



Minutes of the 12th General Assembly of EBSA

Budapest, Hungary, ELTE University Congress Center, Globe Hall, Level 0, Northern Building, August 26th, 2011, 14.45–16.00

Present:

- *The Executive Committee*: Alberto Diaspro (President), Michael A. Ferenczi (Past President/Treasurer), László Mátyus (Vice President), J. Antoinette Killian (Secretary), Anthony Watts (Managing Editor EBJ), Tony (A) J. Wilkinson, Manuel Prieto, Jose L. Carrascosa, Helmut Grubmüller, Yves Engelborghs, Erick J. Dufourc
- Representatives (26) of the National Societies
- Observers

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes from the 11th General Assembly meeting in Genoa
4. Report of the president, including Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. New member societies
7. Report from Springer for European Biophysics Journal by Anthony Watts
8. Election of the members of the Executive Committee
9. Next Congress: Lisbon 2013
10. Future Congresses: 2015 and 2017
11. Any other business

President	Prof. Alberto Diaspro, MicroScBio LAMBS-IFOM, Department of Physics, University of Genoa, Via Dodecaneso 33, 16146 Genoa, Italy. ☎ +39 10 3536426/309, fax +39 10 314218, ✉ diaspro@fisica.unige.it
Vice President	Prof. László Mátyus, Department of Biophysics and Cell Biology, University of Debrecen, Nagyterdei krt. 98, H-4032 Debrecen, Hungary. ☎ +36 52 412623, fax: +36 52 412623, ✉ lmatyus@med.unideb.hu
Secretary	Prof. J. Antoinette Killian, Department of Chemistry, Science Faculty, Utrecht University, Padualaan 8, 3584 CH Utrecht, the Netherlands. ☎ +31 30 2533442, fax: +31 30 2533969, ✉ j.a.killian@chem.uu.nl
Treasurer & Past President	Prof. Michael A. Ferenczi, Molecular Medicine Section, National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London, London SW7 2AZ, UK. ☎ +44 20 7594 3139, +44 20 7594 3040, fax: +44 20 7594 3169, ✉ mailto:m.ferenczi@ic.ac.uk

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ELTE University, Northern Building, Budapest, Hungary, August 26, 14.45-16.00

1. Welcome

The General Assembly was opened by the President of EBSA, Prof. Alberto Diaspro, who welcomed all present.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes from the 11th General Assembly meeting in Genoa

The minutes were approved unanimously. They will be published on the EBSA website after approval by the EC.

4. Report of the President, including Secretary's report

- Prof. Alberto Diaspro addressed the EBSA activities since 2009. The Executive Committee has had four meetings since the 11th General Assembly in Genoa. Most of the work has been concerned with European Biophysics Congresses, the European Biophysics Journal, sponsoring schools, the EBSA prize, and with increasing EBSA visibility in general. The Executive Committee awarded 60 bursaries for the Congress to PhD students and post-docs from different European countries. Since the last General Assembly, EBSA has supported 12 meetings, taking place in 7 different European countries, by means of bursaries to PhD students and post-docs and by supporting EBSA speakers. In addition, EBSA has supported 1 EBSA school and 2 satellite meetings, which are taking place in Hungary as satellite meetings with the 8th European Congress.

- Prof. Erick Dufourc reported about the first EBSA School, which took place in 2010 in Arcachon, France. It was successful and will be held again in 2012. The second EBSA School will take place as satellite meeting to the Congress. Applications for EBSA schools are welcome, as are proposals for new initiatives.

- Prof. Jose Carrascosa reported about the involvement of EBSA in ISE, the Initiative for Science in Europe.

- EBSA will continue its activities to support Biophysics in Europe. In addition to support for travel for young scientists and sponsoring workshops, the EBSA lecture tour has been launched as a new initiative. Information can be found on the EBSA website: <http://www.ebsa.org/>

- The report of the President and the Secretary was approved unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report

Prof. Tony Wilkinson presented a report on the EBSA finances with details of expenditure. The finances are healthy with a good balance in various bank accounts between pounds and Euro's. 95% of the income comes from Springer and ~5% from subscriptions (at €2/member) from adhering societies – some societies pay no subscriptions due to their financial position.

6. New member society

Turkey and Serbia had requested to become a member and they submitted their statutes to the EC. The EC has considered the applications and recommends acceptance. A standard request for all Societies is that important parts of the website are in English.

7. Report from Springer for European Biophysics Journal

Prof. Anthony Watts presented an overview of the publishers report on the European Biophysical Journal.

The journal is doing well. It received more submissions and moved to a monthly publication schedule.

Its impact factor has increased. A full editorial board meeting was held during the congress, hosted by Springer, lead by Dr Sabine Schwartz.

8. Election of the members of the Executive Committee

Only one Society (Finland) had submitted a nomination for membership. To have all positions occupied to represent Europe as widely as possible, the EC has decided to co-opt Ippo Vattullainen for two years. After two years at the next General Assembly there will be new elections. The EC hopes that more nominations will be received, in particular because some of the present members will have to leave.

According to the Rules of EBSA:

- *The General Assembly shall elect an Executive Committee to serve for a term of office, normally two years and not more than three years. The Executive Committee shall consist of up to ten voting members drawn from different member societies where possible, and including the following officers: President, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Managing Editor of EBJ. The*

Executive Committee has the power to co-opt up to four additional full members of the committee for specific purposes.

- *The vice-President will be the president for the next term, the President becomes Past President and the Managing Editor of EBJ is a member of the Executive Committee. Thus, Laszlo Matyus (Hungary) will become EBSA President, Alberto Diaspro (Italy) will become Past President and Tony Watts (UK) will remain as Managing Editor of EBJ.*

According to the EBSA rules voting at the General Assembly was conducted with one vote for each National Society and one vote for each Member of the Executive Committee.

Voting took place for nominations of the following officers and members:

Nominations for Officers:

The EC proposed the (re)election of:

- Manuel Prieto (Portugal) as Vice President in his capacity of organiser of the 2013 EBSA Congress in Lisbon
- Antoinette Killian (Netherlands) as Secretary
- Michael Ferenczi (UK) as Treasurer

Nominations for Members:

According to the Rules of EBSA the Executive Committee may consist of four additional members. The EC proposed the re-election of:

- Jose L. Carrascosa (Spain) nominated by the EC, in his capacity as EBSA representative to European affairs
- Helmut Grubmüller (Germany) nominated by the EC in his capacity as organiser of the 2015 EBSA Congress in Dresden
- Yves Engelborghs (Belgium) nominated by national society
- Catherine Royer (France) nominated by national society

All nominees were voted for unanimously and received the maximum number of 26 votes.

The EC decided to co-opt:

1. Manuela Pereira as co-organizer of the European Biophysics Congress in Lisbon in 2013
2. Tony Wilkinson, past Treasurer of EBSA, as financial administrator to maintain expertise and continuity in the financial administration of the Association
3. Erick Dufourc as organizer of the EBSA Biophysics Course in Arcachon
4. Ilpo Vattulainen (Finland) as Scandinavian representative of the member countries

9. Next Congress:

The next Congress will take place in Lisbon 2013 and will be organized by Prof. Manuel Prieto and Dr. Manuela Perreira together with the Portuguese Biophysical Society and the EBSA EC.

10. Future Congresses:

The Xth European Biophysics Congress will be held in 2015 in Dresden, Germany. A brief presentation was given by Helmut Grubmüller (Göttingen, DE), chair of the organizing committee, and EBSA EC member.

Two bids were received for the Congress in 2017, which could also be co-organized with IUPAB. These bids were Turkey (presented by Professor Ferit Pehlivan) and Edinburgh, Scotland, UK (presented briefly, due to lack of time, by Tony Watts) on behalf of the British Biophysical Society.

11. Any other business

The Spanish Society has written a letter to the president of EBSA to express concerns regarding the involvement of the National Societies with EBSA matters. The EC promises to carefully consider these concerns in her next meeting.

There was no other business.