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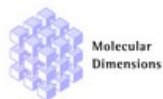
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ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR KRISTALLOGRAPHIE



## Minutes of the ECA Council, Marrakech, 2007

Marrakech, 23, 25 &amp; 26 August 2007

### Participants

The present membership of the ECA Executive Committee as appointed in 2006 is:  
President: J. R. Helliwell (UK); Vice-President: S. Larsen (Denmark); Secretary:  
P. Bombicz (Hungary); Treasurer: R. Kuzel (Czech Republic); Members: S. Garcia-Granda (Spain), L. van Meervelt (Belgium); A. Roodt (South Africa) and ECA Webmaster M. Nespolo (ex-officio).

	Voting right	Councillors / representative	23 August	25 August	26 August
<b>Councillor of Member Countries</b>					
Algeria	Yes	Achoura Guehria-Laidoudi		Guehria-Laidoudi	
Austria	Yes	Ekkehart Tillmanns			
Belgium	Yes	Bernard Tinant	Tinant	Tinant	Tinant
Bulgaria	Yes	Kostadin Petrov			
Croatia	Yes	Stanko Popovic	D. Matkovic Calogovic	D. Matkovic Calogovic	D. Matkovic Calogovic
Czech and Slovak Rep	Yes	Jindrich Hasek	Hasek	Hasek	Hasek
Denmark	Yes	Kenny Ståhl	Ståhl	Ståhl	Ståhl
Egypt	Yes	Karimat El-Sayed		El-Sayed	El-Sayed
Finland	Yes	Keijo Hämäläinen	Hämäläinen	Hämäläinen	Hämäläinen
France	Yes	Jean-Louis Hodeau	Hodeau	D. Grebille	D. Grebille
Germany	Yes	Ulrich Pietsch	Pietsch	Pietsch	W. Neumann
Greece	Yes	Irene Mavridis			
Hungary	Yes	Alajos Kálmán	Kálmán	Kálmán	Kálmán
Israel	Yes	Noam Adir	J. Bernstein		J. Bernstein
Italy	Yes	Paola Spadon	Spadon	Spadon	Spadon
Latvia	Yes	Anatolij Mishnev			
Morocco	Yes	Abdelmalek Thalal		Thalal	Thalal
Netherlands	Yes	Ton Spek	Spek	Spek	Spek
Norway	Yes	Carl Henrik Gorbitz	Gorbitz	K. Törnroos	K. Törnroos
Poland	Yes	Adam Pietraszko	A. Katrusiak	A. Katrusiak	A. Katrusiak



Portugal	Yes	Ana Margarida Damas	M.O. Figueiredo	-	-
Russia	Yes	Svetlana Zheludeva	Zheludeva	-	-
Serbia	Yes	Slobodanka Stankovic	-	-	-
Slovenia	Yes	Ivan Leban	Leban	Leban	Leban
South Africa	Yes	Susan Bourne	Bourne	Bourne	Bourne
Spain	Yes	Enrique Gutierrez-Puebla	Gutierrez-Puebla	Gutierrez-Puebla	-
Sweden	Yes	Ylva Lindqvist	Lindqvist	Lindqvist	-
Switzerland	Yes	Jürg Schefer	Schefer	Schefer	Schefer
Tunisia	Yes	Mongi Debbabi	Debbabi	Debbabi	Debbabi
Turkey	Yes	Engin Kendi	Kendi	Kendi	Y. Elerman
UK	Yes	Christine J. Cardin	Cardin	M. Glazer	Cardin
Ukraine	Yes	Roman Gladyshevskii	-	-	-
IM representative (2006-9)	Yes	Teresa Borowiak	A. Katrusiak	A. Katrusiak	A. Katrusiak
IM representative (2006-9)	Yes	Massimo Nespolo	Nespolo	Nespolo	Nespolo
Observers			70.6%	73.5%	64.7%
IUCr	No	Chris Gilmore	Gilmore	-	Gilmore
Armenia	No	Hakob Bezirganyan	-	-	-
Belarus	No	Alexander Lyakhov	-	-	-
Estonia	No	Hugo Mandar	-	-	-
SIG's representatives					
SIG 1	No	Maria Armenia Carrondo	Carrondo	W.D. Schubert	-
SIG 2	No	Bo Brummerstedt Iversen	U. Pietsch	Pietsch	-
SIG 3	No	Gervais Chapuis	Chapuis	-	Chapuis
SIG 4	No	Thomas E. Weirich	U. Kolb	U. Kolb	U. Kolb
SIG 5	No	Wulf Depmeier	Depmeier	Depmeier	-
SIG 6	No	Jean-Louis Hodeau	Hodeau	-	Hodeau
SIG 7	No	Roland Boese	P. Gilli	P. Gilli, S Bourne	S Bourne
SIG 8	No	Jordi Rius	-	-	-
SIG 9	No	Ton Spek	Spek	Spek	Spek
SIG 10	No	Mikhail Kovalchuk	-	-	-
SIG 11	No	Alain Polian	Polian	Polian	Polian
SIG 12	No	Pam A. Thomas	Thomas	Thomas	-
SIG 13	No	Chick C. Wilson	Wilson	Wilson	-
Auditors					
Auditor (2006-7)	No	Elspeth Garman	-	-	-
Auditor (2006-7)	No	Jindrich Hasek	Hasek	-	Hasek
ECANEWS					
ECANEWS	No	Massimo Nespolo	Nespolo	Nespolo	Nespolo
ECM's representatives					
ECM23-2006	No	Luc van Meervelt	H. Reynaers	H. Reynaers	H. Reynaers

<b>ECM24-2007</b>	No	Abdelmalek Thalal		Thalal	Thalal
<b>ECM25-2009</b>	No	Engin Kendi	Kendi	Kendi	Y. Elerman
<b>ECM26-2010</b>	No	Hartmut Fuess	Fuess	Fuess	Fuess
<b>Executice Committee</b>					
<b>president</b>	No	John Helliwell	Helliwell	Helliwell	Helliwell
<b>vice-president</b>	No	Sine Larsen	Larsen	Larsen	Larsen
<b>past-president</b>	No	Hartmut Fuess	Fuess	Fuess	-
<b>secretary</b>	No	Petra Bombicz	Bombicz	Bombicz	Bombicz
<b>treasurer</b>	No	Radomir Kuzel	Kuzel	Kuzel	Kuzel
<b>member</b>	No	Luc van Meervelt	Meervelt	Meervelt	Meervelt
<b>member</b>	No	Santiago Garcia-Granda	Garcia-Granda	Garcia-Granda	Garcia-Granda
<b>member</b>	No	Andreas Roodt	Roodt	Roodt	-
<b>CAM</b>					
<b>Bruker - Nonius</b>	No	Eric Hovestreydt	F. van Meurs	F. van Meurs	-
<b>Pananalytical</b>	No	Celeste Reiss	-	-	-
<b>Bede</b>	No	Melanie Carter	-	-	-
<b>Oldenbourg</b>	No	Johannes Oldenborgh	-	-	-
<b>MSC-Rigaku</b>	No	Sue Lewis Duncan	-	-	-
<b>Osmic</b>	No	Mary Makowske	-	-	-
<b>Molec Dimensions L</b>	No	Tony Savill	-	-	-
<b>Malvern Instruments</b>	No	Ulf Nobbmannl	-	-	-
<b>Exhibitors for information</b>					
<b>Crystal Impact</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>INCOATEC</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>XENOCs</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>MarResearch</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Oxford Cryosyst</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>MICROCAL</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>CCDC</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Oxford Diffraction</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>RAYONIX</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Bruker</b>	No		F. van Meurs	F. van Meurs	-
<b>Panalytical</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>RIGAKU</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Douglas Instrument</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>STOE &amp; Cie</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Oldenbourg</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Emerald Biosystem</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>TTP Labtech</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Molec Dimensions L</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Oxford Univ Press</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>Genomic solutions</b>	No		-	-	-
<b>also present</b>					
<b>IUCr President</b>	No	Yuji Ohashi	Ohashi	-	-
	No		-	J Navaza	-

## Agenda

**1 Opening**

- 1.1 Welcome to Council and Guests
- 1.2 Application for membership [none]

**2 Annual Reports by the President and the Treasurer**

- 2.1 Report by the President J.R. Helliwell
- 2.2 Report by the Treasurer R. Kuzel

**3 Former e-mail decisions**

- 3.1 on appointment of auditors

**4 Approval by the Council of the submitted accounts**

- 4.1 Report of the Auditors for August 2006- (mid of) July 2007

**5 Annual Reports by the Executive Committee and preliminary progress reports**

- 5.1 Report by the Secretary P. Bombicz summary of the work of the Executive Committee
- 5.2 Report by A. Roodt on the Max Perutz Prize
- 5.3 Report by the Past-President H. Fuess on setting up the Bertaut Prize and on CAM members
- 5.4 Report by L. van Meervelt on sponsorship of meetings and schools
- 5.5 Report by S. Garcia-Granda on SIG organisation

**8 IUCr President's proposal** on grouping the small countries with respect to IUCr General Assembly membership.

*End of the first day of the Council Meeting*

**6 Annual Reports regarding SIG's activity**

- 6.1 SIG.1 Macromolecular Crystallography
- 6.2 SIG.2 Charge, Spin & Momentum Density
- 6.3 SIG.3 Aperiodic Crystallography
- 6.4 SIG.4 Electron Crystallography
- 6.5 SIG.5 Mineralogical Crystallography
- 6.6 SIG.6 Instrumentation and Experimental Techniques (IET)
- 6.7 SIG.7 Molecular Interaction and Recognition (MIR)
- 6.8 SIG.8 Powder Diffraction ( SIGPD )
- 6.9 SIG.9 Crystallographic Computing ( CCSIG )
- 6.10 SIG.10 Diffraction physics and optics

6.11 SIG.11 Extreme Conditions

6.12 SIG.12 Material Science

6.13 SIG.13 Molecular Structures and Chemical Properties

**7 Further organisational developments; Focus Area concept (M Nespolo)**

**9 Proposal of establishing a European Graduate School of Crystallography(M. Nespolo)**

**10 Reports regarding ECM's**

10.1 Relationship between ECA, the ECM's and the CAM's

CAM-s pays membership fee and are donators to ECM, Perutz and poster Prizes

10.2 ECM23 (2006) Leuven - final numbers and summary L. van Meervelt

10.3 ECM24 (2007) Marrakech – running the conference A. Thalal

10.4 ECM25 (2009) Istanbul - progress in organisation E. Kendi

10.5 ECM26 (2010) Darmstadt - progress in organisation H. Fuess

10.6 ECM27 (2012) Selection of the venue - Bergen presentation K. Törnroos Part 1

*End of the second day of the Council Meeting*

10.7 ECM27 (2012) Selection of the venue - Bergen presentation K. Törnroos Part 2 and

decision on the venue of ECM27 (2012)

**11 The ECA : what to do - where to go**

Discussion regarding rules and future proceedings

**12 Any other business**

**13 Close**

*End of the third day of the Council Meeting*

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The reports of the members of the Executive Committee and SIG-s' chairs referred in the Minutes were distributed to the members of the Council on 19th July 2007. Other reports can be found in the appendices of this document.

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**Opening**

**1 Opening and report of the President, Prof John R. Helliwell**

Prof Helliwell opened the Council meeting and gave his Presidential report (circulated prior to the Council) and which was accepted by the Council. He highlighted:-

1. The creation of the risk folder of ECA had been completed by the ECA Executive Committee and a copy was available from the Secretary for the confidential use of the ECA Councillors. The top risk identified was that gThe ECA membership might not develop to its full capacity, expected to be around 4000, since a paid secretariat is not affordable for the ECA currently. The risk mitigation strategy is to proceed, as in the past,

with the volunteer effort of the ECA Executive Committee (with specific risk holders the President, Treasurer and Secretary) to (i) advertise the benefits of ECA Membership to Companies and IMs and (ii) thereafter maintain as reliable a membership database as possible. The impact of this risk, whose probability of occurring is set at a 60% chance in the risk folder, is that ECA will lose revenue annually and thus European Crystallography will not develop to its full potential. As a practical measure at our current effectiveness with this current risk mitigation strategy, without a paid employee, we note two performance metrics namely that (i) there was only one new Corporate member (Taylor and Francis Publishers) in the last year (ii) no application for individual membership to ECA in the last year, most importantly via the ECM 24 registration benefit. Whilst there are other mitigating factors such as the fact that the ECA sustains good and very regular links with the European individual country crystallographic associations, the Executive Committee will discuss ways to improve these two performance metrics at its Committee Meeting in Budapest in February 2008. Action; the President and Executive Committee.

2. More cheerfully the President was able to report that the Advanced Training Workshop (ATW) held before ECM24 had been supported by a NATO grant; NATO were especially interested in telepresence access to Synchrotron Radiation and Neutron centralized facilities and the upcoming use of SESAME in Jordan by the NATO Mediterranean Dialogue countries. There were 32 registered participants, out of them 12 students, with an emphasis, as hoped for, from NATO Mediterranean Dialogue countries eg including especially Morocco and Tunisia. In particular a lecture within the ATW had been delivered from Daresbury UK at SRS 9.8 (Dr J E Warren) into the NATO ATW in the Marrakech classroom including SRS 9.8 user and safety training. This included joint video control of remote cameras and full audio contact. Built around this, over the two days of the ATW, were lectures on crystallographic science in Morocco (Prof A Thalal), the power of modern PC and laptop computers for crystallographic data analysis of powders (Prof Giacobozzo), protein crystallography and molecular graphics (Dr M Winn and Prof J R Helliwell) and electron density descriptors (Prof S Garcia Granda). Numerous computational practical demonstrations were also shown by the Lecturers and also exercises undertaken by the students themselves.

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### **Annual Report by the Treasurer**

#### **2 Annual report of the Treasurer, Prof Radomir Kuzel**

Prof Radomir Kuzel gave a presentation with the final data of accounting. He highlighted:-

- the current ECA assets total 44 600 Euro of which the split between the current account in Prague and the Prizes account (Bertaut and Perutz) held in Darmstadt was 21 740 Euros and 22027 Euros respectively. Small amount are in Portugal and the Netherlands (about 500 Euro). The latter account is kept for the ECA registration fees in the Netherlands.
- The total financial movement in the last year August 2006 to August 2007 (income and expenditure) had been respectively 23 123 and 20 957 Euros (to the end of August 2007)
- The repayment of the loan to ECA from ECM23 Leuven of 10000 Euros had been paid in May 2007.
- Monies totalling 17000 Euros had been loaned to the ECM24 Organisers.
- A plan to close the Portuguese ECA bank (current) account (327 Euro) was being implemented by the immediately preceding ECA Treasurer (T. Duarte)
- The sponsorship raised for the ECM24 Perutz Prize had been 3500 Euros (70% of that required to ebreak even) given by Molecular Dimensions (2500), Panalytical (1000) and Stoe (500).
- Two new Corporate Members (Taylor and Francis, Stoe) had yielded 500 Euros income. There are 10 Corporate Members now.

- A donation of 1 200 Euros to the ECA by the University of Manchester had been made to set up the IET SIG 6 Poster Prize to commemorate Prof Jacek Grochowski's memory
- Over the whole year the total assets had increased by 2 160 Euros (in previous year there was a loss of 3 570 Euros). However, both these include loans to ECM24 (7000 and 5000, respectively).

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the Council.

Prof Joel Bernstein (former Vice-President of ECA) expressed his appreciation to the financial state of the Association. He suggested not to close the current bank account in the Netherlands and to pay the incorporation fee of ECA ~50 EUR/year from this account. Prof Sine Larsen finds convenient to have small amount of money in the Netherlands to keep registration continuous.

Prof John Helliwell highlighted the unnecessary of having an account in Portugal. He proposed that the Council ratify the plan of the closing of the Portugal bank current account. Credit card payment into the Prague current account by new members should be the most common joining method. However a detail needs tightening up namely that there should be a joining rule that 5 years are the maximum number of joining years possible for a new member (currently it is in effect unrestricted).

*The Council Ratified (no objection):*

*5 years are the maximum number of years possible for pay-ahead the individual membership fee which is 10 EUR/year.*

*The Council Ratified (no objection):*

*ECA money has to be transferred from the Portugal bank current account to the Czech current account. Then Portugal bank current account has to be closed.*

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## **Auditors**

### **3 Appointment of auditors**

Profs Elspeth Garman and Jindrich Hasek had been appointed as auditors by the ECA Council for one year by former e-mail decision. Some clarifications to the statutes were needed for the future namely:-

*The Council Ratified (no objection):*

*Interpretation of ECA statute 16.2*

*The Auditor of the Association shall be a person or corporation **authorised to act as a public accountant.***

*ECA has no financial background to afford a professional registered public accountant. The auditors are thereby the appointed members of the crystallographic community on a voluntary basis and who are authorised to act as a public accountant by the ECA Council.*

*The Council Ratified (no objection):*

*Modification of ECA Statute 16.1:*

*An annual Council shall be held within **nine months** after each financial year, unless the Council lengthens this period.*

#### **4 Approval by the Council of the submitted accounts**

##### **4.1 Report of the Auditors for August 2006- (mid of) July 2007**

The unified report of the two auditors (in appendices) was presented by Prof Jindrich Hasek to the Council. The activity report of the Treasurer was accepted in general. Some points were raised to investigate: reduction of number of accounts, checking operation of ECA in agreement with Dutch Law, archivation of the documents, report on conference grants, list of sponsored persons, member countries' contribution, possible corporate member categorization. They were accepted by the Council. Actions will be done. Regarding other points:-

Prof John Helliwell suggested that whilst the costs of the Treasurer have to be covered no honorarium is feasible to be paid for the work.

Prof Joel Bernstein as former Vice-President of ECA highlighted that there is no financial link ie specific responsibility or liability of the ECA Treasurer for ECM finances.

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#### **Report by the Secretary**

##### **5 Annual Reports by the Executive Committee and preliminary progress reports**

- Report by the Secretary, Dr Petra Bombicz, summary of the work of the Executive Committee. She highlighted:-
- The Executive Committee had met in Manchester in February 2007
- The next EC meeting would be in Budapest in February 2008
- Numerous email exchanges had taken place through the year within the EC and between the Councillors and the EC on updating the list of Councillors, ECA registration, membership fee, account reorganisation, roles of the auditors, forthcoming ECM-s, requested supports for schools and workshops, establishing a European Graduate School of Crystallography, prizes, SIG standardisation, focus area concept etc. One decision was taken by email: appointment of the auditors.

The report was accepted by the Council.

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#### **Report on Max Perutz Prize**

##### **5.2 Report by Prof Andreas Roodt on the Max Perutz Prize**

The Max Perutz Prize is 5000 EUR this year and was partly covered (70%) on this occasion by the sponsorship of Molecular Dimensions (2000 EUR), Panalytical (1000 EUR) and STOE (500 EUR). Whilst the Perutz-Bertaut foundation in Darmstadt has bank guaranteed interest of 5-6% tax free the ECA is very grateful to these, and all previous sponsors.

Prof Hartmut Fuess proposed that new crystallographic instruments ought to be bought from those producing companies only which are Affiliate Members of ECA. Exhibitors who are not sponsors of ECA should pay more for the booth to the ECM. Sponsors of course are those who do give extra contributions to the ECA for e.g. the Prize funds.

Dr Frank van Meurs emphasized the importance to show the logo of sponsoring companies during the award Ceremony.

Prof John Helliwell stated that ECA has the financial depth to support its Prizes but ECA is not a wealthy organization therefore sponsorship is welcome. He underlined that scientific independence is required from companies, furthermore from the awardee him/her self (Prof Pamela Thomas) and the ECA (Prof Joel Bernstein).



Prof John Helliwell highlighted that the Award Nomination Committee had indeed been working independently from the ECA Executive Committee although it was still the preferred method of working that the Chair of the Award Committee be a member of the ECA Executive Committee. There was one rule (from IUCr) however that the Executive Committee felt should be adopted (see below).

Prof Joel Bernstein proposed individual member contributions to the Prize like it is in the US ie the ACA should be made possible.

*The Council Ratified (no objection) the Executive Committee motion that the:*

*IUCr principle is adopted by ECA that none of the ECA Prize selection Committee nor the President of the ECA be eligible to be nominated for the Prize during their terms of office.*

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### **Report on Bertaut Prize**

5.3 Report by the Past-President Hartmut Fuess on setting up the Bertaut Prize

Prof Hartmut Fuess reported that the first Bertaut Prize went to Henrik M. Rønnow awarded by ENSA. The next Bertaut Prize will be awarded by ECA in Istanbul 2009.

Prof Naomi Chayen asked if the age limit is strictly 35 or it is more a gscientific ageh. Prof Hartmut Fuess answered that it ought to be "flexible":

Prof John Helliwell: at the next ECM meeting, ECM25 Istanbul 2009, both Perutz and Bertaut Prize awards will occur and it would probably be best that these are not both given at the Opening Ceremony.

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### **Report on sponsoring schools and workshops**

5.4 Report by Luc van Meervelt on sponsorship of meetings and schools

The report by Prof Luc van Meervelt on the ECA sponsorship of European symposia, schools, workshops and conferences on topics relevant to crystallography was accepted by the Council.

*The Council Ratified (no objection):*

*Operational guidelines for supporting European workshops, schools, and conferences on crystallography by ECA (see ECANews website). 5000 EUR per annum in total can be used to support schools and workshops. In case of several applications toward the end of the year extension of this sum is possible after discussion with the ExeComm. Application from the organisers must be received a minimum of 3 months before the event.*

The ECA has supported the following meetings between August 2006 and August 2007:

**Name of event :** ECM23 + satellites

**Topic :** European Crystallographic Meeting

**Venue :** Leuven, Belgium

**Dates :** 6-11 August, 2006

**Organizer :** Prof. Luc Van Meervelt

**Amount granted :** 2000 E

**Name of event :** HEC-9

**Topic :** BioCrystallography

**Venue :** Goettingen, Germany

**Dates :** 25-7 September, 2006

**Organizer :** Prof. Dr. Ralf Ficner

**Amount granted :** 500 E

**Name of event :** First joint Italian Spanish meeting of Crystallography – MISCA2007

**Topic :** General crystallography

**Venue :** Calabria, Italy

**Dates :** 24-28 September, 2007

**Organizer :** Prof. De Munno

**Amount granted :** 1000 E

**Name of event :** The Zürich Crystallography School 2007

**Topic :** small molecule crystallography

**Venue :** Zürich, Switzerland

**Dates :** 5-17 August, 2007

**Organizer :** Dr. Tony Linden

**Amount granted :** 2000 E

**Name of event :** ECM24 + satellite

**Topic :** all aspects of crystallography

**Venue :** Marrakech, Morocco

**Dates :** 22-27 August, 2007

**Organizer :** Prof. Abdelmalek Thalal

**Amount granted :** 2000 E

Sponsorship of Schools and Workshops by ECA upcoming for 2008

**Name of event :** International School on Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography

**Topic :** General crystallography - symmetry

**Venue :** Gargnano, Italy

**Dates :** 27 April – 3 May, 2008

**Organizer :** Prof. Massimo Nespolo

**Application on :** 5 July, 2007

Amount granted : 1500 E

Name of event : From Molecules to Medicine: Integrating Crystallography in Drug Discovery

Topic : biological crystallography

Venue : Erice, Italy

Dates : 29 May – 8 June , 2008

Organizer : Prof. Paola Spadon

Application on : 24 July, 2007

Amount granted : 1500 E

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### **Report on SIG standardization**

#### 5.5 Report by Santiago Garcia-Granda on SIG organisation

The report of Prof Santiago Garcia-Granda on SIG standardisation was accepted by the Council.

*Council Agreed (no objection):*

*SIG main activity is to contribute to ECM-s. School and teaching activity may be organised on eg the -1 and 0 conference days of an ECM. Joint SIG activity is promoted.*

*Council Agreed (no objection):*

*SIG business meetings at ECM-s: a coordinated meeting timeslot of one hour has to be implemented, first at ECM25.*

Prof S.I. Zheludeva proposed that the SIG has to be warned before dissolution of a SIG if monitoring zero activity of the SIG for two years. Prof John Helliwell welcomed the idea, ie reasonable mitigation is possible.

*The Council Ratified (no objection):*

*Two consecutive years without a SIG report draws the consideration of dissolving a SIG.*

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### **SIG reports**

#### **6 Annual Reports regarding SIG's activity**

6.1 SIG.1 Macromolecular Crystallography accepted

6.2 SIG.2 Charge, Spin & Momentum Density accepted

6.3 SIG.3 Aperiodic Crystallography representative not present

6.4 SIG.4 Electron Crystallography accepted

6.5 SIG.5 Mineralogical Crystallography accepted

6.6 SIG.6 Instrumentation and Experimental Techniques (IET) accepted

*Nb Announcement of the foundation of the poster prize*

*in memory of Jacek Grochowski*

6.7 SIG.7 Molecular Interaction and Recognition (MIR) accepted

*Oral report was given by Prof Susan Bourne. Written report is in the appendices. INDABA 5 was a significant event and a book is to be published shortly.*

6.8 SIG.8 Powder Diffraction (SIGPD) representative not present

6.9 SIG.9 Crystallographic Computing (CCSIG ) accepted

*Prof Ton Spek warned that the activity of the SIG should be increased.*

6.10 SIG.10 Diffraction physics and optics representative not present

6.11 SIG.11 Extreme Conditions accepted

6.12 SIG.12 Material Science accepted

*Prof Pam Thomas: new name of the SIG with two subgroups is Materials Chemistry be announced*

6.13 SIG.13 Molecular Structures and Chemical Properties accepted

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## **7 Focus Area concept**

Prof Massimo Nespolo gave a presentation on proposing a "focus area" concept.

### **Shortcomings of the current organization of the ECM**

*From the viewpoint of a participant*

- The ECM program gat a glanceh is not always so clear: gwhich is the best microsposium for my talk?
- gThis morning there are two very interesting microsypmosia running in parallelh, gthis afternoon there is nothing interesting for meh

*From the viewpoint of a SIG officer*

- gMy SIG has got less microsypmosia than No. ## - that's unfair!h
- gThe organisers have put two microsypmosia co-organized by my SIG in parallel, lfve lost a number of potential customers!h

*From the viewpoint of the organisers*

The total number of microsypmosia proposed is always higher than the number of microsypmosia that can be organized by having five or even six parallel sessions. As a result, the Program Committee has to request that some proposed microsypmosia of similar topics are fused into a single microsypmosium and/or that some proposals are withdrawn. Priority is given to MS that are co-organized by two (or more) SIGs.

### **The advantages of a "Focus Area" concept**

- The ECM program gat a glanceh becomes easier to read: participants are guided by this additional step in finding their gbest placeh.
- The distribution of microsypmosia in the timetable is automatically optimised: the number of parallel microsypmosia with the same potential public is minimized because these are spread over the whole length of the congress.
- Only when a Focus Area (FA) gets more microsypmosia than the number of half-days, two microsypmosia in the same FA run in parallel.
- Commonly, ECM runs five parallel sessions. For this reason, the establishment of

five FA is proposed. When more than five parallel sessions are held, a FA may have two parallel sessions or, alternatively, a sixth FA can be individuated by the ECM program committee, specific for that Meeting

- SIGs falling in the same Focus Area are "forced" to cooperate even stronger than today. A FA gets a number of microsymbosia, SIGs in that FA optimise their presence and visibility by co-organization.
- A glazyh SIG does not reduce the visibility of the whole FA, thanks to the other SIGs in the same FA.
- The approval by the Program Committee is necessary exactly as in the present situation.

**Titles of Focus Areas:-**

Biological and Macromolecular Crystallography (SIG1)

Materials and Minerals (SIG5, SIG11, SIG12)

Physical including fundamental crystallography (SIG2, SIG3, SIG4)

Chemical Crystallography (SIG7, SIG13)

Experimental and Computational techniques (SIG6, SIG8, SIG9, SIG10)

Prof John R Helliwell invited recent ECM organisers to comment starting with ECM21 where the FA concept had been launched:-

ECM21 Prof Andreas Roodt: FA concept was well adopted in the organisation

ECM22 Dr Petra Bombicz: it was not used. She emphasized it is a two level hierarchy ie more admin would then probably have been required

ECM23 Prof Luc van Meervelt: it was applied but was not visible

Prof Radek Kuzel: SIG 7 belongs to more than one FA-s so the FA is not always a generally good label. Second it should be noted that the FA discussion is not a proposal endorsed unanimously across the whole ECA executive Committee.

Prof Paola Gilli: protein and chemical crystallography overlaps, instrumentation is related to most SIG-s. FA concept reduces the presence ie influence of big SIG-s. Number of MS is more than number of parallel sessions, it is impossible to avoid overlapping.

Prof Andzrej Katrusiak: science becomes interdisciplinary, there is a broader interest. It is difficult to prevent coincidences; will the FA achieve this?

Prof Ivan Leban: let us get input from the participants but nb an additional possible FA could usefully in crystallography teaching.

Prof Wolf-Dieter Schubert: agreed that the Programme Book should include the FA indications of MSs.

To sum up Prof John Helliwell proposed that in future an ECM should work within this framework but as a guideline rather than a rigid rule since the FA concept seemed to be generally accepted as logical and sensible by the Council. Next the President proposed that for future Max Perutz Prize awards the FA concept could usefully be harnessed ie: whilst, obviously, the first priority is always that the best person has to be selected, he suggested that if there were more than one equally excellent candidate then the field of the past Prizewinners can be considered and account taken so achieve a spread of awards across the various fields and disciplines of crystallography neatly described by the FAs proposed.

Prof Andreas Roodt: emphasized the importance for getting nominations in for the Perutz

Prize.

*Council Agreed (no objection):*

*(a) Focus Area concept should be applied as a guideline for the ECM25 programme in Istanbul. No representatives of the focus areas are to be appointed at this stage\*. (b) Whilst the first priority is to find the best person for the Max Perutz Prize, in the case of more than one equally excellent candidate(s) the FAs of the former awardees can be regarded by the Prize Selection Committee.*

\*Post meeting note; the ECM25 PC will have Turkish national delegates (ie see minute 10.4) and so by making these one in each Focus Area this makes optimal the link to national and subject fields exemplified by the defined Focus Areas.

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### **Grouping small countries**

**8 IUCr President's proposal** on grouping the small countries with respect to IUCr General Assembly membership.

The proposal of IUCr President Prof Yuji Ohashi was summarized by ECA President Prof John Helliwell.

*Council Agreed (no objection):*

*ECA identify a grouping of small countries (ECA member countries who are not members of IUCr ie: Latvia, Turkey, Ukraine, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia) as a single entity to IUCr.*

Prof Sine Larsen informed the Council that the IUCr membership fee of a single entity is 1000 Swiss Francs/year, and a term is three years. She suggested that the ECA should support two terms ie total financial commitment currently envisaged thereby being 6000 SFs.

*Council Agreed (no objection):*

*Group membership fee of a single entity to IUCr will be supported by ECA for 2 terms equal to 3+3 years.*

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### **9 Proposal of establishing a European Graduate School of Crystallography**

Prof Massimo Nespolo gave a presentation on the idea of the establishment of European Graduate School of Crystallography.

#### **Why a European Graduate School of Crystallography (EGSCry)?**

- Time and resources for the teaching of crystallography in any European University have dramatically decreased in the last years
- Courses of crystallography are closed one after the other, to be replaced by something more fashionable and attractive (easier to sell): environment, bio-nano-informatics etc.
- Some crystallography is taught in courses of physics, chemistry, material science etc. but a true crystallographic course is nowadays hard to locate
- Teaching crystallography today: Bravais lattices, a bit of group theory, then diffraction – is that all?
- A number of jobs which need a substantial amount of crystallographic knowledge are published for technicians
- No University would have today the competences to provide a complete crystallographic formation

### How to choose participants?

- Laboratories participant in EGSCry must be reknowned in one of the competence fields
- A fair distribution among the European countries is compulsory (otherwise we won't get approved by EU)
- Participants can (should) be replaced periodically (easier for laboratories, less for big facilities)
- This type of school would have a very high flexibility: lectures (in English) are delivered when the student(s) come for their intensive sojourn period
- The cost is limited: the normal PhD grant covers basic costs, the support by EU would essentially cover travel expenses. Host universities are engaged to provide a cheap accommodation.
  
- An agreement must be signed by each University – heavy bureaucratic part of the task!
- The purpose is to save crystallographic formation, not to advertise your lab!

Prof Paola Spadon, the Chair of the Commission on Teaching Crystallography of IUCr, expressed her agreement from the point of view of the crystallographer. She emphasised the different commitments of the students and wondered who will volunteer to take part on this kind of education.

Prof Karimat el Sayed supported the idea to give grants to students. At the same time she gave emphasis to the situation that there are more and less wealthy universities, laboratories with low facilities would like to participate also.

Prof Ivan Leban raised the question of accreditation of the school. Transfer of credits among the universities taking part in the Bologna process will also be a requirement. He underlined the difficulties with the administrative side of the project.

Prof Jean-Louis Hodeau expressed his doubts whether supervisors want to send their students to different places. Having a network of teaching crystallography is advantageous. Complementarity with the very established and popular Hercules training program (6 weeks length) will need to be respected.

Prof John Helliwell requested Profs Massimo Nespolo, Paola Spadon and Jean-Louis Hodeau to work on the details of the proposal especially legalities, governance, financial aspects, budget plan etc.

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### Relationship between ECA, the ECM's and the CAM's

#### 10 Reports regarding ECM's

##### 10.1 Relationship between ECA, the ECM's and the CAM's

CAM-s pays membership fee and are donors to ECM, Perutz and poster Prizes

Prof John Helliwell had visited the representatives of the exhibitors on the days during ECM24 asking their opinion. They did not support the auditors' idea to have a hierarchy of CAM donations. They confirmed though that they (the exhibitors) are members of ECM-s with a symbiotic relationship between themselves and the participants thus contributing to the success of the ECM events. They recognized of course that the ECA creates a guaranteed process in advertising the products and services of the vendors.

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#### ECM23 (2006) Leuven

##### 10.2 ECM23 (2006) Leuven - final numbers and summary Luc van Meervelt

Prof Luc van Meervelt reported the final numbers of ECM23 meeting. 16 plenary lectures scattered over all important disciplines in crystallography. 46 microsymbiosia were scheduled in 8 sessions. Each MS had 5 speakers, which made in total 230 oral presentations. Two poster sessions were organised with 363 poster presentations. The most popular microsymbiosia were: MS9 – Structural enzymology, MS13 – Understanding molecular interactions, MS19 – Phase transitions in inorganic and mineralogical materials, MS41 – Structural coordination chemistry, MS42 – Structure-property relationships in molecular crystals. The abstracts of all contributions are published in a hard copy Abstract Book and as an online supplement to Acta Crystallographica A, volume 62 (see [journals.iucr.org/a](http://journals.iucr.org/a)). Until January 2007 the abstracts were also available on the ECM23 conference web site. The poster prizes of RCSB PDB, CCDC (3 prizes), Oxford Cryosystems and IUCr (3 prizes) were awarded during the Conference Dinner. In total 30 firms have participated to the commercial exhibition (196 m<sup>2</sup> in Nieuwe Valk, 55 m<sup>2</sup> in Oude Valk). The workshops have been organised during ECM23: Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography, X-EI 2006, CCDC Workshop, QIAGEN products for protein crystallization, Il Milione, demo session, Mosquito User Group Meeting, Satellite Workshop on Rational Protein Crystallization. The following social programme was included in the registration fee of the registered participants, exhibitors and accompanying guests: Opening Ceremony & Welcome reception, Concert Kolacny Brothers, Lecture on Belgian Beers with tasting, Conference dinner in Château du Lac (Genval), Excursion to Brussels. In addition the MARresearch Party was organised in the top sphere of the Atomium (Brussels) for 250 guests. During the Opening Ceremony the Max Perutz Prize was awarded to Dr. Eleanor Dodson (York University). Prize Lecture: elssues for the refinement of macro and micro moleculesf. In total 888 participants from 50 countries have been registered (including exhibitors). The top ten of participants per country is: Germany 115, United Kingdom 88, Belgium 76, France 63, Italy 43, Russia 39, Poland 37, Switzerland 28, Japan 26, Spain 25. The total bursary fund was made available by IUCr, ECA, NVK, CCDC and BASF for support of young scientists (accommodation, travel support and waiver or reduction of registration fee). In total 134 applications have been received of which 91 were selected for funding by an international bursary committee. Unfortunately 23 selected candidates did not accept the offer and in addition 10 persons have cancelled their application. As a consequence the money that became available again was used to pay additional travel and registration expenses. Finally 9 selected candidates did not attend the conference (last minute withdraw). In addition the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons OPCW has funded the participation of Prof. B. Ibragimov.

Prof Joel Bernstein complained that many authors do not show up at their poster.

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### **ECM24 (2007) Marrakech**

#### 10.3 ECM24 (2007) Marrakech – running the conference Abdelmalek Thalal

Prof Abdelmalek Thalal reported the numbers on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2007 state of the running ECM24 conference. There were 792 registrations, out of them 665 attends the meeting. With the 70 exhibitors and 83 accompanying persons the total number of participants are 813. 31% are female attendees. The most participants were coming from France, UK, Germany, Morocco, Spain, Japan, Italy, Czech Republik, South Africa, Austria, Russia, Switzerland and the Netherlands. Grants were received from IUCr, ECA, OPWC and for the Advanced Training Workshop from NATO.

Concerning the Shipment Prof Thalal stated Storing and Customs Clearance: It is the Exhibitorsf responsibility to arrange the freighting to the congress building and to fill in correctly the freighting and/or custom clearance forms for equipment and products from



abroad. The organizers take no responsibility for any problems arising in connection with such formalities. It is also the Exhibitors' full responsibility to arrange and pay for storage, if material arrives to Morocco before the dates of meeting. To avoid any problems concerning the freighting / Storing and Customs Clearance administrations, we advise Exhibitors to contact a handling company and/or forwarding agent. Exhibitors are free to choose their own agent .

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### **ECM25 (2009) Istanbul**

#### 10.4 ECM25 (2009) Istanbul - progress in organisation Engin Kendi

Professor Engin Kendi presented the current stage of organisation of ECM25 dates being confirmed as August 9-14, 2009.

The Organising Committee is: Chairman: Engin Kendi, Secretary: Suheyla Ozbey, Engin Ozdaş, Exhibition: Alper Ergeç (E&F). The Programme Committee is: Chair: Engin Kendi, Secretary: Yalçın Elerman, Representatives of material science: Yalçın Elerman, physics: Orhan Büyükgüngör, biology: Zehra Sayers. Registration fees and detailed budget plan will be finalised and approved in discussion with the ECA Executive Committee in February 2008 Budapest committee meeting.

#### *Payment of the full congress fee entitles to:*

- *participation in the opening ceremony and the welcome reception, participation in the scientific sessions, visit of the exhibition, printed materials of the congress, beverages during breaks,*
- *participation in the following social events: 25th meeting celebration on 11/08/09, congress dinner on 13/08/09 (extra administrative fee of 20€ needed to confirm attendance).*
- *Congress tour (nb if optional is this still a sensible plan?)*

#### Timetable of the Meeting:

Sun, 9 August Opening Ceremony & ECA Prize talk, *Welcome reception*

Mon, 10 August Conference & Exhibition day

Tue, 11 August Conference & Exhibition day, *25th meeting celebration*

Wed, 12 August Conference & Exhibition day

Thu, 13 August Conference & Exhibition day, *Conference Dinner*

Fri, 14 August Tour Day

Professor Engin Kendi presented Istanbul the city, transportation to and from Istanbul, the Congress Center: venue and conference facilities, range of hotels, venues of conference functions. More details will be given in the ECA Council Meetings within the IUCr Congress Osaka August 2008.

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### **ECM26 (2010) Darmstadt**

#### 10.5 ECM26 (2010) Darmstadt - progress in organisation Hartmut Fuess

Prof Hartmut Fuess informed the Council that the inauguration of the Congress Center in Darmstadt will be celebrated at the end of 2008. A major feature is that the EPDIC and ECM conferences will take place jointly running from 27 August 2010. Prof Fuess raised the question whether the two conferences should run after each other or with overlapping

days. Exhibitors should be present throughout the two meetings.

Dr Frank van Meurs underlined he was not an official representative of the exhibitors but suggested that the question of how many days for the Exhibition needs more consultation. He suggested that 5 days for exhibitors should be normally acceptable, eg 2-3 days of EPDIC and 2-3 days of ECM.

Prof Jindrich Hasek emphasized the importance of the combined registration fees. Prof Hartmut Fuess agreed.

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### **ECM27 (2012) Selection of the venue - Bergen presentation**

10.6 ECM27 (2012) Selection of the venue - Bergen presentation K. Törnroos

Karl Wilhelm Törnroos from Department of Chemistry, University of Bergen, Norway presented a bid for the ECM27 in 2012 to be in Bergen. The available dates should be between 2 and 16 August 2012, preferable on the week of the 6th August. He presented the city, the different transportations available to Bergen, the historical University of Bergen, crystallography of Norway, the venue "the Grieg Hall", accommodation facilities, local dining options etc.

Finances: Basic package in current prices – not negotiated yet obviously but physically the Bergen Conference Centre, centrally placed in Bergen, can include: Six parallel sessions, three meeting rooms, complete multimedia resources and assistance, buffet lunch (ex. beverage), coffee breaks (3), fruit for ~Euro 80/pp/conference day (based upon 600 active). Cost for exhibition, poster, reception and mingle space (gross area 3.670 m2): Euro 4.200/day. Cost for poster boards not included. Basic package in current prices –includes: Web-hotel (customer designed), Registration, abstracts, payments and invoicing, Complete accounting and VAT-issues, Two staff present for Euro current indicative charge 47euro/pp. Cost for handling the exhibition (complete handling): 10% of exhibition revenues. In conclusion he stated that he and his Norwegian colleagues knew that 2012 was the centennial of the Friedrich, Knipping and von Laue experiment of 1912 and they would do their very best to make 2012 a worthy commemoration of the Centennial. Furthermore Bergen is a very attractive location and is proximal to the outstanding beauty of the fjords that Norway offers.

Prof Massimo Nespolo stated re dates choices that the airfare prices are cheaper if a Saturday night is included. KT replied that this airfare pricing arrangement had been changing ie as an absolute requirement/consideration and in addition ferries coming into Bergen itself were another option. J R Helliwell added that the Exhibitors are very likely to prefer to set up on a week day rather than a weekend and their needs should also be respected too.

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### **ECM27 (2012) Decision on the venue**

10.7 Decision on the venue of ECM27 (2012)

*Council accepted the presentation and made the decision that the venue of ECM27 will be Bergen, Norway in 2012.*

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### **What to do - where to go?**

**11 The ECA : what to do - where to go**

Prof John Helliwell stated, re future ECMs (beyond 2012) aspect, that it had been agreed with two potential bidders that a timely decision on the venue of ECM28 (2013) can be made in Istanbul 2009. More generally he stated that the ECA Finances have to be improved and he invited input from the Council members to this very important discussion and he specifically framed the question: ***Where does the ECA wish to see itself in 10 years time?*** A discussion paper on this strategic question will be prepared for the February 2008 Committee meeting and then circulated to the Councillors.

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#### **Any other business**

##### **12 Any other business**

No suggestions arrived prior to the meeting. No more items were added at the meeting.

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#### **Close**

##### **13 Close**

Prof John Helliwell proposed an arrangement with up to three Council Meetings to be planned for in the future. If there was no necessity of the third meeting it could be canceled at the end of the second meeting.

He expressed his hearty thanks to all the members of the Council and his Executive Committee colleagues, as well as to the ECM24 Organisers in particular for all their hard work through the last year.

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- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council, Madrid, 2011**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council, Darmstadt, 2010**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council, Istanbul, 2009**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council, Osaka, 2008**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council , Leuven 2006**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council , Florence 2005**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council , Budapest 2004**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council , Durban 2003**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council , Geneva 2002**
- ▶ **Minutes of the ECA Council , Krakow 2001**