



EurEta |

European Higher Engineering and Technical Professionals Association
Europäischer Verband höherer Berufe des Ingenieurwesens und der Technik
Association Européenne des Professions Supérieures d'Ingénieurs et de la Technique

2003 Annual Report of the Board to the General Assembly

EurEta continues to play an important and influential role as the pan-European professional body for higher engineering and technical professionals. 2003 saw a number of key developments which affected the Association, particularly relating to the European Union's aim further to facilitate the free movement of professionals. These developments are set out in this annual report and have been considered by the Board throughout the year in the light of EurEta's vision of being an organisation facilitating learning, development, employment, representation, recognition and free movement in the engineering profession.

At the end of 2003 there were 1 594 EurEta registrants, compared with 1 582 the previous year. The numbers registered from each country and through the International Section, with the 2002 figures given in brackets, are as follows: Denmark 6 (5), Finland 168, (161), Hungary 19 (15), Italy 652 (710), Sweden 30 (28), Switzerland 658 (604), International 61 (48). As in previous years the Board are working to raise the profile of EurEta among organisations and individual engineers in order to increase the number of registrants. Individuals who, for whatever reason, are unable to register through a National Member are being encouraged to apply for registration through the International Section.

The proposal from the European Commission for a new Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications has been much discussed and a final draft is to be presented to the European Parliament early in 2004. EurEta supports the introduction of a common platform for engineering, binding on all member states of the European Union. The Association's comments on the Directive, together with proposals for a common platform, have been conveyed to the Directorate General for the Internal Market as well as to individuals who have influence on the progress of the Directive, including the Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs and the Internal Market (JURI Committee), Stefano Zappalà, and his colleague on the Committee, Evelyne Gebhardt.

The President, Urs Keller, the Vice President, Raffaele Gulizia, and the Secretary-General, Graham Guest, were fortunate in being able to meet Stefano Zappalà in Budapest in November, and in December the Secretary-General attended a conference at the European Parliament, hosted by Evelyne Gebhardt, entitled *The future of the liberal professions in Europe*. Close contact over the Directive has been maintained with FEANI, and the Presidents and Secretaries-General of EurEta and FEANI met in Brussels in May to share views not only on the Directive, but also on other matters of relevance to members of the engineering profession in Europe. In addition the President attended the 2003 General Assembly of FEANI in Warsaw in October, thereby further consolidating the relationship with FEANI. During the meeting the President had successful talks with the representatives of a number of FEANI National Members, bringing closer the aim of a common platform and better understanding between the two organisations.

A Working Group met, under the Chairmanship of Lennart Alfredsson, in March in Germany and in November in England. Progress was made in updating the information available on national formation systems, in reviewing the Registration Regulations and Registration

Handbook, and in formulating proposals for a dual system of EurEta registration. The Working Group have worked closely with the Registration Committee, also chaired by Lennart Alfredsson, and it is hoped that proposals for the introduction of a Technician-level of registration, to complement the Engineer-level, will be ready for submission to the General Assembly in 2004.

In 2003 Erik Jensen took up new employment and resigned from the Registration Committee. Erik had played an active part in the development of EurEta for many years and the Board, on behalf of the Association, wish him well for the future. At the end of the year Lennart Alfredsson also announced that he was leaving his current employment and that his new role would mean that he had to resign from EurEta. He has agreed to remain as Chairman of the Registration Committee until the 2004 General Assembly, when there will be an opportunity to thank him in person for the valuable contribution he has made over the years to the success of EurEta in general and its registration process in particular. The Registration Committee continue to carry out their important work of adjudicating upon applications for registration and the Board thank them for this and for their other activities. Thanks go too to the Swiss National Committee for their support in processing applications through the International Section.

At the 2003 General Assembly Mariano Magnabosco was re-elected to the Registration Committee for a further four years, and the General Assembly supported the decision of the Board to co-opt Brian Mott to serve as a Board member for a further year from January 2004. Karsten Skyum Pedersen of Denmark and Veikko Ampuja of Finland were elected as Lay Auditors for 2004.

During the year the following business meetings were held: In February both the Board and the Registration Committee met at the President's School, ABB Technikerschule, in Baden; in June meetings of the General Assembly, Board and Registration Committee were kindly hosted in Stockholm by the Swedish National Committee; in November the hospitality of the Hungarian National Committee was extended to the Board for a meeting in Budapest. The November meeting gave the Board an opportunity to discuss developments within the Hungarian engineering formation system.

In February Brian Mott and the Secretary-General attended a seminar organised by the Engineering Council (UK) in London, at which international matters were discussed. In May the President attended the Third International Conference for Professional Engineer and Scientist Organizations in Copenhagen.

Links continue to be maintained with other European and international organisations. Apart from FEANI these include the European Society for Engineering Education (SEFI), the International Association for Continuing Engineering Education (IACEE), the European Council of the Liberal Professions (CEPLIS), and the Institute of Continuing Professional Development (ICPD).

The Board have agreed to make Continuing Professional Development (CPD) a priority for EurEta, and the Secretary-General is formulating a strategy for this, including making contact with other relevant organisations to explore opportunities for collaboration. He has already been working with the ICPD and one of EurEta's Supporting Members, SEMTA, on the production of a business card CD-ROM describing CPD. It is planned to show this at the 2004 General Assembly.

At present there are EurEta National Members in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland, and National Members in Development in Belgium and Hungary. There are five Supporting Members, one in Austria: Technologenverband Wien, one in Cyprus: Higher Technical Institute, and three in the United Kingdom: Engineering Council (UK), Prospect - the trade union for engineers and managers, and SEMTA – the Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies Alliance. The Board have been working to

attract new Members and were pleased in 2003 to have had meetings with representatives from both Latvia and Slovakia.

EurEta continues to operate well as a virtual organisation. All members of the Board have been active in various roles in support of the Association and all National Members have been involved in various ways in the development of their countries' engineering formation systems. For example, Raffaele Gulizia continues, on behalf of EurEta, the very effective lobbying of his contacts in the European Parliament, and EurEta-Italia remains one of the largest National Members in terms of numbers of registrants, along with EurEta-Switzerland. The Swiss Association, with Urs Keller, has been working on new regulations at higher-education level for Mindestvorschriften für Höhere Fachschulen, which will become law in the summer of 2004, and is also involved in the development of a new European Credit Transfer System. Göran Orup continues his efficient stewardship of EurEta's finances as Treasurer and Timo Nieminen is working on a strategy for more actively promoting the Association. Harald Schulte has been successful in gaining recognition for the members of his organisation as "State Certified Engineers", a move that will, it is hoped, allow them to register directly with EurEta and use the title Ing. EurEta. Brian Mott maintains close contact with the engineering profession in the United Kingdom and it is hoped that the UK will soon become a National Member once again. Lennart Alfredsson's roles as Chairman of the Registration Committee and the Working Group have already been mentioned.

Registration, European and international recognition, and free movement continue to be key benefits of EurEta registration. Among other services to registrants is the website at www.eureta.org and, as already mentioned, CPD will be given a high priority in the future. As in previous years National Members, National Members in Development and Supporting Members are urged to make use of the website as a platform for their policies and activities, with appropriate links to their own organisations. Articles about EurEta continue to appear in various publications and all members are asked to publicise the Association as much as possible.

The Board remain sensitive to the varying needs of engineers in the different countries of Europe and once again they look forward to playing their part in responding to these needs in collaboration with the Association's key stakeholders - National Members, National Members in Development, and Supporting Members – as well as with other like-minded organisations.

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