congress
7. EBSA affiliation (National Societies Memberships and personal affiliations)
8. Changes in the EBSA Statutes
9. Election of new Officers for the EBSA Executive Committee
10. Other matters not otherwise on agenda

2) Albania has applied for a membership in EBSA. It can become a member if its Statutes do not contradict the EBSA Statutes. We are waiting to receive these Statutes.

3) The minutes of the 4th General Assembly held in Budapest have been distributed. There were no comments. Therefore, they are approved.

4) The president summarizes the main activities of EBSA in the past three years. He asks to the presents to notify any change in the coordinates of any national society, their presidents or secretariats. He comments on the convenience to have the addresses, phones and faxes of the european biophysics in a book. Then, he requires the corresponding authorizations and addresses from each national society.

The Executive Committee has met often during last year. Our main activities concern the new agreement on the European Biophysics Journal and related matters, such as the statutes changes, charitable character for EBSA and future plans for the Journal. The new agreement with Springer-Verlag about the Journal will be explained in detail by the Secretary-Treasurer. It will be a great economical advantage for EBSA. We are already receiving some money for the co-ownership of the Journal. Therefore it should be convenient if EBSA could have a charitable character and we do not pay taxes. Dr. Bayley will explain to you our steps to this aim. We need then to change our statutes to have this charitable character. We have also introduced some other changes in the composition of the EBSA Executive Committee, which we hope that you will approve this afternoon. All our economical future is also related to the future of the European Biophysics Journal. Dr. Bayley will also talk you about these plans. Finally we are grateful to the French biophysical society for organizing the second European Biophysics Congress in Orleans chaired by prof. P. Vigny, who will give you more details about it.

The Secretary-Treasurer reports on: a) European Biophysics Journal: After a long discussion with Springer and other publishers EBSA came to an agreement with Springer Publishing Co. concerning the EBJ. Springer will publish the Journal during the next 8 years. The ownership and the copyright of the EBJ is shared by EBSA and Springer during the first 4 years. EBSA will be the only owner during the following 4 years. EBSA can continue to work with Springer or to look for another publisher after 8 years. The netto gain during these 8 years will be shared between Springer and EBSA. b) EBSA Congress: At present there exist still no general rules for the relations between EBSA and the Society which organizes an EBSA Congress. Essentially, the French Society is responsible. However, some National Societies have given a guaranty to contribute to a possible deficit (for instance: German Biophysical Society up to 5000.- DM). A possible gain will be shared between the French Biophysics Society and EBSA. An equal number of members for the "International Scientific Committee" and for the "Program Committee" have been nominated by EBSA and by the French Biophysical Society. c) The Secretary expresses his opinion that from a legal point of view EBSA does not exist. It is still no "Registrated Organisation". Therefore, it is essential that EBSA becomes a charitable character. Peter Bayley is working to get this status in the United Kingdom. For that purpose the Statutes of EBSA have to be changed. A proposal of these changes has been sent to the Member Societies (two versions). The Secretary emphasizes that according to paragraph 8 only changes can be performed which have been proposed in a written way and communicated to the Member Societies. d) The Secretary-Treasurer had nothing to do with finances. This has been done by Peter Bayley. Since there are no regular fees of the Member Societies only a small amount of money had to be taken care of. In this year an EBSA bank account

has been established in London. The right of signature has at present Peter Bayley.

5) Peter Bayley reports that the charitable character of EBSA is hopefully accepted soon. As a consequence EBSA will be tax free. At present the financial volume in the hand of EBSA is about 9000 Pounds which comes from EBJ and donations of Member Societies. EBSA will try to support the Congress by financing the participation of some young scientists. It will take care that meetings of the Executive Committee will be financed from other funds.

The European Biophysics Journal has now the new part "Biophysics Letters". Now Australia, USA and Japan are represented in the Editorial Board and the Advisory Board respectively. These changes should improve a worldwide distribution. EBJ has pages which are reserved for EBSA information. An essential improvement is the possibility of personal subscription. For the volume 25 it is DM 150.- plus VAT and carriage charges. An increase of the numbers of issues by personal subscription is essential for a greater impact of the Journal. The personal subscription can be directly paid to Springer. It can also pay through either each national society or EBSA. The differences of 50 DM per personal subscription between the amount received from the subscriber and the amount actually paid to Springer Verlag represents the profit of each national society or EBSA for managing.

6) Prof. Vigny reports on the preparation of the "Second European Biophysics Congress". Folders for the application have already been sent to the Member Societies of EBSA and have been distributed. Posters advertising the Conference were given to the participants of the General Assembly for distribution. According to the French rules the advertisements are not only in English but also in French language. The Congress is held in Orleans, which is about 100 Km away from Paris. There, an University Campus with student hotels is available. This way the costs of the meeting can be kept low. In student hotels the price of one week will be about 1000.- FF. The number of participants is estimated to be between 600 and 800 people. It is essential that also young scientists should be encouraged to take part.

Member Societies of EBSA are asked to support the participation of students. In order to have the costs as low as possible invited speakers will not get travelling money. However, exceptions for people from for instance East European Countries are possible.

The General Assembly of EBSA recommends that the Member Societies should pay a fee of at least 500 ECU to the EBSA before the Orleans Congress. This money should be mainly used for student fellowships and Congress stipendia.

7) Besides the membership of the National Societies to EBSA a new personal affiliation to EBSA is established. Individuals can become affiliated to EBSA by a personal subscription of the European Biophysics Journal. An EBSA affiliate will also get some reduction of the fee of EBSA Congress. Applications have to be sent to the Secretary of EBSA.

8) The president indicates that the last proposal sent to the national societies include some minor changes regarding to the previous one. They were introduced during the meeting of the Executive Committee in Paris at the beginning of august 1996, to fulfill the requirements to obtain easier the charitable character. He asks the General Assembly for any legal inconvenience prior to the votation. There is not any claim and the last proposal, enclosed to these minutes, is approved with one abstinence and no vote against.

9) The president gratefully informs that this is the first time since the EBSA constitution that many names have been nominated for the new Executive Committee. The Executive Committee at its meeting in Paris on July 7 1996 voted to endorse all nominations received from Member Societies for the new Executive Committee hoping that it will represent a new impulse to EBSA activities. The problem of the meeting costs (travels and accommodation) was addressed by the recommendation that the new Executive Committee will do its work mainly by fax and e-mail and asking the members to pay their meeting costs themselves if any meeting will be necessary. The proposal for the EBSA Executive Committee was: President: M. Cortijo, Vice President: P. Vigny, Secretary: L. Nilsson, Treasurer: M.Ferenczi, Members: S. Damjanovich and H. Rüterjans. The representatives of Germany and Italy raise the question if the elections have to be performed according to the old statutes or to the new statutes. According to the new Statutes Damjanovich would then automatically be the next President, because he has been Vice-President before. However, Damjanovich does not accept to be President. The Secretary/Treasurer expresses his opinion that a democratic election can only be performed secret and one Officer after the other. A proposal to delay the elections until the congress in Orleans, and a proposal to elect now the representatives for only one year and to make a new election at the congress in Orleans in order to have the elections always at the European Biophysics Congress, were discussed. The president decided to vote first on the motion to accept the proposed list of candidates en bloc. The result is: 9 votes in favour; 4 abstentions and 3 votes against. Therefore the proposal from the Executive Committee is approved. The president thanks P. Devaux and F. Parak for their contribution to the running of EBSA as members of the Executive Committee.

10) This topic is cancelled since the meeting room is needed for lectures. The General Assembly is closed immediately after elections.

Appendix: New Statutes approved.

These Minutes were approved at the 6th EBSA General Assembly, July 14, 1997, Orléans.