Report of the President – August 2014
Orazio Attanasio

EEA Central Office

Guglielmo Weber has recently informed the EEA EX COMM that due to his increasing obligations as head of department within his institution, he will be stepping down at the end of his first term as EEA Executive Vice President (December 31 2015). The EEA EX COMM has already started looking for his replacement. Interested candidates or EEA members who wish to propose a candidate should contact the EEA through gemma@eeassoc.org. The EEA remains grateful to Guglielmo for continuing in his position until his term finishes. Gemma Prunner-Thomas continues to manage the running of the central office.

Journal of the European Economic Association

JEEA is still published six times a year and the issues are released bi-monthly. The Journal is going from strength to strength. The recently released figures on impact factors, which will be discussed in JEEA’s managing editor report, reflect the strength and continuous improvements of the journal.

JEEA has undergone a significant Editorial re-haul over the past 6 months as Nicola Gennaioli, Claudio Michelacci and Daniele Paserman have joined the board replacing George-Marios Angeletos, Fabio Canova and Stefano Della Vigna. Over the next six months, there will be other important changes as Fabrizio Zilibotti leaves the helm of JEEA after an extremely successful 6-year period as Managing Editor. Fabrizio has done an absolutely amazing job of establishing JEEA as one of the most respected journals within economics. In addition, Dirk Bergemann’s term as part of the editorial team will also come to an end. Fabrizio and Dirk will be replaced by Juuso Välimäki, who will replace Fabrizio as Managing Editor and Dirk Kruger. On behalf of the EEA, I thank Fabrizio and Dirk for such superb editorial work each of them did for JEEA.

Additional information on JEEA will be found in the Report of JEEA Editor

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Additional information on the activities of some of the standing committees I mention below is available on the EEA website.

Standing Committee on Women in Economics (WinE)

I thank Raffaella Giacomini, Chair of the Standing Committee on Women in Economics (our WinE Committee), for all her work with the Committee and for organising the second WinE Mentoring Retreat, which took place before the start of EEA-ESEM Toulouse. I extend my thanks to Raquel Fernandez, Nicola Fuchs-Schundeln, Per Krusell, Paul Seabright and Silvana Tenreyro, whose terms of office finished in 2013 and I welcome Graziella Bertocchi, Maia Güell, Gilat Levy, Torsten Persson and Marta Reynal-Querol to this dynamic committee.

Details of the work of this committee and of the Retreat are published on the WinE section on EEA homepage.
Standing Committee on Teaching of Economics

I extend my thanks also to Margaret Bray who continues to chair the EEA Standing Committee on Education (renamed so in 2013). Margaret has organized an important panel session taking place during the Toulouse meetings, “Undergraduate Education In Economics: What Should We Teach?”, which I am sure will be a success.

Standing Committee on Research in Economics

I would like to thank Marc Ivaldi, who has stepped down as chair of the EEA Standing Committee on Research in Economics. I thank Richard Blundell who has accepted to replace Marc and form a new committee on Research. Marc and his committee have played an important role in setting up COEURE, a network financed by the European Commission under the 7th Framework, of which the EEA is a node together with CEPR and several European Universities. COEURE has now a Scientific Advisory Committe, chaired by Gerard Roland. Richard Blundell is also part of this Board and will represent the EEA. The other members of the board are Oriana Bandiera, Andreu Mas-Colel, Peter Neary and Marco Pagano. COEURE will be launched in a workshop that will be held in Brussels on September 24th.

EEA Standing Committee on the Dissemination of Research

In 2013, following on from a specific concern discussed during a meeting of the EX COMM, that the economics profession in Europe had not been effective in keeping in touch with the wider public, the EEA established a Committee on the dissemination of Economic Research in Europe. The Committee, chaired by Paul Seabright, has established that there is a problem but the EEA does not have the ability or the legitimacy to persuade the employers of researchers, journalists and policymakers to alter their incentives in any significant way. The Committee therefore confined its attention to considering whether there was anything the EEA can do unilaterally to influence the dissemination of research in a beneficial direction. The Committee has made a recommendation that will be discussed by EEA Council. The EEA will keep its members up to date on the results. I thank the Committee for all the work and dedication they put into this enormous task and in particular Paul for setting up this committee and chairing it.

EEA Ethics Committee

This Committee composed of me as chair, James Banks, Eliana La Ferrara and Philipp Kircher, have discussed issues concerning ethics in relation to the treatment of human subjects in research as well as the collection and management of survey data. Our remit is to survey existing procedures in different European countries and to produce guidelines about the conduct of economic research that could be eventually approved by the Association. The Committee is making progress. EEA members will be kept informed.

BBVA-JEEA Lecture at AEA Meeting

The BBVA Foundation continues to sponsor a lecture at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association. This lecture is also intended to increase the visibility of the JEEA, and the EEA in general, in the US. The speaker for the meeting in January 2014 was Jean-Charles Rochet whose lecture was entitled “How Can Government Borrow So Much? A Public Choice Theory of Sovereign
Debt”. The EEA thanks Jean-Charles for his willingness to represent the EEA at the AEA meeting and at the headquarters of FBBVA in Madrid, where the lecture is also given.

The EEA is busy organising the 2015 FBBVA lecture at the AEA meeting and I am pleased to announce that Eliana La Ferrara will be giving the lecture on Saturday January 3. All EEA members at the meetings are encouraged to go to the lecture.

**Birgit Grodal Award**

In May 2014, after many months of deliberations by the Birgit Grodal Committee, Rachel Griffith, University of Manchester and IFS, was announced the winner of the 2014 Birgit Grodal Award. The award is named after Professor Birgit Grodal who was the first female elected President of the EEA, but sadly passed away before she was due to take up her presidency. Rachel will receive the award during the EEA-ESEM Congress in Toulouse.

I would like to thank the first Birgit Grodal Committee, Tim Besley (Chair), Francine Blau, Penelopi Goldberg, Christian Schultz and Jean Tirole, and the Danmarks Nationalbank, who sponsor the first three Award editions.

**Hicks-Tinbergen Award**

Following on from changes made in 2010-2011 to the way EEA prizes were announced, in May the EEA publically announced that the Hicks-Tinbergen medal 2014 had been awarded to Amy Finkelstein, Erzo F.P. Luttmer, and Matthew Notowidigdo for their article "What Good Is Wealth Without Health? The Effect of Health on the Marginal Utility of Consumption" (published in JEEA Volume 11 Issue s1). Erzo will join us in Toulouse to receive this award.

I would like to thank the 2014 Hicks-Tinbergen Committee, Fabrizio Zilibotti (Chair), Manuel Arellano and Maristella Botticini.

**Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM) Award**

Continuing with existing tradition, the 2014 FEEM Awards are delivered before the Marshall Lecture at EEA-ESEM Toulouse. Continuing with existing tradition, the 2014 FEEM Awards are delivered before the Marshall Lecture at EEA-ESEM Toulouse. I congratulate the recipients - Anna Raute, University College London and University of Mannheim, Christian Krekel, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin) and Marta Silva, ISCTE-IUL (University Institute of Lisbon) and BRU-IUL and I thank the 2014 Award Committee, Martin Cripps (Chair), Isabel Correia and Matteo Manera. I would like to thank also the Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei for their continued support of this Award.

**Nominations**

Nominations for election to the offices of the association have been made, and candidates have been selected. On behalf of the association I thank the chair of the nominating committee, Jean Tirole, and the other committee members. Online elections for officers begin in mid-September and take place for a month.

**Toulouse Congress**
I am sure this Congress will live up to its promise to become an outstanding event with many interesting presentations. Many individuals have contributed their time and effort to make this congress a success. I want to thank, in particular, the Programme Chair of the Congress, Martin Cripps from University College London, as well as the Co-Chairs of the Local Organizing Committee, Joël Echevarria and Vincent Réquillart of the Toulouse School of Economics, and their committee, Stephane Caprice, Carolyne Lamy, Claire Navarro, Pascal Lavergne and Katia Thioulouse, for their outstanding work.

**EEA 2015 Congress Mannheim**

The EEA, and the EEA President of 2015, Rachel Griffith, very much look forward to seeing its members, and welcoming new ones, at the 2015 Congress to be held from Monday August 24 to Thursday August 27. Details will be available from the beginning of September on the EEA website – www.eeassoc.org