

## Draft Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of EBSA

Lisbon, Portugal, Meeting room, Parque des Nações Auditorium II, July 15<sup>th</sup> 2013, 18.30-19.45

### Present:

- *The Executive Committee:* László Mátyus (President), Manuel Prieto (Vice President), Anthony Watts (Managing Editor of EBJ), José Carrascosa, Cathy Royer, Helmut Grubmüller, Michael Ferenczi (Treasurer), Ilpo Vattulainen, Yves Engelborghs, Manuela Pereira, Erick Dufourc.
- Representatives of the National Societies
- Observers

### Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Minutes from the General Assembly meeting in Budapest in 2011
4. Report of the President, including Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Report from the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal
7. Vote for election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee
8. New Member Societies
9. Next Congress: Dresden 2015
10. Future Congresses: 2017 and 2019
11. Any Other Business and Closing Remarks

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### 1. Welcome

The General Assembly was opened by the President of EBSA, Prof. László Mátyus, who welcomed all present and conveyed Apologies from Professors Alberto Diaspro, Antoinette Killian, and Anthony Wilkinson.

### 2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda was adopted.

### 3. Minutes from the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly meeting in Budapest in 2011

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

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

- Prof. László Mátyus addressed EBSA activities since 2011, and gave a report on the 8<sup>th</sup> EBSA Congress held in Budapest in 2011. There were 865 participants, compared to 845 at Genoa in 2009. There were 24 Symposia, with 3 sets of sessions in parallel. Of the 165 Oral presentations, 9 were Plenaries, 60 Invited, and 96 selected short talks. There were 523 Posters presented. The different Sessions varied from 10 – 92 submitted Abstracts. EBSA provided €50,000 of financial support, of which €3,500 was returned.

- The Springer contract was renewed in 2012 for a further 6 years; this provides 95% of EBSA's income.

- EBSA only provides support for other congresses in alternate years when there is no EBSA Congress. It also provides support for Biophysics Schools. A new activity is that EBSA will now consider applications for support of scientific visits to other laboratories (rules on the EBSA website).

- EBSA is now an adhering member of IUPAB with full 3-vote rights;

- The Avanti Polar Lipids / EBSA Prize, with a monetary value of €3,000, was awarded for the first time in 2013, to Prof. Félix Goñi, Spain.

- The new EBSA Newsgroup is ready to go live. It needs members to enrol to avoid any legal issues. National Societies should inform their members and encourage them to enrol.

- Prof. Jose Carrascosa represents EBSA within ISE, the Initiative for Science in Europe, which is a lobbying group.

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

### 5. Treasurer's report

- Prof. Mike Ferenczi presented the Treasurer's Report prepared by Prof. Tony Wilkinson. EBSA is a charity which is registered in the UK. There is no tax on the income. Auditing is done by Sam Rogoff and Company. Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 are being prepared. The income was €267,140 (of which €249,978 came from Springer), and the expenditure was €166,795. The current balance is €270,864, plus a £50,000 Bond which matures in August 2013. This does not include most of the expenditure for the 2013 EBSA Congress. EC expenses for the two EC meetings in York and Montpellier were €8,314. EBSA contributions to activities such as Schools, Satellites, Workshops, Conferences, EBSA prize, Speakers, Bursaries came to roughly €46,000.

- The EBSA subscription statuses of the National Societies for the period 2007-2015 was reviewed. Egypt, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Turkey all have a number of missing years of payment. The subscription is €2 per member. For any National Society that is struggling to pay their subscription, EBSA will consider reducing or waiving it.

- The report of the Treasurer was approved unanimously.

### 6. Report from the Managing Editor of the European Biophysics Journal

Prof Anthony Watts reported that there will be a EBJ Editorial Board meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July. EBJ is receiving 20-30 submissions per month, with approximately 1,600 pages published per year. The acceptance rate is 47%. The Impact Factor is 2.36, and it is ranked 42<sup>nd</sup> out of 72 biophysics journals. There are roughly 11,000 downloads per month.

Tony plans to step down as Managing Editor within 2 – 3 years, so a replacement will need to be identified.

## 7. Vote for election of members of the EBSA Executive Committee

The procedure to be followed was explained by László Mátyus.

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, Manuel Prieto has now become EBSA President, László Mátyus (Hungary) has become Past President and Tony Watts (UK) will remain as Managing Editor of EBJ.*

Several members have now left the committee, including Antoinette Killian (Secretary), Michael Ferenczi (Treasurer), Alberto Diaspro (Past-President) and Yves Engelborghs (Ordinary member).

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 Executive Committee proposed (re)election of:

- Helmut Grubmüller, Germany, as Vice President, in his capacity as the 2015 EBSA Congress Organiser in Dresden;
- John Seddon, UK, as Secretary, nominated by the British Biophysical Society;
- Tony Wilkinson, UK, as Treasurer;
- Jose Carrascosa, Spain, as Ordinary member, in his capacity as ISE delegate.

All nominees were voted for unanimously.

### **Nominations for Members:**

According to the Rules of EBSA the EC may consist of three additional Ordinary members.

Candidates, nominated by their National Biophysical Societies, were:

- Ilpo Vattulainen, Finland;
  - Pavol Miskovsky, Slovakia;
  - Andre Matagne, Belgium;
  - Pier Luigi San Biagio, Italy.
- The first three of these candidates received the most votes and so were duly elected.

László thanked Antoinette Killian, Michael Ferenczi, Alberto Diaspro and Yves Engelborghs for their many years of service to EBSA. He also pointed out that the EC can co-opt up to a further four additional members.

## 8. New Member Societies

An application to join EBSA was received from the Lithuanian Biophysical Society (represented by D. Matulis). This was accepted unanimously in a vote.

## 9. Next Congress: Dresden 2015

Helmut Grubmüller gave a brief presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2015 Congress in Dresden, and introduced Petra Kellers as Congress Scientific Coordinator. The Congress will be held from 18 – 22 July 2015, probably at the International Congress Center Dresden. The Registration Fees for members will be €390, and €220 for students.

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## 10. Future Congresses: 2017 and 2019

Anthony Watts (Congress Chair) gave a brief presentation to the General Assembly of the plans for the 2017 Congress in Edinburgh. It will be organized jointly by IUPAB, EBSA, BBS, and the IOP (Institute of Physics), and will take place at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) from 16 – 20 July 2017. The Congress Co-Chair is Professor Andrew Turberfield, Oxford, and it will be administered by the IOP. The EICC which can hold up to 4,000 delegates is already booked, as are 3,000 rooms for participants.

A decision as to the venue of the 2019 EBSA Congress will be made at a later date by the EC. A short presentation to the General Assembly of a bid from the Turkish Biophysical Society for organization of the 2019 Congress was made by Professor Can Akyolcu. The Society was founded in 1987, has 250 members and holds a national Annual Meeting. The venue would be Istanbul University in the historic centre of Istanbul. The hotel costs range from €85 – €370 per night. Additional bids are expected from Finland/Scandinavia and from Spain.

## 11. Any Other Business and Closing Remarks

László reminded the Assembly to encourage students to attend the Croatian Biophysics School. He then thanked everyone present for their contributions, and formally handed over the EBSA Presidency to Manuel Prieto.

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