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THE 4th EAS MEETING IN CATANIA

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The 4th Meeting of the European Astronomical Society (EAS) on Progress in European Astrophysics (Facilities, New Instruments and Technologies, Science challenges) was held in Catania (Sicily, Italy) jointly with the 39th Italian Astronomical Society Meeting between September 25–29th of this year (for the sake of brevity on official acronym of the Meeting – JENAM-95 will be used hereafter). Nearly 300 participants representing 34 European states including the dignitaries of EAS have gathered in the Congress Hall of the hotel La Perla Ionica situated on the picturesque Mediterranean seashore only a few dozens of km from the mountain Etna. Both Scientific and Local Organizing Committees plus the Secretariat of JENAM-95 (headed by Prof. M. Rodono and Prof. S. Catalano) have done an enormous preparatory work which encompassed all the aspects of life and activities creating exemplary living and working conditions for the participants of JENAM-95 as well as ensuring rich cultural and recreation programs. The JENAM-95 was generously sponsored by many organizations and institutions including European Commission, Ministry of Universities, Scientific Research and Technology, Catanian University and Catanian observatory, Soros Foundation, European Space Agency, Italian National Space Agency, Ansaldo Energia SpA, Telecom Italia SpA, municipal and regional authorities of Catania region. 80 travel and accomodation grants were allocated for the participants from East European countries and students.

A volume of Abstracts containing summaries of the greater part of scientific contributions submitted to JENAM-95 was issued by the hosts and distributed among the participants. The agenda consisted of both plenary and nine parallel topical sessions (per three at the same time) plus two special sessions and two specially convened Meetings. A full list of invited discourses as well as of the titles of all the topical sessions is given in the Appendix.

During the morning session on September 27th, a Business Meeting of EAS took place.

Nineteen invited reviews dedicated mostly to ongoing or to future large scale astronomical projects, both ground based or cosmic ones, were presented by the world-renowned specialists. In view of the global nature of the most of these

projects, the minds of EAS leading figures are preoccupied with the diverse activities all aimed at encouraging more close scientific cooperation between astronomers of East and West. Here are only some highlights of the most important issues. The European Community countries invest in 1994-1998 millions of ECUs for creating research training networks and for work of postdoctor and postgraduate researchers outside their home countries for the terms ranging between 6 and 24 months (M. Malacarne). Since budgets are short in almost all European countries, the governments are reluctant to commit to new large-scale projects, the percentage of the GNP allocated to scientific research is constantly declining (from 2.5 per cent on the average ten years ago to 2.0 or even 1.5 per cent in most countries). To counteract these tendencies, scientists are urged for:

- i) more exchange of information at the early stages of projects,
- ii) more internationalization of facilities,
- iii) early joint planning at all phases (F. Praderie).

Ex-President of EAS L. Woltjer: "Period of dinosaur is over, we should go faster to meet the scientific and technological challenges of the near future. . . Stable planning is important, more professionalism is needed, archiving of the data within limits is indispensable (and for that you need standartization), multiwavelength approach is highly desirable. . ." Statistical analysis of the published papers in the leading West European and American professional journals reveals that the total amount of the pages published since 1975 has increased by a factor of 1.3-2.0 by 1990 but has stabilized since then (it is difficult to assess the contribution from astronomers from FSU). In several countries too many promising astronomers leave scientific research and prefer business or political careers. It has been announced during the Business Meeting that four subsequent members of the EAS Council, in accordance with the by-law will resign in 1996: B. Kolaczek, M. Rodono, F. Deubner, and the secretary of EAS J. Palous. Thus, elections of the new members of the EAS Council are ahead and the Proposal List will soon be distributed. 15 national or international astronomical societies have joined EAS as its affiliated societies: Royal Astronomical Society, Deutsche Astronomische Gesellschaft, EurAsian Astronomical Society, Croatian, Czech, Hellenic, Polish, Italian, Romanian, Slovakian, Spanish, French, Swiss societies, Ukrainian astronomical association, Dutch Astronomical Club.

One of the important tools in keeping relations of both individual members and the affiliated societies with EAS remains Newsletters of EAS (the editor Dr. T. Courvoisier). Despite various difficulties, Newsletter will be distributed as before among the astronomers from Eastern Europe free of charge. In November, 1994 the first edition of 'Membership and Institutes Directory' was issued and distributed among the EAS members. A new revised issue of it is planned for the coming year. Electronic Service of the Job Register has been established by the authorities of EAS for the sake of young astronomers.

Prof. J.-P. Swings has voluntarily resigned from the post of the treasurer of the EAS even prior to JENAM-95, now the new treasurer, Dr. B. Nordstrom (Denmark), has been formally nominated to this post. The auditors Prof. M. de Groot (Armaha, UK) and Dr M. Kontizas (Thessaloniki) have made a revision of the assets of EAS and suggested several recommendations for improvement.

The budget of EAS for 1996 envisages 27000 Swiss Franks for the expense article (coming mostly from individual membership fees). 10500 Sw. Fr. of this sum will be allocated for publishing three issues of Newsletters and 10000 will go for the needs of the Secretariat of EAS. During the negotiations between Prof. P. Murdin, the Vice-President B.Shustov, and the Co-Chairman of the EAAS N. G. Bochkarev, together with representatives of other countries, it has been agreed upon the payment of the membership fees for EAS for the members from the FSU (an annual fee for the present is fixed at the level of 5 US dollars). They should be paid to the treasurer of the EAAS by the end of each current year.

Publication of JENAM-95 Proceedings "European Astronomy Highlights", including all review discourses, invited papers, and selected oral contributions (but exclusively of all poster contributions) will be organized promptly by the hosts of JENAM-95. In view of the afore-mentioned, the editorial Board of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions has launched an initiative urging the contributors of the poster papers submitted to JENAM-95 to publish their contributions in a special issue of the Astronomical and Astrophysical Transactions.

Appendix. Plenary Sessions (Invited reviews)

Barbieri, C.:	The Galileo Italian National Telescope and its Instrumentation.
Beckwith, S.:	The Search for Other Planetary Systems.
Dall'Oglio, G.:	Astronomy in the Antarctic Area.
Danzmann, K.:	Gravitational Waves.
Davies, R. L.:	The Gemini Project.
Giacconi, R.:	ESO VLT Status.
Macchetto, F.:	The Scientific Impact of Hubble Space Telescope.
Malacarne, M.:	Community Actions in Research and Technological Development and Their Relationship with European Astrophysics.
Paterno, L.:	Seismology of the Sun and Sun-like Stars.
Perryman, M. A. C.:	Hipparcos and the Future of Space Astrometry.
Praderie, F.:	Big Science: Why and Where?
Salinari, P.:	The Large Binocular Telescope Project.
Sanchez, F.:	The Canary Islands International Facilities and the Large Telescope Project.
Schlizzi, R.:	The European VLBI Network.
Stirpe, G.:	Seyfert Galaxies.
Swings, J.-P.:	Horizon 2000 and Beyond.
Tammann, G. A.:	The Hubble Constant.
West, R.:	Shoemaker-Levy, One Year After the Impact on Jupiter.
Woltjer, L.:	Perspectives of European Astronomy.

- Session 1: Advances in Astronomical Instrumentation and its Best Use.
- Session 2: The Sun.
- Session 3: The Solar System.
- Session 4: Interstellar Medium and Star Formation.
- Session 5: Stars and Stellar Systems.
- Session 6: Stellar Evolution and Normal Galaxies.
- Session 7: High-Energy Astrophysics and Active Galaxies.
- Session 8: Astroparticles and Gravitational Waves.
- Session 9: Large Scale Structure of the Universe and Cosmology.
- Special Meeting M1: The Spectrum Series Missions.
- Special Meeting M2: Adverse Environmental Impacts on Astronomy.
- Special Session S1: Astronomical Data Archives.
- Special Session S2: Possibilities for a New European HST Instrument.