

Report of the Secretary General to ECM 120
Hotel Das Weitzer,
Graz, Austria

1. General

This report covers the period from the second meeting of the triennium, ECM 119, in October 2014 to now (mid of April 2015). First I would like to once again thank the Croatian Vacuum Society for organizing an excellent ECM 119 where we had a lot of fruitful discussions about the present and the future of the Union. Right after ECM 119 the 16th International Conference on Thin Films, ICTF 16, started in Dubrovnik. The Conference was extremely successful and showcased the increasingly diverse scope of scientific topics associated with IUVSTA. Of course I would also like to thank our hosts for this meeting, the Austrian Vacuum Society for organizing this ECM in the beautiful city of Graz.

2. Minutes and Communications

The Minutes of ECM 119 were posted on the web site by the Recording Secretary. As so often, some reports are missing and I would urge all Committee Secretaries to ensure that the Recording Secretary receives these as soon as possible for posting.

3. Web Matters

I continued to reduce my e-mail communication with the bodies of the Union and increasingly use our web-site which is now much more user-friendly to update and maintain, to post relevant up-to-date information. So please use the members section of the website to find information on e. g. the names and contact e-mails of all persons involved in the Union, Officers, Councillors and Alternates. Division Officers, Division Members and Committee Members can also be found there. PowerPoint presentations or flyers for printout which contain information on IUVSTA are available. Many other sections of the web page still require updating, especially those of the divisions. Members who have forgotten how to log on to the Members' pages should contact me for the id and password. Please also use the opportunity to enter your data into the Directory available in the Members Section, if you have not already done so. Finally, I would like to thank the team at the University of Illinois, where the web page is hosted, Ivan Petrov and especially John Koudelka for always providing efficient help.

4. New Memberships

Following ECM 119, negotiations with several potential partners were conducted concerning formation and membership of vacuum societies or the membership of other national scientific societies to the Union. In the following the current status is given:

4.1 Bulgaria

Following an extensive exchange of information of Ivan Petrov and the Bulgarian authorities, the "Bulgarian Union of Physicists" has applied for membership in the Union. All necessary documents have been received and are posted on the web. Bulgaria is willing to contribute one share if membership is granted. During this meeting we will most probably vote on the provisional membership of Bulgaria.

4.2 Turkey

Following an extensive exchange of information of Anouk Anouk Galtayties with Sefek Suzer and Mehmet Z. Baykara, Turkey is in the process of forming a "Surface Science Society of Turkey

(SSSTu)" which will act as the member society of the Union. The formation of this society is still in progress.

4.3 Romania

According to recent information from Joe Greene Romania will this month formally launch the "Romanian Society for Vacuum Science and Technology" and is interested in joining the Union. The driving force behind RSVST is Mariana Braic who is known to several of us so that further action can be anticipated.

4.4 Greece

The situation with Greece is still unclear, but the Formation of a Greek Vacuum Society can still be anticipated. To conclude this point I would like to express my thanks to all persons, and especially to the members of the Emerging Societies Committee, for their continuous efforts in soliciting new members.

5. Interactions with other Bodies

5.1 International Bodies

Most material now comes from UNESCO, ICSU and ISO by email, although there is, however, some hardcopy material, especially from UNESCO. Concerning the liaison of the Union with ISO, there is action taken by VSTD to revive this link with TC 112 where the Vacuum Science and Technology Division is involved.

5.2 Commercial Bodies

Many convention centres, travel agents, etc., contact me with offers to host conferences and meetings. If your Society is looking for a venue, contact me and I will check to see if I have any information on anything in your vicinity that might be of interest.

6. Future Executive Council Meetings

During this meeting we will select the location of ECM 122, for which there are two bids from Portugal and Argentina which are posted in the Meantime section of the web site. ECM 122 is the meeting where the new president elect will be selected from proposal to the General Meeting and also where bids for IVC 22 will be discussed. So this is an important meeting, please study the bids carefully.

7. Finally I would like to thank all officers and representatives of the Union cumulatively. Whenever I contacted any person from this group I always received a very fast response and efficient help regarding all my questions and demands. Of course this is mutual, so whenever I can provide help to anyone it will be given, if I am able to provide it.

Christoph Eisenmenger-Sittner
April 2015