



The President's welcome to:

FEMS EUROMAT – A TRULY PAN-EUROPEAN EVENT

One and a half years ago the Czech Republic and 9 other European countries returned to Europe by joining the EU. This amongst other things made FEMS, the Federation of European Materials Societies, come to Prague this year, to one of the cultural capitals of Europe.



Wilfried Kurz

FEMS as the Federation of 23 European Materials Societies may, to some extent, be compared to the EU; many but not all societies participate; critical questions about FEMS' usefulness are part of its life. The Executive Committee of FEMS tries hard to be relevant to its member societies and to act as an integrator and platform for exchange between European Materials Scientists and Engineers. We believe it to be essential to pursue and develop strongly amongst others two of our activities:

- Play an active role in the long-term strategy of European Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) at

the level of the EU Parliament and Commission. The new *European Materials Forum (EMF)* and *FEMS Presidents' Day* are promising actions in this direction.

- Establish contacts and create information fluxes between national societies of MSE and their members – engineers, scientists, and educators – through the organisation of biennial *EUROMAT* and *JUNIOR-EUROMAT* conferences. *EUROMAT* is the premier pan-European event covering the complete range of Materials Science and Technology – from structural to biological materials, from polymers to metals, from processing to characterisation.

EUROMAT 2005 in Prague, following Lausanne in 2003, is No. 9 in the series. It is held at the site of the Prague Technical University. In 16 parallel sessions and 50 symposia the full range of Materials Science and Technology will be covered. 1350 authors will present 1800 papers (roughly equal numbers of lectures and posters) to an

audience of 1700 participants. *EUROMAT 2005* is a truly international conference with participants from 60 countries, approximately 2/3 from Europe and an important participation (22%) from Asia. On the day before the conference, several short courses will be organised on topics of actual interest.

This conference is also the place for awarding the three *FEMS Prizes*; the European Materials Medal, the highest award of FEMS to Prof. Jeff de Hosson, Groningen, NL, and the two prizes to highly promising young materials scientists; the FEMS Materials Science and Technology Prize to Prof. Britta Nestler, Karlsruhe, DE and the FEMS Lecturer Award to Dr. Søren Fæster Nielsen, Roskilde, DK.

The following societies participated in organising this event: the Czech Society for New Materials and Technologies (CSNMT), the Metal Science Society of the Czech Republic (MSS), and The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society (TMS), USA. The man-



Delegates from 35 European countries will participate in *EUROMAT 2005*

agement of the conference was assured by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Materialkunde (DGM).

Handling of such a conference needs a lot of hard work and skill in preparation and organisation. Many thanks go especially to Dr. Peter Schepp and his coworkers from DGM for their excellent and highly successful conference management. Let me take this occasion to thank also the organising committee, formed by Professors Bill Clyne, Cambridge, George Kaptay, Miskolc, Pavel Lukac, Prague, and Robert Singer, Erlangen.

Without the incredible engagement, specifically of

Prof. Clyne, in putting this impressive programme together the conference would have quite a different face.

I wish you, speaker, poster author, and conference participant a highly interesting and stimulating meeting and also some beautiful days in the marvellous city of Prague.

Prof. Wilfried Kurz
President of FEMS

The next conference in the *EUROMAT* series will take place in Nuremberg, Bavaria, during September 2007. See future issues of FEMS News for details.

Significant Progress Achieved!

The EUROPEAN MATERIALS FORUM (EMF)



Robert Singer (Centre) – FEMS Vice-President and FEMS Representative in the EMF

Significant progress has been achieved in the European Materials Forum since our last report appeared in the June 2004 issue of FEMS News. Thus claims Robert Singer, who represents FEMS and its Member Societies on the EMF.

To begin with, the Forum, a coalition of independent organisations representative (or supportive) of communities in Europe dealing with Materials Science, Technology and Innovation, now has Legal Statutes which outline its mission and 13 specific objectives, prime amongst which are:

- To provide the authoritative and influential voice of the materials science and technology community in Europe,

leveraging its diversified but strong base;

- To stimulate and foster coordination of European materials research and science policy for the benefit of the European Union to accelerate progress towards a truly European research area.

Three EMF Presidents have been nominated for the first 3 years: **Zhores Alferov**, of the Ioffe Physico-Technical Institute in St. Petersburg, a Nobel Prize-winner in Physics in 2000 (for Research); **Michal Kleiber**, Polish Minister of Science (for Politics); and, **Ekkehard Schultz**, CEO of Thyssen-Krupp (for Industry).

A number of Vice-Presidents have already been appointed, including: **Robert Singer**, Vice President of FEMS (for Indus-

try); **Jean-Pierre Massue** of the Council of Europe and **Gabriel Crean**, Director of NMRC, Ireland's ICT Research Institute (for International Affairs); **Ralph Linkohr**, former German MEP (for Parliament); **Neil Williams** of the European Science Foundation (for National Research Structure); **Hermann Grimmeiss** of E-MRS (for Education); **Leopoldo Guimarães** of the University of Lisbon (for University Rectors); **Raymond Seltz** of Euroscience (for Communication).

In addition to FEMS, the founder members of the EMF include: **ESF** (European Science Foundation); **E-MRS** (European Materials Research Society); **EPS** (European Physical Society); **ALLEA** (All European Academies); **EUROBIOMATIX** (European Science-Industry Consortium for Biomaterials and Health Care); **EUROSCIENCE**; **ESRF** (European Synchrotron Radiation Facility); **ONERA** (French Aeronautics and Space Research Centre); and **FER** (European Federation of Scientific and Technical Networks of Cooperation).

At its most recent meeting in Strasbourg it was decided to try to initiate the following actions:

1. To meet with the European Parliament's **Committee on Industry, External Trade, Research and Energy**. This will take place in Strasbourg on 28th September. It will be emphasised that the Forum is not just a lobby organisation but represents the European materials community at large, with support from over 130 national and European organisations and societies.
2. To explore the possibility of meeting with **Mr. Janez Potočnik**, EU Commissioner for Science and Research.

The agendas for these meetings are now being

prepared and in this context the discussions to take place during **FEMS Presidents' Day** in Prague will be very important.

Several other fields of activity are also being identified. The EMF is addressing the exchange and transfer of knowledge and information, which is believed to be less successful in Europe than in the USA. Consideration is being given to the formation of a sub-committee to review the whole question of education and the relationships influencing research.

Another concern relates to the lower expenditure on research in Europe than in the USA. The EMF will strive to raise the public's perception of science and its relevance to society.

SOHN International Symposium



Prof. H. Y. Sohn

FEMS is cosponsoring this major TMS Symposium to honour Prof. H. Y. Sohn for his ground-breaking work on materials processing. The event will take place in San Diego on 27-31 August 2006.

www.tms.org/Sohn2006.html

Back Issues of FEMS News and much more information about the Federation, as well as forthcoming events and job opportunities, can now be downloaded from the FEMS website at: www.FEMS.org

FEMS news

is available at the FEMS website (www.FEMS.org). It can be downloaded as a PDF file in screen resolution or as a ready-to-print PDF file. Thus FEMS news can be inserted in national materials science magazines.

FEMS news

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