

Excellence in Higher Education*

A conference organised by the Academia Europaea and the International Academy of Education, to be held at the **Wenner Gren Centre, Stockholm, 30 May-1 June 2002**

Rationale

During the past one or two decades Europe has experienced a welcome increase in the proportion of young people able to receive education at the tertiary level. This important educational and social development calls for a fresh assessment and understanding of excellence, which should be regarded not as a fixed concept but as one which requires regular reconsideration against the background of society's requirements. Modern IT and open learning systems will increase the pressures on higher education to adjust its methods of instruction and approval, which also raise questions about the

recognition of excellence.

Content of the conference

The conference will address the topics of the creation of excellence in higher education institutions through teaching, research and management, as well as the measurement of excellence. The majority of the conference will focus on the educational process, but the association between higher education and research will not be overlooked. The requirements for excellence in higher education and research may be different, and this aspect needs to be explored. The conference will therefore address both the inputs to the creation of excellence, and the measurement of the outputs.

These issues will be examined through five conference themes:

- Session 1: Excellence in an Expanding System – Structures and Management
- Session 2: The creation of excellence through teaching and learning

Session 3: Changing concepts of excellence – the impact of globalisation

Session 4: Education and research for excellence

Session 5: The assessment of excellence
Dates – 30 May to 1 June 2002

Organising group

The conference is being prepared by a working group composed of representatives of these two bodies: Ian Butterworth (London, Vice-President of Academia Europaea), Erik De Corte (Leuven, President of the International Academy of Education), Lars Engwall (Uppsala), Jacques Hallak (Paris), Maria Alzira Seixo (Lisbon) and Ulrich Teichler (Kassel).

Further details and registration forms are available from the Academia Europaea offices by email (please indicate in the header Stockholm 2002). Places are limited.

* In conjunction with the International Academy of Education and the Wenner Gren Foundation of Stockholm

Tschira Foundation symposium on “Calcium Signalling” (Calcium oscillations) Heidelberg, Germany, 7 – 9 March 2002

Calcium Oscillations are central to the control of virtually all biological processes, for example the heart beat, insulin secretion and fertilisation. It is also an attractive subject because great progress has occurred in recent years, due to the introduction of new methodologies and because it combines experimental and theoretical (mathematical) modelling approaches.

Speakers include: Michael Berridge (Cambridge, UK); Johann Bollman (Heidelberg); Jose Cancela (Paris); Ernesto Carafoli (Padova); Silvana Cuci (Bari); Martin Falcke (Dresden); Albert Goldbeter (Brussels); Robin Irvine (Cambridge,

UK); Arthur Konnerth (München); Ursula Kummer (Heidelberg); Shmuel Muallem (Dallas); Erwin Neher (Göttingen); Anant Parekh (Oxford); Ole Petersen (Liverpool); Tullio Pozzan (Padova); Sarino Rizzuto (Ferrara); Andras Spät (Budapest); Jakob Balslev Sørensen (Göttingen); Alex Verkhratsky (Manchester); Peter Willems (Nijmegen).

An account of the meeting will be published in the journal “Cell Calcium”.

Members requiring further information about this event are asked to contact the Academia office or Professor Ole Petersen, Chairman of the Physiology and Medicine Section as places are very limited.

Breaking news...

- **The Council of 10 November, agreed to set up of a small “strategy” sub-group to consider the role, mission and future of the Academia.**
- **A document describing the achievements of the past five years and looking forward over a similar timeframe has been prepared by the secretariat. This document will be used as a basis for any future negotiations with sponsors of the Academia.**

Section Chairpersons and Committees

In future issues, space will be reserved for news, views and comments from and for the Sections.

Material for inclusion in the Tree should be submitted via the Chair of the relevant section.

Changes in Committees: Professor Andras Spät (Physiology – Budapest) has agreed to replace Professor Carlos Belmonte (Neuroscience – Spain) on the Physiology and Medicine committee.

The Chairpersons and committees of the Academia's twelve Sections are listed below.

| Section: | Chairperson: | Committee Members: |
|---|---|--|
| Humanities I (History, Archaeology, Classics, Oriental Studies) | Heikki Solin Klassillisen Filologian Laitos Helsingin Yliopisto PL4, (Yliopistonkatu 3) FIN-00014, Helsinki | François Crouzet Gerhard Oberhammer Lord Renfrew Raoul van Caenegem |
| Humanities II (Linguistics, Literature, Philosophy, Musicology, Art History) | Vacant | Manfred Bierwisch Erika Fischer-Lichte Douwe Fokkema Dagfinn Føllesdal Göran Hermerén Max Lütolf Mihaly Szegedy-Maszak Barbara Wright Clas Zilliacus |
| Behavioural Sciences | Michael Marmot Dept. of Epidemiology & Public Health International Centre for Health & Society University College London 1-19 Torrington Place London WC1E 6BT UNITED KINGDOM | Paul Baltes Michael Rutter Johannes Siegrist |
| Social Sciences | Guido Martinotti Istituto Superiore di Sociologia c/o CNPDS Piazza Castello 3 20121 Milan ITALY | Jean Blondel Elina Haavio-Mannila Konstantinos Kerameus Walther Manshard Adalberto Vallega |
| Mathematics and Informatics | Peter Swinnerton-Dyer The Dower House Thriplow Royston Herts SG8 7RJ UNITED KINGDOM | Jaco de Bakker Dines Bjørner Manfred Broy David Cox Hans Föllmer Lars Hörmander László Lovasz Yuri Manin Robin Milner Maurice Nivat Pal Revesz |
| Physics and Engineering Sciences (including Materials Science) | Norbert Koo Hungarian Academy of Sciences | Ian Butterworth Robert Dautray Heinz Duddeck |



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Chemical Sciences | Roosevelt tér 9 H-1051 Budapest HUNGARY | Vladimir Kljuev William Mitchell Herbert Walther Peter de Witt Huberts |
| Earth and Cosmic Sciences | Jerzy Haber Institute of Catalysis and Surface Chemistry ul. Niezapominajek 30239 Cracow POLAND | Peter Day Torbjörn Norin Frigyes Solymosi John Meurig Thomas Günther Wilke |
| Biochemistry and Molecular Biology | Sierd Cloetingh Faculty of Earth Sciences Vrije Universiteit De Boelelaan 1085 1081 Amsterdam NETHERLANDS | Enric Banda André Berger Paul Crutzen Jean Dercourt Jean-Claude Duplessy Kerstin Fredga Camiel de Loore |
| Cell Biology | Moshe Yaniv Institut Pasteur Dept. des Biotechnologies 25 rue du Docteur Roux 75724 Paris Cedex 15 FRANCE | Piet Borst Riccardo Cortese Michel Lazdunski Tomas Lindahl Margarita Salas Gottfried Schatz |
| Physiology and Medicine | Mary Osborn Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry Am Fassberg 11 D-37077 Göttingen GERMANY | Edoardo Boncinelli Bertil Daneholt Richard Flavell Kim Nasmyth Rolf Zinkernagel |
| Organismic and Evolutionary Biology | Ole Petersen University of Liverpool Department of Physiology P.O. Box 147 Crown Street Liverpool L69 3BX UNITED KINGDOM | Raymond Ardaillou [Carlos Belmonte] Theophile Godfraind Barbro Johansson Oleg Krishtal Harald Reuter Klaus Thureau David Williams [from 01/02 – Andras Spat] |
| Organismic and Evolutionary Biology | Werner Rathmayer Universität Konstanz Fakultät für Biologie Universitätstrasse 10 7750 Constance GERMANY | Friedrich Ehrendorfer Gotthilf Hempel Carlos Herrera Richard Southwood Rüdiger Wehner |

Annual Business Meeting of the Academia Europaea, Rotterdam, 14 June 2001

The meeting was chaired by the President, in the presence of 55 members who formally accepted the annual report and report of the President and approved the 2000/2001 accounts.

The President reported that the last Annual Meeting in Prague had been most successful, and Professor Jiri Niederle was thanked for the local organisation. Other conferences that had been organised during the year included: Brain Imaging (in Heidelberg), Scientific Co-operation in South East Europe (in Venice), and Open Software (in Cambridge) and an advisory mission had visited Croatia. Events announced included: preparation for a further mission to Croatia, conferences on Virtuality (in Venice in November 2001), Excellence in Higher Education (in Stockholm in May 2002), and Annual Meetings in Lisbon (October 2002), Graz (September 2003), Helsinki (June 2004) and Moscow (June 2005). 53 new members had been elected during the year (a full list is in this edition of the Tree), with the total currently standing at 1952. The

European Review continued its successful publication, and a book on *The Virtual University* had also been published during the year by Portland Press.

Professors **Lev Kisselev** and **Ole Petersen** were re-appointed for second terms on the Council. The meeting was advised that Professor **Jerzy Haber** had reached the end of his second term of office and was not eligible for re-appointment. Professor **Birgitta Nedelmann** had resigned for health reasons in October 2000 and had not been replaced. After a ballot of members present, the President announced that Professor **Barbara Kellner-Heinkele** of Berlin and Professor **Miklós Maróth** of Budapest had been elected to serve on Council. The President thanked Professor Haber for his years of wise advice in the Council.

Professor Day (Treasurer) expressed his appreciation for the work of his predecessor Professor David Spearman who had steered the finances of the Academia for several years and drew attention to the (still) remaining concerns about the

Academia's financial position. Special thanks went to the President who had obtained special funding for two years from two Swedish Foundations and to Vladimir Skulachev who had helped to secure a welcome contribution from the Russian Academy of Sciences. Members' own voluntary contributions were acknowledged and a reminder of the need for these is published in this edition of the Tree.

Professor Strömholm announced that he would end his Presidency at the Annual Meeting in 2002. Members were invited to make nominations for his successor, by 31 December 2001. The Council would then consider the nominations received and make an appointment, and the handover of the Presidency would occur at the Annual Meeting in Lisbon.

The business meeting was the last for the (then) Executive Secretary, Peter Colyer. His successor Dr. David Coates, (who began work on a part-time basis in July), was welcomed. A presentation was made to Mr Colyer at the close of the Annual Meeting.

Imaging and models of Brain Function

A conference for 50 invited participants was organised by the Academia and the Tschira Foundation and held at the Tschira Foundation's excellent new conference facilities in Heidelberg. The conference was organised by the Physiology and Medicine Section. Prof. Bert Sakmann of Heidelberg gave the keynote address. The main findings presented at the conference, as reported by Dr Anant Parekh and published in *Trends in Neurosciences* vol. 24, pp. 368–369, July 2001, were

- Voltage-sensitive dyes provide new insights into the function and architecture of neuronal networks.
 - Calmodulin has kinetically distinct effects on Ca²⁺ channels and can be directly tethered to the channels.
 - Broadening of action potentials, by inactivation of K⁺ channels, prolongs Ca²⁺ entry underlying facilitation.
 - The distance between an open Ca²⁺ channel and the Ca²⁺ sensors of exocytosis differs between different types of neurons.
 - Store-operated Ca²⁺ channels might be found in dendritic spines.
 - Store-operated Ca²⁺ entry is strongly dependent on mitochondrial Ca²⁺ buffering.
 - Spines are highly dynamic and require activation of post-synaptic AMPA receptors to maintain their form.
- A further joint conference will be held at the Tschira Foundation from 7 to 9 March 2002, on the subject of “**Calcium Oscillations**”.

Science and language



Erasmus University, Rotterdam, hosted the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Academia Europaea, which addressed the theme of “Science and Language”. The scientific sessions drew attention to the many profound ways in which language is not only an academic study in its own right, but also deeply affects all other areas of science and learning.

The Erasmus lecture, delivered at the Annual Meeting of the Academia since 1992 and now for the first time in the home city of Erasmus himself, was given by Edoardo Boncinelli of Milan on the theme “Brain and Mind Today”. Professor Boncinelli spoke of the advances in brain research achieved in recent years through new techniques both in experimentation and in genetics. Nevertheless, the repeatability of experiments was a continuing problem. The importance of connectivity between cells, and of the large surface area of the brain structure, had been emphasised. The human brain appeared to be very immature at birth compared with other animals, which enabled it to be nourished through additional information and life experience. The most interesting problems researched at present include differing levels of rationality, the

association between present brains and the circumstances of human evolution, and the onset of tiredness. The phenomenon of human emotions added yet another level of complexity to the science of the brain.

The Erasmus Lecture formed a part of the Opening Ceremony in the richly appointed Auditorium of the Rotterdam Town Hall. Lively speeches were also given by Ivo Opstelten, the Mayor of Rotterdam; Loek Hermans, Minister of Education, Culture and Science; Rob Reneman, President of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences; and Jan van Bommel, Rector of Erasmus University. Twenty-five new members of the Academia attending their first Annual Meeting were publicly welcomed and signed the membership register, and six leading young Dutch scholars were also welcomed as Burgen Scholars.

During the subsequent two days, speakers of the highest quality led scientific symposia on the following themes:

Linguistics

Convenors: Harm Pinkster and Anna Siewierska

Special Languages

Convenor: Ben Veltman

Membrane Transport

Convenor: Ole Petersen

The Language of DNA

Convenor: Piet Borst

Quality of Life for the Elderly

Convenors: Michael Marmot and Johannes Siegrist

Land-Sea Interactions

Convenors: Sierd Cloetingh and Jorn Thiede

Speech Technology

Convenor: Franciska de Jong

As will be evident from the above titles, many subjects were included in these symposia, ranging from language change to cryptographic techniques, and from genetics and language to man-machine interaction. Many of the papers will be published in future editions of the *European Review*.

The social programme included for accompanying persons the “Royal Tour” of locations associated with the Netherlands Royal Family, and the “Architecture Tour” of Rotterdam’s striking modern features. All participants relaxed during a boat tour through the Rotterdam World Harbour, including a historical lecture at the Delfshaven Church of the Pilgrim Fathers, and enjoyed a “Breugel Buffet” at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen currently displaying the almost complete set of drawings of Breugel the Elder and his masterpiece the Tower of Babel which provided the logo of this language-oriented meeting.

The Academia wishes to thank especially Henk van der Molen and Sven Gutker de Geus for their personal involvement in the organisation of the meeting, and the following financial supporters:

- The Ministry of Education, Arts and Science
- Trust Fund of the Erasmus University Rotterdam
- The City of Rotterdam
- The ABN-AMRO Bank Rotterdam
- The Erasmus University Rotterdam
- The Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Stockholm

Free software, Open software, Commercial software...?

A unique combination of research scientists, lawyers, computer specialists, media communicators and practising artists met in Cambridge during April for a conference on "Co-operation and Ownership in the Digital Economy (CODE). The event was organised by the Academia Europaea in conjunction with the Arts Council of England, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Langlois Foundation of Canada, the Center for the Public Domain of the USA, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UK) and

Cambridge University.

Two hundred participants debated concepts of ownership, legal issues affecting software rights, and the demands of creativity in working with digital systems. Several practising creators of cultural images described their use of free and openly available software systems.

Richard Stallman of the USA argued clearly and cogently for the rights of users to have access to software structure and design. Fellow Americans Bob Young and Bruce Perens described the application of an

open software approach in the commercial environment. Legal issues were explored in a session led by William Cornish of Cambridge (UK), and the principles of ownership in diverse cultures were analysed by Marilyn Strathern.

The main presentations together with invited articles, will be published by MIT Press in a book to be edited by Michael Century of Montreal, in the fall of 2002.

The meeting was described by one participant as "a once in a lifetime event that should be held every year".

Scientific Co-operation in South-east Europe

As part of the developing focus activity for South-east Europe, The Academia in collaboration with the UNESCO (ROSTE) offices based in Venice and the ESF, organised a workshop which brought together Academia members and a range of other organisations and regional interests to discuss the regeneration of science.

The meeting was held in March 2001. It was attended by some sixty people, mostly from the region. The Academia's President, Stig Strömholm

gave a keynote address. Details of the event were organised by AE members – Herwig Schopper, Giorgio Bernardi, Ivo Slaus and Norbert Kroo. Participants focused their discussions on the special problems faced by the region, such as the brain drain, the urgent need for reconstruction of scientific infrastructure; problems of geographical and political isolation and the lack of access to other crucial European facilities outside of the region. A specific focus was on the need to identify where practical

regional co-operation could assist in the re-construction effort. In particular, to provide electronic communications infrastructures, electronic networks and the development of services based on these technologies: notably healthcare and environmental protection.

The support of UNESCO, the government of Italy and the Svenska Institutet was greatly appreciated.

Copies of the conference report and conclusions are available from the Academia offices, or on the UNESCO website.

Professor Giorgio Bernardi (Naples) on the right of the picture, receiving congratulations from Sir Arnold Burgen (Editor-in-chief of the European Review) on the occasion of his receiving (from the President – looking on) the Erasmus medal during a recent meeting of the Council of the Academia. Prof. Bernardi gave an Erasmus lecture entitled "The Human Genome", at the AE/ UNESCO 2001 Conference on " Reconstruction of Scientific Co-operation in South East Europe".



UNESCO Science Ministerial Round Table – “Rebuilding Scientific Co-operation in South East Europe” Paris, 24 October 2001

Following on from the South East Europe reconstruction conference organised by the Academia with UNESCO (ROSTE) and the ESF, in Venice – March 2001: The Academia was invited to present a statement to Ministers of Science from the region and from Western European countries. The statement was presented by Professor Ian Butterworth (Vice President of the Academia Europaea) and the text is reproduced below.

They adopted a communiqué which commits all countries to assist in the stabilisation of the region through rebuilding of scientific co-operation in several key areas. These include mobility measures; facilitating research networks; strengthening research infrastructures; launching collaborative projects in strategic field and renewing co-operation in social and human sciences. The intention is to take forward a number of specific measures by means of a donors conference, that is planned sometime in 2002.

Academia Europaea Statement to the UNESCO Ministerial Round Table – 24 October 2001

Presented by Vice President of the
Academia Europaea – Professor Ian
Butterworth FRS

Mr. President, Ministers, Ladies and
Gentlemen

The Academia Europaea is
honoured to be invited to make a
statement of support for the proposed
initiatives that form the basis of this
round table of Ministers.

The Academia Europaea is the only
truly pan-European Academy of
Sciences, Humanities and Letters
speaking with the authority of our 2000
members, internationally renowned and
eminent scholars from all the countries
of Europe. We are particularly pleased to
see a number of our members here
today as experts or as representatives of
their countries or organisations from
the region.

We should remember that we are
not starting from zero in terms of
international scientific co-operation.
There already exists an extensive and
active European infrastructure to
support scientific collaboration. The
region is already actively engaged in at
least some of these. The Academia
Europaea itself, the European Science
Foundation, UNESCO, the COST co-
operation and of course the Framework
programmes of the European Union –
all provide opportunities for the region.
But the events of recent history have
collectively damaged the regional

infrastructure and capacity of the
scientific communities' abilities to
capture many of these opportunities.

This Ministerial meeting is therefore
timely. Not least in the context of the
general desire to build a genuine and
effective European Research Space. A
concept that the Academia strongly
supports.

At this point, we (the Academia)
would make a plea not to re-invent the
wheel. We must avoid reducing the
impact of these initiatives through
unnecessary duplication of activities. All
the organisations I have mentioned have
ongoing activities that could be
complimentary to those discussed here
today. For example, the Academia itself
is organising* an international
conference in 2002 looking at
“Excellence in Higher Education in
Europe”, including a regional
perspective. We have also been
discussing with UNESCO ROSTE, the
provision of a series of “Academia
Masterclasses” to be held across the
region and given by Academia scientists
to the upcoming generation of
researchers and students. Therefore, we
would encourage UNESCO, and its
Task Force, to seek to co-ordinate any
initiatives, with those of other
international bodies with a track record
in supporting international scientific
co-operation, with the aim of
maximizing their impact.

Turning to the priorities for regional scientific co-operation

The UNESCO-Academia Europaea-
ESF co-ordinated conference in Venice,
and the work of the Task Force with
individual countries identified a number
of barriers to the better integration of
the region into European scientific co-
operation, and made recommendations
which seek to improve research capacity
and infrastructure. Many could be
delivered nationally but some can only
be achieved on a co-ordinated regional
basis.

Thus, the Venice Conference
recognised the lack of large bandwidth
computing networks for research and
training as the largest single impediment
to strengthening scientific co-operation
around the countries of South East
Europe. I have just returned from fact-
finding visits to Romania and Bosnia-
Herzegovina in connection with such
networks. It was clear to me that what is
needed is a regional network for South
East Europe, collaboratively owned by
the various states. Such collaboration
would be important not only for
scientific reasons but to encourage
collaboration on a broader basis.
Computer screens do not distinguish
Serb from Croat.

The Academia feels it is important to
draw Ministers' attention to the need for
each regional administration to look also
at their national systems for scientific

* In conjunction with the International Academy of Education and the Wenner Gren Foundation of Stockholm

policy management, research prioritisation and systems for allocating funds. A recent co-operation between the Academia and one of the regional administrations represented here today, identified a number of institutional weaknesses that may be the case across the region. They can be summarised as a tendency to 'over-management' from the centre: science policy, research priorities and funding allocations, (even down to the individual grant application), all being decided at the centre. There are a

number of disadvantages to this approach which is not followed by the rest of Europe. Such centralised systems tend to become politicised and sclerotic, decreasing their ability to respond flexibly and quickly to scientific opportunities. The recommendations for action put before you today will tackle certain constraints. They are critically important but they are incomplete. Agreement to support these actions, must also be accompanied by a clear request to the countries in the region, to

identify and eliminate any national institutional, administrative or legal barriers that could reduce effectiveness of these initiatives.

Mr President and Ministers: the Academia Europaea will be pleased to continue to work with UNESCO and the other agencies and organisations across Europe, in seeking to achieve an effective re-building of co-operation in the region. We are grateful for the opportunity to state our views on this important matter.

Member's contributions – from the Treasurer

At the Annual Member's Meeting in Rotterdam last month, there was considerable discussion about annual contributions made by members and the recommended figure was agreed as 100 Euros, which hopefully can be maintained at the same level for a number of years.

At the outset let me make one point very clear: there has never been any question of requiring members to pay mandatory annual subscriptions, although some National Academies do have such a tradition. The Board and Council of the Academia are very sensitive to the differing approaches to this matter and personal circumstances among our members. Nevertheless, we are acutely aware that our ability to provide services to our members, and to undertake initiatives on behalf of European science and scholarship, depend on the funds at our disposal, only part of which come from government

agencies and charitable trusts. In these circumstances it seemed reasonable to the Board and the Council to invite members to contribute personally to their Academy, and I am pleased to say that this approach was further endorsed at the Annual Members' Meeting in Rotterdam.

Of course, there is absolutely no intention to ask any member (all of whom were elected on the basis of scholastic merit alone) to resign if they feel unable to contribute. At the present reckoning about thirty percent of members do contribute, a statistic that we have found very useful when seeking funds from other bodies.

I hope this brief explanation is helpful and will allow members to continue in peace of mind, whether contributing financially or not. The distinction of our members is a valuable contribution in itself.

Nominations for membership of the Academia Europaea 2002-2003

The process for electing the "2002-2003" group of candidates has now started. In accordance with the recently introduced annual cycle for nominations and elections, all members have the opportunity between now and May 2002 to nominate new members. The process will proceed as follows:

End of May 2002

June – September

End of September

Autumn

Winter 2002

Annual Meeting 2003

Deadline for nominations by Members.

Assessment by the Section Committees.

Sections to submit their nominations to the office.

Meeting of the Nominations Subcommittee.

Election by the Council.

Newly elected members publicly welcomed.

Members are reminded that the Council has placed special emphasis on the need to elect new members below the age of 55, and more female members. At least 50% of all future candidates submitted by the Sections should be below the age of 55, with a particular preference for candidates below the age of 50. Older candidates will continue to be elected if they remain academically active.

Nomination forms are available on request to the office. Members may ask the office to send the form to proposed candidates for the completion of personal details, career record, publications, etc. It is hoped that this will ease the task of preparing the nomination forms. If preferred, nominators may continue to prepare the information, so that the candidate remains unaware that he or she is being considered for election.

Nominations for a new President and Vice President

The President of the Academia Europaea, Professor Stig Strömholm of Uppsala, has announced that he will complete his period of office at the 2002 Annual Meeting to be held in Lisbon. In accordance with the Regulations of the Academia (pages 13-18 of the 2001 Directory), members are invited to propose nominations for the next President. Nominations should be sent to the Executive Secretary at the Academia's office by 31 December 2001.

The Vice-President of the Academia Europaea, Professor Henk van der Molen of Rotterdam will complete his period of office at the 2002 Annual meeting, to be held in Lisbon. In accordance with the regulations of the

Academia (pages 13-18 of the 2001 Directory), members are invited to propose candidates for the position as Vice President. Nominations should be sent to the Executive Secretary at the Academia offices no later than 28 February 2002.

New members of Council

The Annual Meeting of the Academia held at Erasmus University, Rotterdam on 14 June 2001, elected two new members of Council to replace Professors Jerzy Haber and Birgitta Nedelmann who retired. These are:

Professor Miklós Maróth (Greek and Arab Philology) Hungary

Professor Barbara Kellner-Heinkele (Oriental Studies) Berlin, Germany

Notice of Elections to Council – 2002

Members of the Academia are invited to submit any nominations as candidates for election to Council, upon the retirement of Professor Bergsagel.

New Council members will be elected at the Annual Business meeting to be held in Lisbon, 12 October 2002.

Nominations may be sent at any time, to the Executive Secretary at the offices of the Academia.

Introducing the new Executive Secretary – Dr. David Coates MSc MBA

One of the most difficult tasks for any newcomer to an organisation, is how to establish themselves 'in post' in a way which to external eyes, oozes efficiency and confidence, whilst promising the comfortable aura of the familiar.

I started out as a Plant Pathologist (Exeter University) and academic researcher of Ecological (microbiological) Genetics (Bath University). From there into industry and the public sector as a 'marketeer' (E. Merck, Darmstadt and the UK Natural Environment Research Council). Most recently I was a public

servant engaged in international (European) science policy and Framework programme management at the UK Office of Science & Technology. I therefore feel on familiar territory with the breadth of discipline of the Academia membership, its range of activities and the international perspective.

I have taken over from Peter Colyer at a time of considerable pressure for the Academia. There are serious financial problems to overcome if the Academia is to continue in any active way. Our sponsors have been dwindling and our key supporters are about to

review our relevance (to them) and the value for money that the Academia represents. We are seeing the continuing rise of centralised and directed European research (read the Framework!), the development of the all embracing European Research Area (ERA) concept and an accompanying increase in international organisations, all jostling for recognition. In the midst of this melée are real opportunities for the Academia. Helping the Academia to mobilise for these challenges is one of my key tasks. To do this I will rely on the wisdom and help of the eminent members of this Academy.

Many members will be aware of the development in thinking associated with European research – notably the concept of the European Research Area (Espace Européen) that has been promoted by Commissioner for Research – Prof. Philippe Busquin.

An integral part of that concept is the relevance and impacts of science to society.

A new Directorate within DG Research has been created to address this. Dr Rainer Gerold (Director), describes below some of the objectives and plans for the next Framework Programme, in this area.

Science and society in the European Research Area and the new Framework Programme (2002 – 2006)

Never before has Western civilisation, with its global economies and financial markets depended so much on technology and applied sciences. Indeed science and technology are fundamental in the move towards a knowledge-based society.

Europeans, as the recent Eurobarometer survey has shown, are not against science or against technological progress, on the contrary. But Europeans are against the blind belief in progress and reserve the right to question scientific and technological achievements and their applications.

Responsible governance and policy-making has to be responsive to these concerns, which are more than just ignorance. The well-educated parts of society are even more critical than less educated, as surveys, like the one mentioned above, have shown. Society, if this all-embracing term is allowed, is not necessarily ready to accept everything scientifically possible as appreciated progress. Culture, beliefs, abstract values play an important role as well. But how the limits are to be determined and which rules shall be applied is still unclear and part of the dispute.

The European Commission is alerted to these requirements and makes the interface of science and society part of its research policy, looking for new participatory methods and greater – transparency in its decision making and organisation of scientific advice.

Already the current 5th RTD Framework Programme has been

designed to take socio-economic aspects on board and social sciences were included in the areas for research funding but only recently inclusion of civil society has become an integral part of the Commission's own research policy.

This policy has been highlighted by the initiative of Commissioner Busquin to strive for a European Research Area, complementing the single European market and the forthcoming single European currency. The initiative was explicitly approved at the European Summit in Lisbon in June 2000, which launched the challenge to make the European Union the most dynamic and prosperous area of the world on the basis of a knowledge-based society.

In order to stimulate the discussion on science and society, the Commission services issued in November 2000 a paper entitled "Science, Society and the European Citizens". The aim of the paper was to provide elements for the debate and guidelines for possible discussion. To allow a broad participation, the paper has been published in a public Internet forum earlier this year –

<http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/science-society/forum.htm>

The Action Plan "Science and Society"

After an intensive debate including a special informal meeting of research and education ministers in March 2001 in Uppsala, the Research Council of 26 June 2001 has adopted a resolution asking the Commission to prepare an

action plan on science and society by the end of this year.

The plan should establish a series of concrete actions for stimulating the discussion between society and science, for creating suitable platforms for exchange of experiences and to provide some answers for decision-makers and politicians on how to take into account public concerns and to take decisions based on broad – scientific advice. The plan should also draw on the Commission's White Paper on European Governance, in particular with respect to the part concerning 'democratising scientific expertise'.

The action plan should cover specific activities in three areas:

- Promoting scientific culture in Europe, including public awareness and dialogue on scientific issues as well as science education;
- Science Policies closer to the citizens, including ethical concerns, gender equality and foresight;
- Scientific expertise at the heart of policymaking, risk governance and the precautionary principle.

The action plan should provide for activities with a time horizon until 2010 in accordance with the objectives of the Lisbon summit for the knowledge-based economy as well as the process of Bologna aiming at a European area for higher education.

The new RTD Framework Programme

The Commission's proposal for a new RTD Framework Programme

consists of three specific programmes “Integrating research”, “Structuring the European Research Area” and “Strengthening the foundations of the European Research Area”.

In the first programme “Integrating research” the science and society aspects will be taken into account in a two-fold manner:

- Responsible research, i.e. the compliance with ethical regulations, shall be empowered throughout the various thematic research themes for which the Framework Programme will provide funding. In a similar way gender equality will be encouraged and, as far as possible, research projects shall interact with and disseminate their research finding to the general public.
- The thematic priority “Citizens and governance in the European knowledge-based society” will fund research projects in this area providing for the theoretical foundations of the above-mentioned dialogue, information on public opinion as well as new approaches to take into account the results of the dialogue in decision and policy making.

In the second programme “Structuring the European Research

Area”, activities as specified in the action plan will be supported:

- activities on making scientific results available for decision and policy making, governance, scientific advice and reference systems;
- proving support for research on ethics, scientific uncertainty and risk governance;
- stepping up the science/society dialogue focussing on public understanding with a specific focus on the younger generation and women.

Whereas the programme “Integrating research” will concentrate on the creation and funding of multinational research projects, the programme “Structuring the European Research Area” will focus on networking, benchmarking and awareness-raising activities, although support for specific research activities, in particular on ethical issues and women in science, are foreseen as well.

The third programme “Strengthening the foundations of the European Research Area” will focus on co-ordination, including scientific foresight and statistics, thereby supporting the activities related to science and society, for instance through indicators and mapping of best practice

on women in science.

The objectives, priorities and activities of the action plan and the various programmes of the new RTD Framework Programme should complement and reinforce each other. They reflect the crosscutting and wide nature of the issues to be discussed and tackled under the Science and Society umbrella. They will have to be dealt with in many different levels – regional, national and European.

Science and Society represents a new direction for European research funding, and its inclusion in the research policy scene will likely require a large degree of learning and flexibility during implementation.

Notwithstanding, the linking of science and society in the European Research Area will be a key element in achieving the transition towards a knowledge-based society and in the promotion of competitiveness and social cohesion.

More information concerning the ongoing and planned activities under the heading Science and Society can be found on the Internet under <http://www.cordis.lu/rtd2002/science-society/home.htm>

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The Executive Secretary

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