

## **17th Annual Conference**

The hopes for an exciting conference which I expressed in my [message in early August](#) were amply rewarded. The conference venue on the island of San Giorgio Maggiore proved to be an ideal location, with spectacular views of Venice and easy access to its attractions, while also providing a spacious and tourist-free haven for the pursuit of science and networking. The local arrangements were handled superbly by Carlo Carraro and his team, and the social programme was excellent, culminating in a magnificent joint reception with the Econometric Society European Meetings held in the Doge's Palace.

The scientific programme proved just as rich and varied, thanks to the work of Programme Chair Thierry Verdier and his committee. Over 700 papers were presented in contributed "C" sessions, supplemented by an exciting range of invited "B" sessions. Sadly, the panel session on Financial Markets had to be canceled, due to the untimely death of Rudi Dornbusch and to the financial crisis in Brazil, which obliged Arminio Fraga, the Governor of the Central Bank of Brazil, to withdraw from the panel. As for the "A" sessions, Paul Klemperer from Oxford presented the Alfred Marshall Lecture on the topic "Using and Abusing Economic Theory", and the conference closed with the Joseph Schumpeter Lecture presented by Alberto Alesina from Harvard on "The Size of Nations". My Presidential Address was entitled "Globalisation and Market Structure".

## **Future conferences**

As previously announced, next year's Conference will be held in Stockholm from 20 to 24 August 2003. Orazio Attanasio will chair the Programme Committee, while the Local Arrangements Committee will be chaired by Tore Ellingsen and Harry Flam. In 2004, the 19th Annual Conference will be held at Universidad Carlos III in Madrid, with Miguel Delgado and Juan Dolado handling the local arrangements. Both these conferences will be held jointly with the European Meetings of the Econometric Society.

## **2002 Hicks-Tinbergen Medal**

Starting in 1992, the Hicks-Tinbergen Medal has been awarded in every second year to an outstanding paper published in the Association's journal. The 2002 Medal was awarded for the best paper in the preceding two years, 2000-2001. The Medal Committee consisted of Philippe Aghion (chair), Giuseppe Bertola and Ernst Fehr, and the winning paper they selected was "Electoral Competition and Politician Turnover" by Thomas Mariotti and Juan Carillo, which appeared in the European Economic Review in January 2001. Thomas Mariotti accepted the medal at a presentation immediately before the Marshall Lecture in Venice.

## **Status of Women in the Economics Profession in Europe**

Concerns have been expressed in the past that the Association is not doing enough for women economists. Matters have improved in small ways, with for example improved gender balance on committees in recent years. However, some members of the Association have proposed that a more formal approach be adopted, perhaps along the lines of the standing committees adopted by the American Economic Association and the Royal Economic Society. While no firm decisions have been taken on this, the matter is under active consideration, and I am hopeful that an agreed way forward can be announced soon. In the meantime, members who wish to express their views on the matter should contact me or any other member of the Executive.

## **Governance of the Association**

The Executive has considered a number of ways of increasing the involvement of the elected Council members in the running of the Association, and made two specific proposals in Venice. The first was to allow the Council to elect 3 of their members to serve as "members without portfolio" on the Executive. This proposal was agreed at the Council and Members' Meetings in Venice, and, since it only requires a change in the bye-laws, it takes effect immediately. The other change concerns the manner in which the Nominating Committee is selected, and requires a change to the statutes. What is proposed is to formalize the practice which has developed in recent years whereby the Nominating Committee consists of 7 members (rather than 3 as in the past), of which one is a Past President and 3 are current members of the Executive. In addition, it is proposed that the extra 3 members should be elected by the Council. This proposed change was agreed unanimously by the Council and the Members' Meeting in Venice, and a ballot paper inviting members to express their views on it is included with this Newsletter.

These measures will hopefully increase the involvement of the elected members of the Council in the running of the Association. The Executive is also exploring ways of increasing the level of participation by ordinary members. One option we are considering is the development of software to allow electronic voting by members. Another is a reminder to future local organizers: attendance at the Members' Meeting in Venice was even lower than usual, due no doubt in part to the fact that it coincided with a wine-tasting reception. Perhaps these two events should be combined in future!

## **Student Affairs**

Leonor Modesto has continued to serve as Chair of the Student Affairs Committee. This provides scholarships to young authors to attend the annual conference, and also oversees the planning of an annual Summer School. This year's Summer School, held in Lisbon last September, was organized by Leonor and Theresa Lloyd-Braga on "Endogenous Fluctuations". In September 2003, Richard Blundell and Stephen Bond will organize the next summer school at University College London on "Microeconometrics". The EEA has also agreed to support the Spring Meeting of Young Economists (<http://smye2002.univ-paris1.fr>) by providing modest secretarial support for two years from December 2001 to Hannu Vartiainen of the Yrjo Jahnsson Foundation in Helsinki, who was chair of their 2002 program committee. The SMYE is a completely autonomous body but we hope that it will continue to have close relations with the EEA, serving as a source of papers to our own Annual Conference as well as of future members.

## **Statement about a new Journal of the European Economic Association**

The final item on the agenda of the Members' Meeting at Venice was a statement about the Association's journal, which is reproduced here in full:

"Since its foundation in 1986, the European Economic Association's official journal has been the European Economic Review, which is owned by Elsevier Science. The Council of the EEA has terminated the agreement with Elsevier, so the EER will cease to be the official journal of the EEA with effect from January 1, 2003. The Council of the EEA has decided to launch a new journal, to be called the Journal of the European Economic Association (JEEA). The JEEA will be owned by the European Economic Association, and published for it by MIT Press, starting in March 2003.

"We hope that the JEEA will become one of the leading journals in economics. The first volume will include an exciting group of papers by leading authors and will also publish selected conference proceedings of both EEA and ISOM, as the EER has in the past. The JEEA will be competitively priced to institutions and will be made available to EEA members on the same terms as the EER has been in the past. To mark the launch of the JEEA, the cost of 3-year EEA membership will be reduced from 210 to 180 euro starting in 2003.

"Finally, for legal reasons, no further details can be given until January 1, 2003."

## **Final Notes**

In conclusion, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Executive Committee and in the EEA Secretariat who have shared so much of the work over the past year. Jean Tirole has devoted as much time and energy to being Past President as he did to being President, and I am indebted to him for constant support and advice. Torsten Persson and Richard Blundell have been just as active and enthusiastic. With Birgit Grodal joining them in 2003, the Association is assured of energetic and wise leadership in the future.

I also owe debts of thanks to Alfred Steinherr and especially to Henry Tulkens, who as Treasurer and Secretary respectively continued to ensure the efficient running of the Association during the past year. Henry is assisted in Louvain by Christiane Barbosa, who deals with membership and association matters, and Pascale Reid-Th3rer, who is the EEA's web-master. With the increasing range of activity of the EEA, their work-load has inched steadily upwards in the past year, and I would like to thank them for their loyalty and good cheer throughout.

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[Previous message \(August 2002\)](#)