

EUSJA News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations

Summer 2003

A word from the editor

By now, many of you will have heard the sad news of the passing of Giancarlo Masini, co-founder of Eusja in 1971. Paola De Paoli has written an appreciation of him, which tells us just some of his wide-ranging activities and interests and in the field of science journalism, and I suggest that it is well worth taking a few minutes to read it for that alone.

Among his big interests was the public awareness of science. India is active in the field of promoting science literacy, and Manoj Patariya reports on a conference on means of bringing about a substantial increase.

It is not usual to publish long articles or documents in Eusja News, but in this issue there is an exception. The full, verbatim, unedited final text of the constitution of the newly-established World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) is given at the end of this issue. Individual national associations have been making their own decision whether to join or not, so it was felt that it would be interesting to have the full text freely available. *Continued on page 2*

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Memories of Eusja founder

Giancarlo Masini

A man who spent his life in the spreading the knowledge of science and technology in society, at international level: Giancarlo Masini, honorary president of Ugis, the Italian Union of Science Journalists, and past president of Eusja, passed away on 13 January. One year before his death he was prepared to write his last book *Mystères et miracles autour du foie*, he told me, in French, a nice title to be translated into English and Italian too. The book will not appear, no miracle happened, the mystery of the liver prevailed.

Born near Florence, he had the humour and the sparkling skill typical of an Italian coming from Tuscany, in addition to that thirst of learned people for knowledge in every field of science. He started his youthful career as a scientist, when before and after his PhD in chemistry he did research in astrophysics in the Tromsø Island, 500 kilometres over the Arctic pole. In the meantime, he started his collaborations with newspapers and magazines as a certified journalist before ending his academic studies. Around the sixties, he left Florence and came to Milano becoming (after a rapid career rise as a reporter) science editor at the most important daily newspaper *Corriere della Sera*. He was the first in Italy to inaugurate weekly pages on science and technology.

When his Tuscan friend, the famous Italian journalist Indro Montanelli, left the *Corriere*, he followed him to the new newspaper *Il Giornale*, where he stayed as special correspondent in science until 1983, when he was nominated science attaché for the Italian Government at the Embassy in San Francisco. There followed eight years of a new experience, which was for him a kind of routine, as it was always in his nature to travel around the world. And he continued to be at home in San Francisco, and back to Italy more or less every two months. From the States, he was a collaborator of *La Stampa*, the newspaper of the Agnelli family, and then he was back once again to *Il Corriere della Sera*.



Giancarlo Masini (left), cofounder of the Eusja 1971, Paola de Paoli and Arthur Bourne.

Giancarlo is a human milestone in the history of science journalism at international level. He was the promoter and co-founder in 1966 of the Italian Ugis, of which he was an active president until his departure to the States. Owing to his international contacts with scientists and journalists he was really proud to succeed, in 1971, in being co-founder of Eusja, thanks to the previous contacts he had established with the European

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Continued from page 1: Giancarlo Masini

Commission Information Department in Brussels, together the colleagues of six European associations of science journalists. He was Eusja president four times.

Giancarlo published a lot of books, translated into many languages, with topics ranging from the history of mathematics to that of chemistry, or the Universe; or the lives and discoveries of scientists and technologists like Marconi; also, on the history of knowledge, just to enhance the public understanding of science.

No words can express how much and how long we of Ugis are missing Giancarlo. The same, I feel, is true for those Eusja colleagues who met him, and I thank president Werner Hadorn who expressed Eusja's condolence to Giancarlo's and Ugis families, as well as the Eusja delegates who wrote to us.

Our duty is to continue in our associations to work as we did together with him in the past, which for myself meant around forty years of mutual exchange of ideas,



Photo Kaianders Sempler

Giancarlo Masini and Paola de Paoli.

unforgettable periods and hours spent together in Italy and abroad.

*Paola De Paoli
Ugis president,
Eusja president
emeritus*

Continued from page 1: A word from the editor

If you have news, fresh topics, or views on any articles or news items in this issue, please send them to me at <anolan@iol.ie>. They will be very welcome. Please note that, as is often the case with an organisation's newsletter, your contributions are voluntary and there is no fee payable for them.

Finally, I have an apology to make.

Apology

In the last issue of Eusja News photographs taken by Lizet Kruffyff during the Finland/Estonia study trip were used out of context. These photographs were selected from ten sent by Lizet Kruffyff. They originally carried captions written by her in a light-hearted gossipy vein, which were later shortened or changed during editing and production.

Unfortunately, I had not understood that she had intended the photographs to be used only as a standalone, humorous gossip column, and I used them to illustrate a serious report on the visit written by another participant. I regret any distress caused to the people in the photographs, and to Lizet Kruffyff, by my use of her photographs in this way.

*Anna Nolan <anolan@iol.ie>
Editor Eusja News*

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Brazil declaration

The last issue carried brief notes on the formation of the World Federation of Science Journalists and on the Third World Conference of Science Journalists in Brazil. The following is the unedited text of the Declaration that was issued.

The Declaration of the Third World Conference of Science Journalists of São José dos Campos, Brazil

We, the participants of the Third World Conference of Science Journalists comprising 320 people representing media, universities and professional organizations from 26 countries, meeting in São José dos Campos, Brazil, November 24–27, 2002, and drawing upon the recommendations of the previous world conferences held in Tokyo 1992, and Budapest, 1999, do declare the establishment of a World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ). The WFSJ is a non-profit, non-governmental international organization representing science, technology, health, medical and environmental journalists' organizations in all parts of the world.

The WFSJ will serve as a means for science communicators everywhere to share in the mutual benefits of an international professional organization that protects the rights of journalists, serves as a bridge between scientists and public, and promotes a new world culture of science journalism based on the principles of civil society and democracy.

Recognizing that this conference is the first to held in the Southern Hemisphere, the participants urge the WFSJ to support, respect, and promote the rights, safety, and livelihoods of science journalists in all countries, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age or sexual preference.

Further, in recognition of the Brazilian model of science journalism education, the participants urge the WFSJ to facilitate and encourage training, networking, and education for science journalists everywhere, especially in the developing world. One of the most effective means of achieving these goals is the strengthening of national associations and the creation of such organizations in countries where they do not now exist.

In recognition that this World Conference is the first of its kind in the 21st century, and that science and technology will continue to be the source of human

progress, the participants urge the WFSJ to convince the owners and managers of media that science journalism can be a means of empowering society. The media should provide more resources, staff, space and program-time not only for specific science topics, but also for the scientific and technological components of all human endeavors.

Further, recognizing that science communication is the key to increasing the scientific literacy of the general public, the participants urge the WFSJ to lobby public officials and private enterprises to provide access to the new technologies of communication and to guarantee the free flow of information. This is particularly urgent in developing countries and poorer regions of the world.

Finally, the participants recognize that science, politics, economy, and journalism are not separate entities in the cultures of modern societies, but are intertwined. They encourage the WFSJ to promote this concept through its newly formed networks of personal and organizational contacts as well as its website, publications, journals, and other means of communication.

The results of these initiatives as well as proposals for additional actions will be reported and discussed at the 4th World Conference of Science Journalists to be held in Montreal (Canada) in 2004. A goal of this conference should be to bring together public policy-makers and gatekeepers of modern media with those who produce, communicate, and use science and technology information to assure that these recommendations will become realities.

São José dos Campos, 27 November 2002

ISWA'S Second National Science Communication Congress

The Second National Science Communication Congress (NSCC-2002) was organised by the Indian Science Writers' Association (ISWA) at the Indian Lac Research Institute (ILRI), Ranchi on 20 and 21 December 2002 with the objective of providing a forum for researchers and practitioners of science communication to discuss their views and findings in order to accelerate the pace of science communication in the country.

Samresh Singh, Minister of Science & Technology, Jharkhand, inaugurated the Congress. In his speech, he commended the idea of the programme and said that he hoped that it would bring the science communicators, science journalists, scientists, academicians, science writers, technologists and science activists, and others together to share their innovative ideas, problems, and newer ways and means for developing science communication as a tool for country's overall

development. Madhu Kora, Minister of REO, Jharkhand was the Guest of the Honour on this occasion. He said that scientists must take it as a challenge to spread public understanding of the research they are engaged in.

While delivering the keynote address, this writer, as Honorary Secretary, ISWA gave an introduction to various activities of ISWA and described the aims, objectives and the basic concept of the Congress. The other speakers included Dr C.K. Singh, President, ISWA Jharkhand Chapter, Chandan Mishra, Ranchi Express and Ms Chhaya Verma, Joint Secretary, ISWA Jharkhand Chapter.

Some thirty presentations were spread over five technical sessions: emerging scientific issues and the public response; global versus local subjects of science reporting; sources of scientific information; the scientist-journalist interface; and science writing in Indian languages. Over one hundred delegates from all over the country participated in the congress. They also participated in split group discussions and arrived at fruitful conclusions. An exhibition of various science periodicals in Indian languages was organised during the conference, and there was a visit to the ILRI laboratories on the second day.

The 2002 ISWA Honorary Fellowship was announced for His Excellency President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam for his unprecedented contributions of science popularisation, especially among children. Mr Basant K. Das (a popular science writer in the Oria language) and Mr Irfan Human (a popular science writer in Hindi) shared the ISWA National Award for Popular Science Writing.

Dr K.K. Kumar, Director, ILRI was the chief guest of the valedictory function. He suggested the participants should make optimum use of resources available at local/ regional/ national level for advancement of science communication as a fully-fledged profession.

The ISWA Jharkhand Chapter hosted the NSCC-2002.

*Manoj Patariya <iswacom@hotmail.com>
National delegate and honorary secretary ISWA*

Scientific literacy in India

It has been a growing belief that only things having commercial and economic viability will last in today's fast advancing world. Matters have even reached the point where money is making fundamental changes in the way science is done. A step ahead, the efforts directed towards enhancing scientific literacy and public understanding of science also tend to face the similar fate and therefore the goal cannot be seen in isolation.

This is an issue which scientists, communicators and the public have to take seriously, and so a national seminar was organised in New Delhi under the auspices of the Indian

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Planning a journey? Your colleagues in Europe can help

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Continued from page 3: Science Communication in India

Science Writers' Association (ISWA) and the National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) on 20 September 2002 on the subject "Scientific Literacy and Socio-economic Development". It attracted a full house. Two themes kept recurring throughout the deliberations, the first – scientific literacy: challenges and prospects and, the second – the role of scientific literacy in socio-economic development: the search for inter-relationships.

Shri Bachi Singh Rawat, India's Union Minister of State (Science & Technology) set the scene and tone. He emphasised the emerging need of scientific literacy in the country's overall development. Professor V.S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, Department of Science & Technology stressed the public debates on emerging issues of scientific importance which are relevant to the people and are of their immediate concern and working of institutions as well as individuals. Literacy and more precisely, scientific and technological literacy, can bring about these positive changes in an appropriate manner.

The last two decades have been characterised by the rapid development of new scientific and technological advancements across a wide range of fields. Access to these advancements is distributed very unevenly within the country. People in far-flung areas often lack the means that would enable them to take informed decisions to lead their life in a democratic society. Shri Anuj Sinha, Adviser and Head, NCSTC and Science & Society Division, Department of Science & Technology, placed before the house a challenge of working out a strategy to achieve 100% scientific literacy by the year 2047. Dr R.D. Sharma, President, ISWA argued that there are two kinds of science communication, which he called "technical" and "popular." More thrust is required on popular science communication to improve scientific literacy.

It emerged from the discussions that technical science communication is directed towards dissemination of scientific research especially to the experts in the form of research papers, research journals, seminar proceedings, and so on. Popular science communication serves the practical function of building the foundation of public awareness. It helps us develop an attitude of critical rationality and it is a source of non-partisan expertise, a necessity in an age when governments and other organisations require scientific advice when taking many decisions. Popular science is public-oriented, not proprietary. Self-motivated individuals have traditionally largely carried it out, though some organisations, chiefly those supported by state or charities, have also done so. Society needs both kinds of science communication for its overall development.

Developmental changes emerge within specific economic, social, and ideological contexts, and in turn reshape the thinking access not only to leading edge technologies, but also to modern and traditional scientific knowledge. Overcoming problems of access to these technologies and knowledge is important for economic and social development, but this aim should not be seen

in isolation. Unless the "transfer of technology" is amalgamated with "communication of technology", or in other terms "scientific and technological literacy", overall socio-economic development cannot be ensured. Hence, there is a growing understanding that scientific and technological literacy and socio-economic development are mutually interdependent or one is caused by the other. The development of one is directly proportional to the other.

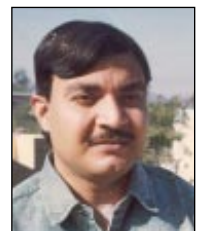
Science and engineering are attracting fewer talents nowadays for pursuing research and higher studies. Grave concern was expressed that many of the science departments at undergraduate level are left with a substantial number of vacant seats for lack of interest in science among the younger generation. This may lead to a crisis in the area of science and technology as well as in science communication.

The seminar was an attempt to find the interwoven threads of interdependency in scientific literacy and socio-economic development, in order further to strengthen and nurture this relationship to ensure rapid developments in both the areas.

Over one hundred participants from amongst government/ non-government organisations/ universities/ scientific institutions/ media houses/ individuals interested in scientific literacy, science communication and developmental issues participated in the seminar and shared their views.

Some of the other challenges that the seminar confronted were: to arrive at a consensus definition of scientific literacy, the quantum of minimum science, ways and means for linking scientific literacy with literacy campaigns, resolving the void between scientists and science communicators, connecting links between scientific information and development, and the role of the media in enhancing scientific literacy.

Though many more questions still remain unanswered, the seminar was a timely effort towards initiating a fruitful debate within and outside the country to arrive at a well-structured strategy for achieving the desired level of scientific literacy, especially in the developing world.



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Eusja national delegate and honorary secretary, ISWA*

Eusja General Assembly 2003

ESF, Strasbourg, Saturday 22 March 2003, 1 p.m.

Preliminaries

- The President, Werner Hadorn, CH, welcomes delegates from Austria, Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom; Board members Vice-president Istvan Palugyai, Honorary Secretary Marialuigia Bagni and Treasurer Kaianders Sempler (who is also the Swedish national delegate); and the Auditors, Lizet Kruyff from the Netherlands (who is also the Dutch national delegate) and Jussi Nuorteva from Finland. The President welcomes also Jens Degett and Sabine Schott, ESF.

- Apologies came from Denmark, Norway and from Michael Kenward, UK. No answers from Belgium, India, Israel or Slovakia.

- Slovenia gave a proxy to Anna Nolan.
- The Minutes of the last General Assembly are accepted unanimously.

- Liisa Savunen, Finland, asks whether associations which have not yet paid the annual fee have a right to vote.

- Paola De Paoli, Italy, complains about having received the Minutes very late.

- The President apologizes because his time has been extremely limited due to very stressful and time-consuming work in connection with the Swiss national exhibition and for health reasons. The President declares his intention to dedicate a record amount of time to EUSJA in 2003.

Members

General information given by the President:

- **Belgium:** The President has received a list of 20 science journalists and he will write to them;

- **Greece:** There is an association of environmental journalists which would like to collaborate with the EUSJA. The President will write to them in order to have more information and the next assembly will decide whether to accept them or not;

- **Portugal:** The Vice-president had contacts with a Portuguese journalist, who promised to do something to re-animate the association. The Assembly will decide next year whether Portugal can rejoin EUSJA, provided that the Portuguese association has been constituted;

- The President once more asks all delegates to send the constitution of their national association and the list of their Board members to the EUSJA Secretariat. Up to now, very few associations have done so. Jussi Nuorteva, Finland, asks to have them put on the EUSJA website.

Annual Report 2002

The Annual Report has been distributed together with the Minutes of the General Assembly 2002.

A point was raised: Reimbursement to the UK for four people who booked a visit but did not go. The President says delegates should select reliable candidates. A discussion starts and the proposal to write on the invitations: «Any costs incurred by the host organisation due to non-appearance or cancellation of participants shall be met by their national associations.» is unanimously accepted.

The Annual Report is approved unanimously (see below).

Finances

A list of unpaid fees is distributed: 10 out of 23 members did not pay. Here are the decisions taken in detail:

- **Belgium:** a last reminder letter will be sent.
- **Croatia:** (unanimously approved) a new invoice will be sent: then, if necessary, Croatia will ask the EUSJA Board for a delay;
- **Hungary:** Vice-president will contact the Hungarian treasurer for 2002 payment;
- **Netherlands:** will pay 2001 and 2002;
- **Norway:** (unanimously approved) a letter asking for payment, constitution act and names of members of the Board will again be written: if Norway doesn't send all within three months, its membership will be cancelled;
- **Slovakia:** Dietmar Schmidt, Germany, will try to contact a journalist he knows in that association;
- **Spain:** no news from them; Marialuigia Bagni will try to contact their delegate; a final letter will be sent;
- **India and Israel:** no news from them.

The result of the 2002 account is a loss of 509.80 euro with income of 8036.47 euro and expenses of 8546.27 euro.

The balance results in a fortune of 33 231.98 euro.

The budget plans both income and expenses of 16 000 euro.

The Auditors' report suggests the approval of accounts and balance for the financial year 2002 with the remark that «a double reimbursement was done (to the Vice-president) where copies were used for documentation».

Balance and Auditors' report and the budget for 2003 are unanimously approved.

Forthcoming events organised by national associations

- **Germany:** in Berlin. Date to be decided between end May and June. About communication technologies and Sony centre.

- **Poland:** 13-16 May. Programme distributed. Answers by April 20. The Polish delegate is asked to postpone the visit by one day in order to include Saturday night because of air fare costs.

- **Italy:** 12 –16 May. Heart technologies and oncology in Saluggia (Torino) and Milan. All travel costs will be paid. Programme will follow before Easter. Italy announced a big geology meeting to be held in Florence in 2004. Paola De Paoli says also that she will write a history of EUSJA since its foundation, since the co-founder was Giancarlo Masini, who died in January.

- **Croatia:** marine biology in 2003.
- **Austria:** in October 2003. Research engineering.
- **Sweden** (not yet sure) may be with Finland. End September – October. Biotechnologies.
- **France:** Grenoble ESRS + Cern. In October. Programme not yet defined.
- **Russia:** is still trying to organise a visit for September 2003.

Forthcoming events organised by EUSJA

- **Nobel Prizes** in psychology and medicine in Lindau in July. For 10-15 journalists. Delegates should alert their members.
- **ESF general assembly** in Strasbourg, end November. Hotel accommodation paid by ESF. Event to be organised with the French colleagues.

Support to organisers of visits in Eastern Countries

After a brief discussion, the President's proposal to give Russia, Poland, Croatia and Germany 2000 euro each as a support for the organisation of visits, with the possibility for the EUSJA Board to extend the support to 3000 euro after having seen a budget and the proposal is unanimously approved, with one abstention.

Editor's note: Some of the study tours and other events mentioned in these minutes have since taken place, or are about to do so. It is hoped to carry a round-up of reports on these in the next issue of Eusja News. There is a report on the Eusja/EU Brussels meeting on the Eusja website.

The leporello, the Eusja information leaflet, folds twice. It can be ordered from Eusja secretariat.

Raising public awareness of science

The President tells the whole story about the two tentative projects with the V° EC programme. Now it is on VI° EC Programme and the intention is to try again.

Nuorteva, Finland, suggests that the subject already presented should not be repeated and says it should be suitable to use the Science and Society plan of the VI° EC Framework.

The President says he is already in touch with Rainer Gerold, EC Director of research in VI° EC Programme

Sophie Coisne, France, says the commissioner for research, Philippe Busquin, invited EUSJA to meet him in June. This meeting is unanimously approved. The President's proposal that the group who will meet Philippe Busquin will be composed of the EUSJA President and Vice-president, Sophie Coisne (France), Jussi Nuorteva (Finland) and Jens Degett (ESF) is accepted.

Paola De Paoli, Italy, says that when Monsieur Busquin launched the Science Communication Programme she was invited to participate in the work. There she also mentioned EUSJA's activities.

World Federation

The President explained that he himself and the Vice-president had an important role in drafting the constitution, which has been distributed together with the declaration of the third conference on science journalism. They participated at the international conference in São José dos Campos (Brazil), where 300 journalists participated and accepted a resolution in favour of the foundation of a World Federation (cf. details in Annual Report below). Neither the president nor the vice-president caused any costs to the

What do we do?
Eusja acts as a network between science journalists throughout Europe. Our aim is to facilitate gathering of information, promote discussions on topics related to journalism and to open a forum for broader reporting on European science.

Study trips in Europe
The national associations in co-operation with Eusja regularly organize international study trips in their countries for science journalists. The aim is primarily to visit interesting science and research institutions that would otherwise be closed to journalists, but also to bring science journalists from different countries together. Four to five events take place every year, where one or two journalists are invited from each country.

East-West exchange
Eusja also promotes and finances exchange between science journalists from eastern and western Europe.

Who finances Eusja?
Eusja is financed by its member associations, but receives website and secretariat facilities from ESF – the European Science Foundation – in Strasbourg, France. Eusja is fully independent of any political and/or commercial parties or interests.

What is Eusja?
Eusja is a not-for-profit umbrella organization for the national science journalists' associations in Europe. Eusja has today (May 2002) 23 member associations. The Eusja secretariat is situated in Strasbourg, France, where the national delegates meet once a year at the general assembly.

Contacts
You will find our website with contacts, resources, mailinglist etc. at <http://www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm>. There you will also find links to the member associations' websites, reports from and news about future Eusja events and a newsletter in English.

EUSJA
– European Union of Science Journalists' Associations.

“Your network to science reporting throughout Europe.”

www.esf.org/eusja/index.htm

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EUSJA by their participation.

A general discussion starts. Paola De Paoli, Italy, reports she discussed the constitution with the Italian Board but they could not decide about it because two things are not clear: a) article 3.2 concerning the access of individual science journalists and b) article 7 about finance. (These problems have both been resolved in the new constitution: individual membership is not possible, but there is an umbrella organisation for members from countries that do not have a national association. The federation is clearly planned as a low-budget organisation; annual expenses should not exceed 3000 to 4000 euro. Conferences will have to be covered by sponsorship.)

Jussi Nuorteva, Finland, claims that the participation of EUSJA's representatives in the Brazil Conference was not «fairly communicated» in detail to all delegates. There has been a lack of transparency. Moreover the proposal has to be discussed with association members and there has not been enough time.

Liisa Savunen, Finland, says it is difficult to accept the constitution of a body which doesn't exist.

The President adds that if a national association enters the Federation, it has the right to vote; if it doesn't want to enter, it will be represented by EUSJA (which has one vote in total).

Jens Degett, ESF, explains that the constitution is only a draft to be discussed. He says that he thinks the Federation is a really good idea.

Kaianders Sempler, Sweden, the treasurer, asks about costs. The President answers again that costs are not important since international organisations are interested.

The President suggests as a compromise: 1) to vote whether the Assembly should now vote on immediate adherence or not; 2) to postpone the decision until the end of July, by which date each national association should communicate its decision by e-mail to the Board.

With 12 to 2 (1 abstention) the Assembly votes against immediate adherence.

2) With 14 to 1 the Assembly decides that by the end of July, the national associations have to send their decision about being themselves single members of the World Federation and about EUSJA becoming a member of the World Federation.

Jussi Nuorteva, Finland, asks what would happen if some associations do not answer. The President says EUSJA will enter the Federation if the majority decides EUSJA has to enter.

Newsletter

Three newsletters appeared in 2002. Applause to Anna Nolan and Kaianders Sempler for the big effort they are making.

Leporello

The President asks delegates to use the Leporello, which Kai Sempler has prepared, in all their contacts, even if it is not updated.

Website

The Assembly unanimously approves the proposal that EUSJA should have its own website linked with ESF. Kaianders Sempler, Sweden, will co-operate with Michael Kenward.

The Meeting ends at a quarter to eight, with thanks of the President to all active members of EUSJA; to Sabine Schott, EUSJA Secretary; and to Jens Degett, ESF, for his continuous co-operation.

Two reports given by Jens Degett follow the General Assembly, one on a comparative study of the knowledge of science in the US and Europe, the other on the European Science Open Forum, which will be held in Stockholm on 25-28 August 2004.

Annual Report 2002

Introduction:

This is my third report, and it is the last but one, since we will have the next election of the Board in 2004. 2002, I must apologize, was not the best year for myself as far as EUSJA is concerned. My time was extremely limited owing to very stressing and time-consuming work in connection with our national exhibition which partly took place in my home-town, secondly also to health reasons. I can promise you, though, that I have the firm intention to dedicate a record amount of time to EUSJA in 2003.

And this will be necessary: the world crisis launched by the conflict between Good and Evil will have unforeseeable consequences, and it may well turn out to have consequences in particular for the economy. As we had to learn in the nineties, low sponsorship affects the activities of all science journalists' associations, which may suffer under budget problems. Against this background, it will be important that the EUSJA will try to provide means for the organisation of the contacts that are so important to us.

As you know, this year one of the eminent promoters and founders of the EUSJA, Giancarlo Masini, died. The Board had met him personally on the occasion of a Board meeting in Milano. I would like to express my condolences to our Italian colleagues who have lost a good friend and colleague.

General Assembly

The last General Assembly (2002) took place at an earlier time of the year than in 2001, as we had promised. Many delegates participated, and according to the reactions I have heard it was one of the most fruitful Assemblies in the history of the EUSJA. We did not know at that time, though, that the restaurant where we used to have our traditional closing dinner would cease to exist, but I am convinced Sabine has found an excellent substitute.

Members

The map showing the countries whose science journalists' associations are members of the EUSJA still shows a few white spots in Europe. The Board has made several contacts in order to try to fill these gaps.

• **Belgium:** We are now in possession of a list of Belgian science journalists, and we will contact them and

try to motivate them to re-activate their association. In view of European policy and connections it would be very helpful if we had some colleagues in Bruxelles.

- **Romania:** Vice-president Istvan Palugyai is in contact with colleagues there, but an association is still beyond the horizon.

- **Czech Republic:** Colleagues from this country seem to be willing to move and found an association.

- As regards **Germany**, we are happy to report that contacts have been made between the two «competing» associations TELL and the Wissenschaftspressekonferenz. It could result at least in more regular collaboration.

Apart from this, we have started to «re-animate» associations who only seem to exist on paper. We have asked all associations to send in their constitutions and the latest list of Board members so that we will first have a good documentation and, secondly, can judge if an association is still active. This information should of course appear in our website.

Board meetings

We had two meetings, and apart from this, most topics were dealt with by e-mail. In January 2003 we met at the President's home in Switzerland and discussed 24 different topics during two days. The second meeting took place in Strasbourg in connection with the General Assembly.

Apart from this, the Board has been in extensive contact via e-mail. Our main concerns were the events, contacts with members (old and possibly new), the World Federation of Science Journalists (the EUSJA provided the basic text for the constitution), finances (especially concerning resources within the EU programme Raising Public Awareness of Science) and the website.

The Board has been co-operating in a very friendly atmosphere, and I wish all of my successors as impressive fellow Board members as I have. As I said on the occasion of my election, I want to hand over my office after four years, which means that at the next General Assembly a new president should be elected. We do not have elections in 2003, but I would like to invite all delegates to think over this question and to send proposals for the next person to preside over our Union. As some of you may remember, I was asked an hour before the meeting Strasbourg three years ago if I would take over. It is up to you to judge where this was a wise decision: it was certainly not the optimal way of picking a candidate.

Events

Three major events were organised last year: one in Switzerland, one in Finland and Estonia, and one in Germany and Sweden. All three proved to be very successful with a high number of participants.

In Switzerland, we visited the national exhibition Expo.02 which seems to have impressed all participants; we had additional rather spectacular visits, e.g. at Nestlé and at a research station for marmots (which may sound funny, but they are an important research object even for the NASA because they know very well how to sleep for a long time and wake up again, which knowledge might be useful for trips to Mars).

In Finland (one of the very few countries that sticks to

our rule that every member should organise something every fifth year) we enjoyed, once again, a perfectly organised trip with many impressive subjects and even the experience of driving a wood cutting machine in a simulator. A model for the future was the combination of two national trips: our Estonian colleagues organised part of the trip in their home country and they even managed to get a nice apéritif with their state's president (a former scientist) at his datcha.

In Germany and Sweden we visited locations where advanced biotechnology research was taking place.

Apart from that, several regional or bilateral meetings took place, as well as invitations from member associations' to journalists for individual visits to national events.

But this is not enough: we should have five big events per year! The prospects seem a little bit better for 2003 as some very concrete plans have already been developed. They will be discussed later on in this General Assembly.

Financial support.

Last year, we had a visitor from the important German TV station Deutsche Welle at the General Assembly. His idea was to set up a TV programme on European research that could be diffused globally on the Deutsche Welle's world-wide network. The EUSJA should participate as a sort of clearing and mediating body to provide competent journalists with local knowledge of scientific sites.

The president, who had already filed an application in the previous year, furnished the necessary information for our partners; but unfortunately, the application had no success. Its assessment was even slightly lower than the application we had developed the previous year.

These two attempts were both started within the 5th Framework Programme. The Board is convinced that the EUSJA should not give up and should try again to develop an intelligent programme that could help both science communicators and the EUSJA as organisation. The chances might be better within the 6th framework programme.

World Federation

In November 2002, the constitution for a World Federation of Science Journalists was founded in Brazil. The President and the Vice-president were invited to the meeting, which took place in São Jose dos Campos near São Paulo.

The draft of this constitution (prepared by our Board) had been sent to all EUSJA members beforehand, and a number of comments came in that were all presented and discussed by the initiators present in Brazil. After long, but fruitful, discussions the constitution was accepted by the initiators; all ideas that had come in (except the fundamental one on the necessity of such a body, of course) could be implemented in the final text which was widely published in professional newsletters and websites as well as a subsequent declaration. Both texts have also been sent to the EUSJA delegates. It was also decided that the WFSJ should have its seat at the ESF's homebase in Strasbourg and that Jens Degett should serve a secretary and co-ordinator. He will be

able to give more details. I am happy to hear that he will continue this job although he will leave Strasbourg.

Three remarks:

First: The WFSJ is particularly important for journalists from so-called Third World-countries. They are numerous, but it is sometimes difficult for them to get first-hand contacts with scientific sites and colleagues from the industrial countries where the bulk of science happens.

Second: The WFSJ is not a competitor of the EUSJA. I have been asked whether we should not give up the EUSJA in favour of the WFSJ. Of course, this is nonsense. The EUSJA (as well as other «continental» organisations) will always be useful, in particular with regard to the organisation of events with physical contact of their participants. The WFSJ will rather be an organisation that works on an electronic basis via the internet. Only every three years shall there be a conference. Accordingly, the WFSJ should not consume a lot of money. The presidency will usually go the member that organises the next world conference.

Third: Article 9 of the constitution says that the constitution will enter into force when ratified by a minimum of six members. Of course, this will take some time as we have to wait for the General Assemblies of the future members to decide on this question. The Board will give further information under the item concerned.

Communication:

Three newsletters were produced by Anna Nolan and Kaianders Sempler in 2002. The newsletters prove to be more and more interesting, a fact which makes them more and more indispensable. Note that it is now also accessible on our website. I assume that the next one will also contain a short report on this General Assembly. (Le voila! You are reading it!)

Sorry for the delay of the distribution of the Minutes of the last General Assembly; we had serious troubles in getting everything properly together. I have the strong intention to produce the next Minutes shortly after this assembly. We also plan to publish them on the website provided Michael Kenward can do the job.

The last assembly decided to revise the website, and the then Swiss delegate Beat Gerber, an expert in the field, was nominated to perform this task in collaboration with Michael Kenward. Unfortunately (fortunately, though, for him) he now has a new job and can no longer be involved.

Another means of communication, on the other hand, came to reality last year. Kaianders finished the leporello that can serve as a simple means of information for people who do not know the EUSJA. Please use it when you visit international events and make the EUSJA better known in particular among the scientific community. There are still many scientists and scientific organisations without the slightest knowledge about our existence.

Thanks. Finally, I should like to thank all active members of the EUSJA, and ask them to keep up their spirits and continue to participate in its activities. Particular thanks to my colleagues in the Board. Special

thanks to Sabine Schott and Jens Degett who did, as always, valuable work in the background.

*Werner Hadorn
President EUSJA
22nd March, 2003*

News

AlphaGalileo flies free

AlphaGalileo, the Internet press centre for European research in science and the arts, is evolving in its service to the European Research Area.

We are now operating as an not-for-profit company limited by guarantee independent of the UK'S British Association (BA). Under UK law such companies have no shareholders and can only use funds they generate to support the purpose for which they have been established. We hope to be known as the "AlphaGalileo Foundation".

The BA and ourselves believe that it is only by loosening our ties with the UK that can we become a fully effective European service. The new company will continue to operate closely with the current nine partner nations – Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal and the United Kingdom. It is hoped that more nations will join the collaboration.

We remain totally committed to providing the best possible service to the European Research Area.. "Next year we look forward to widening our circle of national partners to deliver an improved service to promote Europe's exciting, world class research."

Those who have been with the service from the outset will remember that the AlphaGalileo project was created by the UK's Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council in 1997. AlphaGalileo has always sought to be a European operation through its early links with Euroscience, the French government, CERN and ESA. Following the formal launch of the service by the UK Minister of Science in September 1998 in Cardiff, AlphaGalileo transferred to the management of BA, but was funded by France, Germany and the UK. Most recently the service has been co-funded by its partner nations and the European Commission.

Full details of the AlphaGalileo service are at www.alphagalileo.org. You can reach the duty team member by emailing alphagalileo@alphagalileo.org.

*Peter Green <peter.green@alphagalileo.org>
Director, AlphaGalileo*

Here is the unedited, verbatim final version of the WFSJ Constitution. You will notice that there are some gaps in the numbering. This is because several sections of the draft were deleted in the final, agreed version:

WORLD FEDERATION OF SCIENCE JOURNALISTS CONSTITUTION

Preamble

Although there are distinct centers of excellence around the world, much scientific research is no longer being confined by geographical barriers or political boundaries. Science news of interest and importance to people everywhere can originate anywhere. At the same time, many problems and challenges of the modern age – climate change, runaway population, emerging diseases, environmental pollution, ecological degradation, and even techno-terrorism – are global issues.

The concept of a truly international, non-political, all-inclusive organization – a World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) – is a direct response to the new awareness of science's internationalism. A proposal for such a federation was made at the First World Conference in Tokyo in 1992 and later formally included as part of the statement issued by delegates to the Second World Conference of Science Journalists, held in Hungary in 1999. This statement, known as "The Budapest Declaration", specifically recognized Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression ... without interference ... and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

Within this framework, the WFSJ is designed to answer some specific needs of science journalists. Despite their independent nature, journalists can be influenced and educated by their colleagues from other countries. While many issues are the same no matter where one works, there are political, social, and cultural differences that shape both science and journalism in different parts of the world. It is professionally healthy to discover and appreciate the quality and quantity of good reporting – and research – outside one's national borders. Equally important, just as scientists benefit from the contacts made through international organizations, similar associations of journalists can create invaluable mutual-assistance networks that can span the globe, especially in the era of the Internet.

On another level, the WFSJ is intended as an instrument for making major scientific questions and technical issues transparent and addressing the scientific

illiteracy of much of the world's citizenry. This means that science journalists can no longer be mere translators of science – clever spokespeople for researchers – but rather they must be thoughtful critics and commentators, linking the world of science and technology to the daily life of ordinary persons, clarifying the processes of research and discovery, and making the public aware of the social, economic, and political context of science and technology, and its impact on society.

In short, the WFSJ has the potential to promote a new culture of science journalism, one that can cope with the challenges of the 21st century and live up to the principles of civil society and democracy. Only well-informed and educated people can understand the consequences of scientific issues, or the applications of research, and ultimately support or reject them.

Article 1: Mission

1.2 The WFSJ supports, respects, and works to promote the rights, safety, and livelihoods of science journalists in all countries, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, or sexual preference.

Article 2: Purposes and Objectives

2.1 The WFSJ strives to improve communication between the world scientific community and general society by promoting and defending the free flow of information both within that community and to the general public through the news and information media.

2.2 The WFSJ maintains a website and other means of global communication for disseminating information about advances, achievements, opportunities, and trends in science journalism, as well as current issues, problems, and threats to the field and its practitioners.

2.5 The WFSJ coordinates periodic convenings of world conferences of science journalists.

2.6 The WFSJ helps to establish and maintain professional standards in science journalism.

2.7 The WFSJ encourages the foundation of national associations of science journalism where there are none.

Article 3: Membership

3.3 Prospective members must apply to the General Assembly and be approved by two-thirds majority of a "Membership Committee" appointed by the Executive Board and endorsed by the General Assembly. The criteria for membership in all categories will be set by the committee and posted on the WFSJ website.

3.5 Members who have not paid their contributions lose the right to vote.

Article 4: General Assembly

4.1 The General Assembly, composed of all members, is the primary deliberative body of the WFSJ.

4.3 A majority of members must be represented at the General Assembly to make any changes or amendments to the Constitution, with such action requiring a two-thirds vote of those in attendance.

4.4 For all other issues, a majority of members present at a General Assembly meeting may effect an action, subject to majority ratification by electronic (email) polling of the membership.

4.5 If matters need to be decided upon between General Assemblies, or if a majority of members is not present at an Assembly, or if an Assembly is postponed for an inordinate period, an electronic (e-mail) vote will be called, with a time limit of eight weeks set for responses, with replies from a majority of members necessary to effect an action.

4.6 The General Assembly elects the WFSJ Executive Board and the President.

Article 5: Executive Board

5.1 The Executive Board is the administrative and operational body of the WFSJ and consists of seven members: a President, two Vice-presidents, one Secretary, one Treasurer, and two at-large members.

5.2 Members of the Board are elected for periods of three years. Re-election is possible.

5.3 The Board acts within the regulations of the Constitution and those decisions imposed by the General Assembly, but also within the limits of a budget accepted by the General Assembly. It reports to the General Assembly via an electronic newsletter distributed individually and also posted on the WFSJ website. The communication shall include an annual administrative report as well as financial accounts updated and submitted every six months.

Article 6: Communication

6.2 English is the standard language of use within the WFSJ.

Article 7: Finances

7.1 WFSJ income is derived primarily from membership fees. However, funds may be accepted from non-profit, non-political sponsors and donors, provided such donors do not interfere with the independence of the WFSJ.

Article 8: Dissolution

8.1 The WFSJ can be dissolved only by a three-fourths majority vote of all members.

8.2 In the case of WFSJ's dissolution, any assets remaining after legal and administrative obligations shall be distributed among the members.

Article 9: Activation

9.1 These articles of constitution, as presented on November 27, 2002, will enter into force when ratified by a minimum of six members.

9.2 For legal and administrative purposes, the WFSJ is officially located at the headquarters of the European Science Foundation (ESF) in Strasbourg, France.

São José dos Campos, Brazil
27 NOVEMBER 2002

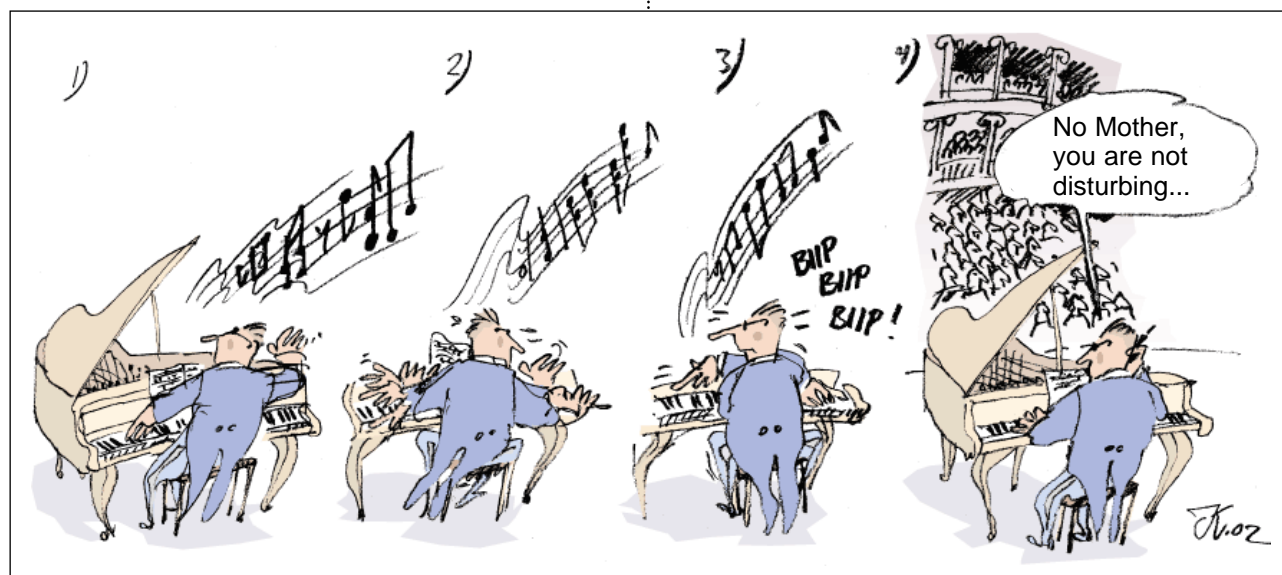
The ad hoc Founding Committee:

Martin Yriart, Argentina / Spain
Ulysses Capozzoli, Brazil
Fabiola de Oliveira, Canada
Jean-Marc Fleury, Canada
Véronique Morin, Canada
Jiang Yan, China
Lisbeth Fog, Colombia
Jens Degett, Denmark
Wolfgang Goede, Germany
Istvan Palugyai, Hungary
Darryl D'Monte, India
Kenji Makino, Japan
Mariko Takahashi, Japan
Fatima Amade, Mozambique
Prakash Khanal, Nepal

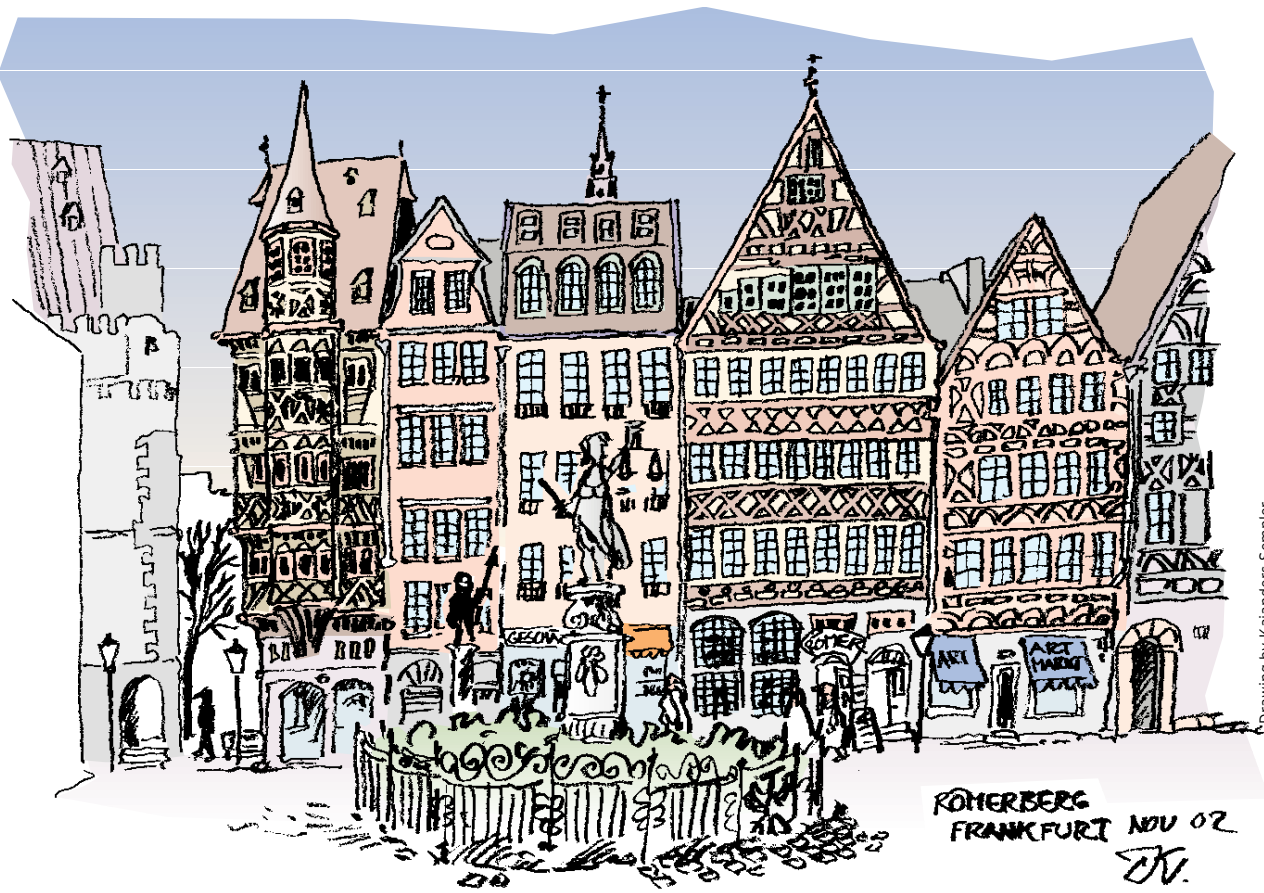
Werner Hadorn, Switzerland
James Cornell, USA
Jim Detjen, USA

The Executive Board:

Véronique Morin, Canada, President
Lisbeth Fog, Colombia, Vice-president
Werner Hadorn, Switzerland, Vice-president
Prakash Khanal, Nepal, Secretary
Mariko Takahashi, Japan, Treasurer
James Cornell, USA, At-large
Istvan Palugyai, Hungary, At-large
Jens Degett, Denmark, Executive Secretary



Cartoon by Kaianders Sempler



Drawing by Kaianders Sempler

Highlights of Europe: Frankfurt.

Eusja News

Newsletter of the European Union of Science Journalists' Associations. Any views expressed here are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Eusja or the editor.

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Eusja website

The Eusja website at www.esf.org/eusja/ is a useful resource for science journalists. Here you will find information such as programmes for trips, messages from the Eusja president, Eusja News, helpful practical tips on science journalism and so on. Kaianders Sempler of the SFVJ, the Swedish association, is the new e-minder for Eusja. It's also worthwhile checking out www.absw.org.uk, as there is a lot of information there that is relevant outside the UK.

EUSJA-L discussion list

The EUSJA-L discussion list is open to all journalists belonging to Eusja member associations. Any topic relating to with science and technology journalism can be debated, and helpful tips can be exchanged. To subscribe send the message subscribe EUSJA-L firstname lastname to the address: <listserv.rl.ac.uk>.