

Minutes

of the EuSSS Informal Meeting on 02 Oct 08, 18:00- 19:00,
during the 14th Interntl. Symp. Sep. Sci. in Primosten, Croatia.

Participants:

Dusan Berek, Wolfgang Buchberger, Boguslaw Buszewski, Virginia Coman, Danilo Corradini, Francesco Dondi, Hartmut Frank, Attila Felinger, Jozef Lehotay, Lucija Kralj-Zupancic, Pavel Jandera, Đuro Josic, Imre Klebovic, Spomenka Kovač, Andrius Maruska, Michel Martin, Corrado Sarzanini, Nikola Segudovic.

HF welcomed all who had come to the informal meeting. He acknowledged the various opinions expressed by e-mail (Boguslaw Buszewski, Joan Grimalt, Wolfgang Lindner, Tyge Greibrokk, John Lough) upon his suggestion of 13 Aug. 08 to convene in Primosten for discussion about the resurrection of EuSSS. He stated that in principle EuSSS is still fully operative including its website (<http://www-c724.uibk.ac.at/theochem/eusss/>) and a sound financial situation of about 3300 Euros, to a great extent to the generosity of GB who had supplied a sizeable sum for the start-up and the maintenance of the web site. On the other hand, some former activities (e.g. support of several symposia by award grants) have somewhat declined recently, and the further development of EuSSS has stalled since the meeting of the national representatives during the ISC in Copenhagen in August 2006. HF explained why the election of a new steering committee has not been performed for various reasons of mostly personal nature. FD stated that there is no great need for lengthy discussion about the circumstances, but that practical solutions must be sought to bring this hibernation period to an end. PJ reported about the ISC-meeting in Muenster, Germany, in the previous week during which a new scientific committee was formed, consisting also of members from countries other than France, Germany or UK. Attila Felinger is member of the new ISC scientific committee..

Subsequently all colleagues present expressed their opinions about the original vision of EuSSS, the past development and the potential future. The statements varied from strong criticism of the non-activity of the EuSSS Steering Committee to admitting own inactivity, but all present expressed that in principle EuSSS should be re-activated, re-enforced and continued. Some emphasised its unconditional necessity, others expressed views with more cautionary notes, even with scepticism. Ways of how to involve existing groups such as the CEGSS, the Nordic Group of Separation Science, or the Scientific Committee of ISC were discussed; special concern was voiced not to interfere with their activities and to avoid duplication or competition but that EuSSS should serve as umbrella organization.

In the end, HF and FD expressed their determination in bringing the re-election of the new steering committee to conclusion as fast as possible. In particular, they expressed the need for younger colleagues as candidates for the election to the Steering Committee, and assured the willingness of all members of the first Steering Committee to actively assist to ascertain a smooth period of transfer.

After circulation of these minutes to all participants of the Primosten meeting within one week (about 06 Oct 08) and another week for circulating it to all other national representatives for consideration, the nomination of candidates for the election of the new steering committee will be once more opened until 15 Nov 08. The election of the new Steering Committee should be attempted to be concluded by the end of 2008.

Primosten, 03 Oct 08 (HF)