

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT General Assembly at EPSA11 in Athens, October 5-8, 2011**

The last meeting of the General Assembly in 2009 articulated the tasks for preparing the next conference and realizing the publication of our journal and proceedings with Springer. Since the 2<sup>nd</sup> conference in Amsterdam in 2009 EPSA we've successfully achieved the publication of the *European Journal for Philosophy of Science* (EJPS), based on the signed contract with Springer. The editors (editor in chief *Carl Hofer* and deputy editor *Mauro Dorato*) together with their 5 associate editors and 31 editorial board members succeeded with the publication in time, currently with the first volume (2 issues) in circulation since the beginning of 2011. It is clear that we have to further support this ambitious project and its editorial team, especially in order to increase subscriptions and attract excellent submissions together with the publisher and the transfer of the membership management.

In the meantime the selected proceedings of the Madrid conference are available with 2 volumes (ed. by *Mauricio Suárez*, *Mauro Dorato*, *Miklós Rédei*) and the proceedings of the Amsterdam conference (ed. by *Henk de Regt*, *Samir Okasha*, *Stephan Hartmann*) are to be published soon. This publication package (journal and proceedings) is now part of the benefits for the biennial EPSA membership beginning with this year.

Another task was enabling the conference here in Athens starting with the nomination of the PC consisting of 31 scholars, chaired by *Dennis Dieks* and *Kristina Rolin* and approaching 3 invited speakers (*Nancy Cartwright*, *Helen Longino*, and *Dan Sperber*), the first of them being sponsored as the 1<sup>st</sup> Springer Lecture. I am confident that EPSA11 here in Athens through its Local Organizing Committee with 8 members headed by *Stathis Psillos* as Chair and *Theodore Arabatzis* as Co-Chair, will prove to be another successful performance after Amsterdam - despite all the difficult political and economic problems currently going on.

I am pleased to announce that our next conference EPSA13 has been scheduled in Helsinki, where a rich expertise and excellent scholarly environment is given. In addition, during the last months the official Call for hosting EPSA 2015 was running till the end of September.

We've attracted new philosophers (although shifting between paying and non-paying members) from all over Europe and intensified the collaboration with the ESF-Research Networking Programme "The Philosophy of Science in a European Perspective" (PSE), which is still running to 2013. This year we sponsored the 1<sup>st</sup> EPSA lecture - delivered by *Philippe*

*Mongin* (Paris) in Nancy - at the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS/DLMPS), of which EPSA became an international member.

These demanding tasks required a permanent teamwork within the Steering Committee (SC), which convened last year, May 7 in Vienna, where we decided on the new biennial membership fees, dealt with the membership expansion strategy and the policy for cooperation with other associations – with the preference for addressing first international associations like the *Philosophy of Science Association* (PSA), with which we negotiated an agreement for a double membership. Most probably, after first contacts a cooperation agreement with the *European Society for History of Science* (ESHS) will be achieved – similar to the arrangement between PSA and HSS.

In order to improve the service for our members we re-launched the Website and released the *EPSA Newsletter* as an electronic periodical (in PDF-format), in addition to a *Folder* for advertisement and public relations.

Another stepping-point of the last Assembly was the adaptation of the constitution that was made necessary by the concrete work and new requirements, mainly the amendment regarding the establishment of a Nomination Committee (NC). The SC had to establish such a NC consisting of 5 people who worked really hard in order to provide the Assembly the required list of candidates for the elections. (Our thanks go to its speaker *Martin Carrier* and the other members *Jan Faye*, *Carl Hofer*, *Berna Kilinc*, *Stathis Psillos*). An evaluation of this procedure proved the necessity of another modification of the related paragraph of the statutes, which is on the agenda of this Assembly.

For the next 2 years the most important aims of the new elected SC will be – mainly continuing and improving the previous activities enriched by new initiatives:

- to strengthen the scientific and institutional cooperation in the field of philosophy of science in Europe and to further European philosophy of science – thereby continuing the flourishing exchange with non-European colleagues (like DLMPS, PSA, HOPOS etc.);
- to improve the organization of the biennial conferences with advice and expertise aiming at the extension of the accepted papers, but only on the basis of scholarly excellence;

- to facilitate the work of the *EJPS* in close connection with the SC's expertise - to increase the number of members and to attract the younger generation of researchers, especially the still under-represented female philosophers, thereby widening the European geographical balance;
- to professionalize the administration at the headquarter and to improve the overall visibility with the Website and Internet-performance, preferably with the *Newsletter*;
- to foster continuity and high quality through permanent work flow with members of the SC, the EPSA and the editors of *EJPS*;
- to optimize the membership management in connection with the projected transfer to Springer;
- to reinforce and enhance the networking with national and international associations.

With the improvement of our conferences and the professional setting of our publications (journal and proceedings) we are certainly on the road to a flourishing philosophy of science in Europe, which has to embrace the whole continent and to include the whole range of all sciences (natural, social, cultural) from a systematic as well as historical point of view. This could be another European Union as a pluralist micro-model and ideal-type in the cultural and scholarly domain.

*Friedrich Stadler*

(EPSA President, 2009-2011)