



Dear Member,

As the incoming President of the European Economic Association (EEA), I am writing to keep you informed about some of the ongoing initiatives that the EEA is involved in to support and develop the economics profession in Europe.

- This year's congress will be held in Glasgow from August 23-26, 2010. David Stromberg has already been putting in excellent work as the program chair and is being ably assisted by the Local Organizing Committee. Glasgow is a special place for economists, having been the home of Adam Smith. It is the first time that the congress has been held in Scotland and this is a fitting location for our 25th year, something which we will acknowledge with a series of events at the congress. Full details will be available at the congress website, <http://www.eea2010glasgow.org/>. I encourage all members to submit papers and also to encourage their students and colleagues to do so.
- The EEA in collaboration with Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, now confers the FEEM award to the authors of the three best papers presented by young economists at the annual congress of the EEA. Each winner is given €5,000. The FEEM Award has replaced the Young Economist Award. It underlines the commitment of the EEA to encourage young economists to attend our congress and to present their best work. Further details of the award and of last year's winners can be found on <http://www.eeassoc.org/index.php?site=&page=171>.
- Two standing committees of senior and experienced economists have been set up to monitor events and initiatives in research policy and university education in Europe. The aim of these groups is both to pool knowledge and share best practice. We will also on occasions aim to influence European policy debates or policy choices relevant to these areas. We will disseminate information about research and teaching. If you would like to find out more please visit our website or contact the secretariat at eea@unicatt.it. If you have suggestions about how research and teaching are managed, the secretariat can also put you in touch with the chairs of these initiatives. We will be holding sessions on research progress and teaching at the Glasgow congress. Past experience suggests that these are extremely popular with members.
- The EEA continues to support efforts to make the economics profession in Europe more inclusive. As part of this, we have established a standing committee on women in Economics (WinE) whose objective is both to establish a research network for women in the economics profession and to collect data at a European level. By making these statistics easily available, we can monitor how the gender balance among economists is changing. In future, our data collection efforts may extend to looking at how far some ethnic minorities are progressing in the economics profession in Europe.
- The EEA also takes seriously its role in bringing economics and policy together. We have organised important discussions between policymakers, such as European and international monetary authorities, and top economists at recent congresses. For example in Budapest, 2007, Jean-Claude Trichet delivered the keynote lecture, while at Barcelona, 2009, José Manuel Barroso was one of the speakers of the Institutional session which preceded Charles Bean's well-received lecture on the financial crisis. It is the aim of the EEA to make such lectures on important policy questions a central feature of the annual congress.

- One important initiative that has borne fruit in the past couple of years is our institutional membership program. This allows institutions that have special links to the economics in Europe to register their support for building up the profession in Europe. Current institutional members include, for example, a number of leading central banks. We organize a reception for these members at each congress and we will build this network as part of our core activities. If you are able to identify potential new institutional members, please bring them to my attention or to the secretariat and we will write them a personal invitation to join.
- Building our membership remains a core focus as we want to represent the widest possible group of economists. This is a good opportunity to ask you to check your EEA membership status and should it have expired over last few months, please renew it by logging in at the member section on www.eeassoc.org. Once logged in, please click on MY PROFILE and follow the instructions. We also ask you to check your details are up-to-date. Informal efforts to encourage your colleagues to become members of EEA are also appreciated. It may not have occurred to some of your younger colleagues or students to join and there is no harm in bringing the role of EEA in representing economists in Europe to their attention.
- The Journal of the European Economics Association (JEEA) continues to thrive under an excellent editorial team, led by Fabrizio Zilibotti. As you know all EEA members receive a copy of JEEA as part of their membership subscription. Publishing JEEA remains one of the flagship activities of the EEA. Thanks to the efforts of current and past editors, the journal has established itself as a leading general interest journal and the EEA continues to find ways of promoting its wide circulation. The role of members in promoting institutional subscriptions is important and I invite you all to check that your library is a JEEA subscriber. From this year, we will no longer publish a conference issue. However, this will allow us to modestly expand the number of refereed papers. Let me encourage all of you to submit your best work to JEEA – the turnaround time is good and the review process is extremely professional. The journal takes theoretical and applied research equally seriously.

I hope that you find this update useful. Do monitor www.eeassoc.org to find out about the latest developments in the EEA. If you have any ideas about how the EEA can play an improved role in building the economics profession, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We aim to be a dynamic and responsive association.

It is a good moment for me to thank the outgoing President, Nick Stern, for his hard work during 2009 and to thank Jacques Crémer, Raquel Fernandez, Tullio Jappelli, Jaume Ventura and Thierry Verdier our retiring council members for their efforts on behalf of the Association. At the same time, we welcome Jordi Gali to the Executive Committee – he will serve as President in 2012. We also welcome Mark Armstrong, Emmanuelle Auriol, Estelle Cantillon, Giancarlo Corsetti, Benny Moldovanu, Paul Seabright and Silvana Tenreyro, the incoming council members and thank them for their willingness to serve. The EEA relies on the work of its highly efficient secretariat, Gemma Prunner-Thomas and Piero Tedeschi, to whom we are all indebted, especially the executive officers. I am looking forward to working on your behalf in the current year and making this another memorable year in the life of EEA. I am looking forward, in particular, to welcoming you to Glasgow in August to join in the 25th anniversary celebrations.

With best wishes for a happy and productive New Year,



Timothy Besley