

Report of the Secretary, August 2008

This report covers the period from August 1, 2007

1. Personnel

The EEA office moved in January 2008 to La Cattolica University, Milan and is now staffed by Gemma Prunner-Thomas, who works on EEA matters part-time. The EEA pays La Cattolica €20,000 pa for her time, the space, and expenses. Annalisa Ferrario of Effedesign has updated the website, continues to provide web design and support on a casual basis and she provides for the hosting of the EEA website on a commercial server at modest cost (approx €1700). In addition we use an independent accountant in Belgium to prepare our accounts and arrange our affairs with the Belgian tax authorities (approx €1400).

I thank Professor Ian Walker who looked after the EEA for 4 years at Warwick University and I give a special thanks to Fiona Brown who continues to offer advice and help in her own time.

2. Elections

The nominating committee for the 2007 election was comprised of:

Peter Neary (Chair), Guido Tabellini, Ernst Fehr, Nick Stern and three coopted council members Rachel Griffith, Klaus Schmidt, Rafael Repullo.

Timothy Besley was elected **Vice-President** for the Year **2008**. He will become **President-Elect** in 2009 and **President** of the EEA in 2010.

The newly elected members for the Council, for a term of office of five years starting 1 January 2008 are: Orazio Attanasio, Paul De Grauwe, Costas Meghir, Massimo Motta, Marco Pagano, Helene Rey,

Torsten Persson has chaired the Nominating Committee for 2008 and the voting website will go live soon after the conference.

3. Websites

The EEA official site remains www.eeassoc.org

The content remains broadly similar to last year. In particular, it provides for on-line membership renewal and contains a secure members-only section. The handling of financial transfers is effected through a secure system provided by *Banca Sella* an Italian bank. 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 website hosts the facility for on-line voting which will be live for the voting period (usually September).

The website still hosts the EEA jobmarket facility and I am grateful to Antonio Cabrales of UC3M for his support.

The JEEA website, www.jeea.org, is currently inactive and has been linked to www.eeassoc.org. One can now electronically submit manuscripts through this site. The EEA Secretariat has responsibility for its maintenance and development. Apart from having the facility for storing files associated with JEEA content (for example, datasets, etc), the content matches that of the MIT Press hosted site for JEEA – but in MIT livery rather than EEA. We have good communication with the JEEA office and are able to keep the website up-to-date.

The Congress website remains the responsibility of the local organisation

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

4. Email address

The default email address is eea@unicatt.it and it is the only operational address.

5. Fellowship

The Secretariat continues to implement the decision of the executive committee to found a “Fellowship of the EEA” to honour economists who have made a significant contribution to the EEA and to economics research in Europe . All new EEA Council members are appointed to be Fellows of the EEA. The honour is also bestowed on the Association’s officers, the editors of the association's journal, the Programme Chairs of its annual congresses.

This is a lifetime fellowship aiming to foster a close relationship between the generations of economic researchers in Europe and to promote the development of economics research in Europe .

In January 2008 the newly elected council members and the plenary speakers from the 2007 EEA Congress became Fellows.

6. Membership

The last report of the previous Secretary declared that membership at the time of the Budapest August 2007 conference was 2429 (+14 institutional members) with more than half of regular members switching to on-line membership. Almost all student members were online in.

Thus the latest figures available suggest that membership now stands at 2249 (with 11 Institutional members having paid for 2008). However, note that 57% of members have opted for online membership rather than print with some resulting loss of revenue (but also some saving in costs).

Membership income was € 183,669 in 2007 (figures taken from the end of year accounts, using the exchange rate at 31 Dec).

599 members in August 2008 came from outside the European Union Zone – that is over 1/4 of the EEA membership base.

Table 1

| Membership numbers | August 2008 | | August 2007 | | August 2006 | | August 2005 | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Jeea | Jeea + EP | Jeea | Jeea + EP | Jeea | Jeea + EP | Jeea | Jeea + EP |
| Members 1 year | 279 | 76 | 450 | 107 | 1086 | 142 | 662 | 141 |
| Members 1 year on line | 697 | 2 | 554 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Members 3 years | 396 | 117 | 431 | 136 | 535 | 134 | 651 | 173 |
| Student members 1 year | 21 | 0 | 24 | 3 | 31 | 7 | 240 | 7 |
| Student members 1 year on line | 551 | 0 | 582 | 9 | 501 | 0 | 203 | 0 |
| Transitional Countries 1 + 3 year | 33 | 13 | 106 | 25 | 107 | 107 | 62 | |
| Transitional Countries 1 + 3 year online | 63 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | | | |
| Total | 2041 | 208 | 2149 | 280 | 2260 | 390 | 1818 | 321 |
| Total | | 2249 | | 2429 | | 2650 | | 2139 |

Table 2

| Membership by Status % | August 2008 | August 2007 | August 2006 | August 2005 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Members 1 year | 16 | 23 | 48 | 45 |
| Members 1 year on line | 31 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| Members 3 years | 23 | 24 | 24 | 40 |
| Student members 1 year | 1 | 1 | 23 | 15 |
| Student members 1 year on line | 24 | 24 | | |
| Transitional Countries 1 + 3 year + online | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 |

Table 3

| Geographical Distribution of Membership % | August 2008 | August 2007 | August 2006 | August 2005 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Europe | | | | |
| EU Countries | 72.9 | 71.0 | 71.7 | 69.5 |
| Accession Countries | 0.4 | 4.9 | 4.3 | 4.9 |
| Non Accession Countries - Eastern Europe | 0.3 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Other non EU Countries | 10.7 | 6.2 | 7.3 | 0.1 |
| Rest of World | | | | |
| Africa | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 | 0.4 |
| America North | 11.5 | 11.2 | 12.7 | 12.6 |
| America South | 1.0 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 |
| Asia | 2.2 | 4.3 | 2.4 | 3.2 |
| Oceania | 0.8 | 1.0 | 0.5 | 0.5 |

8. Suggestions for the future

We have achieved the major objectives following the move of the Secretariat to Milan, confirming the progress that were made by the previous Secretary.

Outstanding tasks are: to rationalise the statutes; secure the transfer of the long-term accounts of the EEA from to the new Treasurer; to renew the JEEA publishing contracts; to cooperate with the new Treasurer in setting up a fund raising campaign and to implement agreements with national associations

Further suggestions are welcome.