

Report of the Secretary for the period January 1, 2004 to July 31, 2004 to the Executive Committee, the Council meeting and the general meeting of members in Madrid August 2004

1. Personnel

The office of the EEA has physically moved from CORE in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium, in January 2004, to the Department of Economics at the University of Warwick in the UK. The EEA Office has been hosted by CORE almost since the Association's inception in 1984 and the Association is heavily indebted to CORE, and especially its successive chairpersons, for its hospitality towards us over many years. CORE has also provided our Secretary for many years - most recently Henry Tulkens who was Secretary to the Association from 1998 to 2003. Henry worked selflessly on behalf of the Association, and its members and a succession of Presidents have cause to be grateful to him for his organisational skills. Henry was ably assisted by Christiane Barbosa-Courant and Pascale Reid-Therer who together provided administrative support. I am personally grateful to Henry, Christiane and Pascale for patiently explained all of the tasks and their working practices during a visit to the EEA Office in 2003. The transfer to Warwick, as expected, did not go smoothly but despite this most members will have noticed only the new website and the fact that they were now able to renew and join the Association on-line. Much of the paperwork was transferred and the website at CORE was replaced by the new-look site hosted at a commercial service in the UK. The new website provides better functionality than the earlier one and the Association plans to make much more use of the internet and email – you will no longer be receiving paper mailshots from the Association. But if you fail to renew you will be persecuted remorselessly by electronic invitations until you do. Fiona Brown, a senior administrator in the Warwick Economics department, has taken over from Christiane and Pascale, and Jim Saxton of Saxton IT Services has provided web design and support. A primary goal of the new arrangements for the Secretariat is to reduce costs at the same time as maintain services. So we hope to be able to report in the future substantially lower running costs for the office.

2. 2003 Elections

Tony Atkinson chaired the Nominating Committee for the elections of a new Vice-President and six new Council members. This was the last time the Nominating Committee was selected according to the old rules (given the newly approved Article 29 of the Statutes). In addition to Richard Blundell, Birgit Grodal, and Torsten Persson (ex officio), the members were Philippe Bachetta of University of Lausanne, Ana Fernandes of CEMFI (Madrid), and Hannu Vartiainen of the Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation (Helsinki). In early July, Tony Atkinson delivered the committee's proposal of two candidates for Vice President and twelve candidates for Council to the Secretariat.

In the subsequent elections, Mathias Dewatripont, ECARES (Brussels), was elected Vice President for 2004, to become President in 2006. Sadly, Birgit Grodal died in office and Mathias has therefore already become Vice President and will become President in 2005.

Birgit Grodal has had a long history of support for the Association - indeed she served on the very first Nomination Committee twenty years ago. She will be sorely missed by the Association.

The six elected members for the Council, for a term of office of five years starting 1 January 2004 are: Manuel Arellano, of CEMFI (Madrid), Isabella Correia of the Portuguese Catholic University and Bank of Portugal, Nobuhiro Kiyotaki of the London School of Economics, Thomas Piketty from DELTA (Paris), Rafael Repullo from CEMFI (Madrid), and Klaus Schmidt of the University of Munich.

Following discussions in the May Executive Committee meeting the first elections for the "at large" Council members of the Executive were organised to elect three members with terms of three, two, and one years, respectively. In a first round and a run-off, the Council elected (22 and 23 members voting) Seppo Honkapohja, University of Helsinki, for 2004-2006, Orazio Attanasio, University College London, for 2004-2005, and Guido Tabellini, IGER (Milan), for 2004. They all started their service in 2004.

The list of officers appears on the website and in the new EEA leaflet available at this conference.

3. Membership

It is not possible to report the membership statistics on exactly the same basis as in previous years because membership is now for 12 months from the date of payment while prior to 2004 membership was for the calendar year in which payment occurred.

Some members have been lost because the EEA no longer provided a copy of the European Economic Review. However, we expect that in the long run this will be more than compensated for by growing demand for the new Journal of the European Economic Association. Moreover, we anticipate that membership will develop because of the greater ease of payment. However, the last Secretary's report declared that

membership at the time of the Stockholm conference was 1,774 plus 13 institutional members. The figure for June 2004 was broadly comparable at 1,604 plus 14 institutional members. Table 1 reports the breakdown of membership by type of member and Table 2 reports the geographical breakdown of membership.

Table 1 Membership by status (%)

	August 2003	June 2004
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Regular members		
1 year	39	40
3 year	45	45
Student	13	11
Editors	2	
Transitional countries	1	4

Table 2 Geographical Distribution of Membership (%)

	August 2003	June 2004
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Europe		
EU		
EU countries	71.8	75.9
Accession countries		3.3
Non-accession E. Europe	4.1	0.7
Other non-EU Europe	6.0	1.7
Non-EU Nordic	4.6	3.6
Rest of world		

Africa		0.2	0.3
America			
	North	9.1	10.5
	South	0.5	0.4
Asia		3.3	3.1
Oceania		0.5	0.5

4. Leaflet

An updated version of the leaflet introducing the EEA has recently been produced. It will also appear on the website.

5. Website

The EEA official site remains www.eeassoc.org but it is now hosted at a secure commercial service in the UK. The content remains broadly similar to last year but it now provides for on-line membership renewal and contains a secure members-only section. The handling of financial transfers is effected by a secure system provided by PayPal which is owned by eBay, the on-line auctioneer. This provides a credit card payment mechanism in multiple currencies at no cost to the member and with minimal transaction fees to the Association. An off-line facility remains for those who prefer not to use the on-line service.

The JEEA website www.jeea.org provides for electronic submission of manuscripts by members and is currently managed by the JEEA office. Responsibility for its maintenance and development will pass to the EEA Secretariat shortly.

The Congress website remains the responsibility of the local organisation but we hope to be able to provide some integration with the EEA site in time for the 2005 Conference in Amsterdam to facilitate joining members.

Please email us, via our website, if you have suggestions for improvements or additional functionality.

6. Email address

The default email address is eea@warwick.ac.uk and the earlier addresses remain operational.

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