

# Minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of EBSA

## July 14, 1997, 18:30-20:30

### Orléans, France

Present:

*The Executive Committee*

Manuel Cortijo (President), Sandor Damjanovich, Michael Ferenczi (Treasurer), Lennart Nilsson (Secretary), Heinz Rüterjans, Paul Vigny (Vice President).

Peter Bayley (Past-President).

*Delegates of Member Societies*

**Albania**, M. Spiro; **Belgium**, Y. Engelborghs; **Egypt**, F. M. Ali; **France**, L. Letellier; **Germany**, J. Hüttermann.; **Great Britain**, R. Cooke; **Hungary**, L. Keszthelyi; **Israel**, H. Eisenberg; **Italy**, G. Colombetti; **Netherlands**, J. Greve; **Poland**, J. Siewiesiuk; **Portugal**, M. Prieto; **Romania**, S. Herman; **Spain**, S. Cerdan; **Switzerland**, S. Edelstein.

*Observers*

Latvia, N. Shvinka; Russia, A.B. Rubin; Ukraine, N.S. Miroshnichenko.

1. The General Assembly was opened by Prof. Cortijo, and the previously circulated agenda was adopted with the change that item 8 ("Secretary's report") was replaced by "Information about the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Biophysics Congress":
  1. Adoption of the Agenda.
  2. The Minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Amsterdam, August 13, 1996 (circulated in April 1997).
  3. New Member Societies.
  4. Adoption of the Constitution for the Association.
  5. Discussion of the Rules of the Association (attached).
  6. Adoption of the Rules of the Association, together with the Amendments decided above.
  7. Election of Officers: Vice President for the Association.
  8. Report from the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Biophysics Congress.
  9. Treasurer's report.
  10. Approval of the accounts
  11. European Biophysical Journal Editor Report.
  12. Discussion on Venue for the Third Congress.
  13. Annual Dues.
  14. Any Other Business.
2. The Minutes from the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Amsterdam (attached) approved.
3. The Albanian Biochemistry and Biophysics Society and the Portuguese Biophysical Society, had submitted applications for membership in EBSA. The statutes of the societies, enclosed with the applications, are in accordance with the EBSA Rules and the two societies were accepted as new Members of EBSA
4. The Constitution for the Association, which is the document forming the basis for EBSA's status as a Charitable Association in the UK as accepted by the UK Charities Commission on November 5, 1996, was adopted by the General Assembly.
5. The Rules of the Association, and the minor changes introduced since 1996 to keep the Rules in accordance with the Constitution were briefly discussed.
6. The Rules of the Association (attached) were adopted.
7. EBSA's President, Prof. Manuel Cortijo, had expressed a wish to retire after the 1997 General Assembly. According to the Rules the present Vice President, Prof. Paul Vigny, then succeeds as President. Prof. Vigny accepted to do so, and thus a new Vice President had to be elected. The Executive Committee nominated Prof. Heinz. Rüterjans, Frankfurt, for the post, and nominations for the post of Vice President had been invited from the Member Societies in April 1997, but none had been put forward. Prof. Rüterjans briefly introduced himself to the General Assembly, after which the proposition that Prof. Rüterjans be elected Vice President of EBSA

was voted on by secret ballot. Profs. Letellier and Eisenberg counted the votes of the 22 present with voting rights: 19 in favor, 3 blank. With this Prof. Rüterjans was elected Vice President of EBSA.

8. Prof. Vigny reported that the projected participation of possibly around 600 had been exceeded, and that the actual figure was around 630, from many countries. France and Germany were very well represented. A preliminary analysis of the financial status of the Congress indicated that there might in the end be a slight profit.
9. Treasurer's report (attached). The issue of investment of some fraction of EBSA's funds was discussed, and several delegates indicated a concern about EBSA becoming more interested in investment than in its primary purpose of promoting biophysics in Europe, a feeling shared by all present. The Treasurer asked to be allowed to appoint an Accountant for EBSA, which was approved.
10. The Accounts were approved.
11. Editor's report (attached). It was suggested that the EBSA Rules and the minutes of the General Assembly should be published in EBJ, which Prof. Bayley said should be possible.
12. The German Biophysical Society offers to host the Congress in 2000, most likely in the Munich area. The Spanish Biophysical Society offers to host the Congress in 2003, in Alicante, and to provide more details about this at the Congress 2000. The importance of attracting a good participation in the forthcoming congresses to establish the European Biophysics Congress was stressed, and it was made clear that a key element in this was to keep the costs down to a level allowing also students to participate. At future General Assemblies there will be a report on the outcome of the previous Congress and a budget outline for the coming Congress.
13. The issue of annual dues was discussed in the light of the overall financial situation of EBSA. The discussion focussed on the contrasting views that with the present income from the Journal there would be no need for any annual membership dues, whereas on the other hand payment of annual dues would stimulate the interest of the Member societies in EBSA. Very small dues would be more of a burden to administrate than the benefits they would bring to EBSA, and higher dues might be too high for some members. The proposition that the annual dues should be set at 1 ECU \* (number of members of the National Society), was voted on. The proposition was carried with 16 votes in favor, 3 against. It was decided that upon receipt of a letter addressed to the President of the Executive Committee this fee could be waived for Societies who feel that their financial status does not allow them to contribute
14. It was proposed that an EBSA Prize should be instigated, and that the Executive Committee should prepare a proposal for the next General Assembly. It was also suggested that EBSA might coordinate efforts to transfer older books and journals from institutions that are about to get rid of such material to other institutions that may want to have these books and journals.
15. The Meeting was closed, and the retiring President, Prof. Cortijo, was thanked for his diligent work for EBSA and European Biophysics.

Prof. Paul Vigny  
EBSA President

Dr. Lennart Nilsson  
EBSA Secretary

Attachments:

Approved minutes from 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Amsterdam  
Rules of the Association  
Treasurer's report  
Editor's report