

MINUTES  
European Representative Committee Meeting  
8:30, Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005

**1. Welcome and attendance**

The meeting was opened by prof. M. Szymonski, chair of the ERC Committee with the words of welcome.

The attendance list was signed by 16 members of the Committee representing 13 European Vacuum Societies (out of 20), 3 permanent observers representing IUVSTA Scientific Divisions and 6 observers.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

No changes to the Agenda have been proposed.

**3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting held in Lanzarote has been approved without changes.

**4. Appointment of the Secretary for ER-Committee**

Unfortunately, there is still no candidate who could accept this demanding post.

**5. 9<sup>th</sup> European Vacuum Conference in Paris (5-7 April 2005) – information about the past event**

A brief report has been given by dr. Janez Setina, Chair of the IUVSTA Vacuum Science and Technology Division. The meeting was held in April, 2005 in Paris with participation of about 120 registered participants (about 80 from outside of France). 5 invited, 23 oral, 33 poster presentations were given. The conference was well organized with quite large exhibition of vacuum equipment and materials. Additional information was provided by dr. M.-G. Barthes, IUVSTA past president, dr. Ron Reed, IUVSTA secretary general, and prof. M. Szymonski. It was emphasized that the EVC-9 was representative for IUVSTA Vacuum Division requirements and reflecting the current situation in the field. Therefore, one should not expect that this type of meeting could gather larger audience in Europe than the number of participants of Paris meeting.

**6. Proposal of the German Vacuum Society “Proposal for immediate goals of a closer co-operation of the European Vacuum Societies”**

Dr. Wolfgang Schwarz (German Vacuum Society) has presented DVG proposal on co-operation among European Vacuum Societies. The proposal suggests to ECR and IUVSTA that immediate actions should be taken in order to achieve the following goals:

1. An annual or at least biannual common European Vacuum Conference with broader scope;
2. To have common proposal for funding from the EU;
3. To have scientific co-operations and personal exchange between scientists in the fields of the European Vacuum Societies.

A full text of the document is enclosed to the Minutes.

The DVG proposal received great attention of the meeting audience and various opinions were expressed by the representatives of the European Vacuum Societies. In particular, item no. 1 of the proposal was discussed proposing that European Vacuum Societies should jointly organize a larger scale meeting than a typical meeting of the EVC series.

Although several representatives of European Societies shared the view that the scope and perhaps the format of EVC conference should be changed in order to successfully continue the series, the proposed move to create a large scale, multidisciplinary conference like AVS symposia did not receive an overall approval. It was pointed out that the situation in U.S. is significantly different than in Europe:

- AVS has a long tradition of many decades in organizing such events. No such tradition exists in Europe;
- in U.S. there are no strong regional conferences on surface science in contrast to Europe. Both ECOSS and ECASIA are strong, attracting several hundreds participants and the steering bodies are quite independent of IUVSTA;
- in Europe they are many local, national and regional symposia, workshops and conferences on topics relevant to IUVSTA activities (mainly surface science and applied surface science). Therefore, European Vacuum Conference is not appealing to scholars and researchers in Europe who prefer to attend other, established meetings which in contrast to EVC are clearly linked with current frontiers of science and technology;
- many European Societies are small in membership and resources.

In an attempt to summarize the discussion the chair of the Committee asked, if there is any European Society which is ready to join effort in the action proposed by DVG. In the response only Swedish Vacuum Society conditionally declared that it could join such an effort providing that a few other societies with strong organizational infrastructure would declare to join as well.

On that occasion the representative of the organizers of JVC regional series of vacuum conferences expressed the view that JVC series should rather be continued as regional meeting along with the tradition of the previous meetings. On the other hand the Hungarian Vacuum Society (the host of the next JVC) suggested that it could consider the organization of JVC conference 2008 in conjunction with the next EVC.

Due to limited time of the meeting the other items on the agenda were not discussed.

Minutes taken by:

ERC Chair, prof. Marek Szymonski