

Report of the Secretary General to ECM-97
Hotel Beatriz, Playa Teguize, Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain
20th February 2005

1 Minutes and Mailing

The Minutes of ECM-96 were posted on the web site in January 2005. We apologise for the unavoidable delay.

I would like to remind all Committee and Division Chairs that they need to ensure that their reports and minutes are sent electronically to the Recording Secretary in good time after this meeting, and certainly by the date announced. The selected dates give sufficient time for the writing and editing process.

I would like to thank Maria-Carmen Asensio and Jose de Segovia for the arrangements for this meeting.

2 Secretary General's Matters

Following a computer malfunction, some of my email archives were lost in late September 2004. I do not believe that anything of great value was lost, the important matters having been acted on or transferred elsewhere, but if you believe otherwise, please let me know.

Can I remind you of the importance of depositing proxies? Many of you have given proxies for the Triennium and that is very useful. If we do not have two thirds of the possible votes present at an ECM either in person or by proxy, then the meeting cannot transact any business. If you have not yet done so, please complete a form and return it to the President, copied to me.

Can I also remind all Division Chairs that copies of all electronic votes and ballots should be sent to me for security as they arrive. Email records can be lost

3 Web Issues

I established an area on the Members' part of the website, rather quaintly called "Meantime". My intention is to post there various bits of information which flow across my desk. If these are electronic, then the full thing is posted, otherwise an indication of what I have received is given. Unfortunately, due to pressure of other matters, some of this material does not get posted very expeditiously. I will try to do better in future. Much of this material is, however, of little import to our work.

Passwords to the Members' area are available on request.

Some updates to the Directory were made with the latest information available. I would urge you all to check your own details and to inform me of any corrections. If you use the email form on the website, please ensure that it is copied to me. Otherwise, when I send a new source file of the Directory to the Webmaster, your details on the website will be overwritten with the old ones!

4 Interactions with other Bodies

4.1 International Bodies

Difficulty has been experienced in changing the correspondence address from Bill Westwood to myself with various external bodies, but this is gradually resolving itself. I should thank Bill for his patience in forwarding things to me.

Much correspondence has been received – mainly by email – from UNESCO and ICSU. Most of this finds its way onto the Meantime area. Of late, little has been received from ISO. I suspect that this is due to the change of address, and this matter is being followed up.

Because most of this type of correspondence is now on the website, I do not propose to list it in my reports. If anything needs particularly to be drawn to your attention, I will send an email to you when the item goes on the website.

4.2 Commercial Bodies

Many convention centres, travel agents, etc., contact me with offers to host our meetings. Details of the main ones are again on the website.

I did accept an invitation from the Ambassador of Finland to attend a seminar and dinner at the Embassy in London extolling the virtues of Finland as a convention destination (*"Finland comes to London"*). I gave the Convention Bureau contact details for the Finnish Vacuum Society.

5 Vacuum Societies

I met with Professor Sefik Suzer of Bilkent University in Turkey at the AVS meeting in Anaheim to discuss the possibility of forming a Turkish Vacuum Society. I have sent him a copy of the guidelines for applicants for membership.

I received notice of the death in January 2005 of the Councillor for Finland, Prof Eero Ristolainen.

6 Future Executive Council Meetings

ECM 98 will be held in Vienna on 30th September – 2nd October 2005.

An invitation has been received from the American Vacuum Society to host ECM 99 at San Diego, California, either on April 28-30 or May 5-7, 2006 in association with the 2006 ICTMF meeting.

The Swiss Vacuum Society has expressed interest in hosting ECM 100 and the associated Highlights Seminar.

Ron Reid
February 2005

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