

**Report of the President
Andreu Mas-Colell
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The year 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding Congress of the EEA. Fittingly we meet again at the venue of that first Congress: Vienna . As was agreed at the Amsterdam (August 2005) meeting of the Executive Committee of the EEA the program of the conference includes a number of special academic events designed in celebration of this landmark in the life of the EEA.

I want to use this opportunity to thank the people involved with the founding of the EEA for launching it in the right path. It should not have been obvious at that time, for example, and it is certainly not the case for many other European scientific associations today, that the EEA should be an association of individual members, rather than a sort of Council of national associations.

In the May 2006 meeting the Executive Committee of the EEA in Barcelona some initial steps towards broadening the reach of activities of the EEA were taken. I mention four:

(i) The EEA will explore the possibilities to develop initiatives, complementary to those taken by some national associations, to foster a European-wide job market for academic economists.

(ii) Having culminated the coordination of our Congresses with the European Summer meetings of the Econometric Society, the Executive committee believes that it is time for an outreach policy towards other economic associations, particularly the European national associations (in issues of joint membership, for example), but also the AER.

(iii) The Executive Committee approved the principle of setting up a Standing Committee on Research. Among others its function will be to follow the initiatives and debates in matters of European research policies. The latter are in flux, the launching of the European Research Council (of which Scientific Committee the 2005 President of the EEA, Mathias Dewatripont, is a member) being a very positive development. Also, this Committee should be instrumental in increasing the relations with other European scientific societies.

(iv) Similarly, a Standing Committee on Teaching will be set up. Its role, in a nutshell, will be to make sure that the voice, or, better, the many voices, of the economics profession are heard in, for example, the curricular issues associated with the so-called Bologna process, as well as, of course, in any other matter related to teaching quality.

This year Hicks-Tinbergen prize for the best paper published in the Journal of the Society will be awarded at the Vienna Congress. I wish to congratulate the authors (form requires that they remain anonymous until the Congress), and thank the Evaluating Committee formed by Mathias Dewatripont (as chair), Guido Tabellini and Xavier Vives.

Thanks should also go to Martin Hellwig for chairing the nominating committee corresponding to this year.

It is a duty, but nonetheless a pleasure, to thank the Scientific committee and the organizing committee of the Vienna meeting. I cannot mention everyone involved. So let me singularize in the chair of the Scientific Committee, Professor Jaume Ventura CREI, UPF), and the chairs of the organizing committee, Professors Gerhard Clemenz (University of Vienna), Bernhard Felderer and Walter H. Fisher (both from the Institute of Advanced Studies , Vienna). They could count, respectively, with the support of Angels Esterri and Tanja Gewis to whom I also want to warmly thank.