

Secretary**Ali El-Mousa****101th R8 Committee Meeting in Sarajevo**

- A successful event as indicated by the many positive feedback messages that were received.
- The meeting was attended by 94 representatives.
- Included lively discussions on IEEE and its transparency. Role of BoD. Approval of candidates slate for DE and reelection of VC.
- The unapproved minutes of the meeting can be found on the Budapest meeting web page.
- Social program was greatly appreciated. Deep appreciation goes to BH section for their dedication and hard work.

R8 OpCom Meeting in Malta

Opcom, with all members in attendance, had a face to face meeting in Malta during January 2014. Over two days, intensive discussions, reviews and planning sessions took place. As a result, 53 action items were formulated. Sections congress issues were dominant during the discussions. An important decision was taken to include all the section reports in the printed version of the agenda book for the Budapest meeting.

Best practices

- A new system for section chair reporting for R8 meetings is being introduced. It is hoped that it will make things easier for both section chairs and R8 officers to update/verify the new officers of sections and their details.
- Continuous improvements are being made to the R8 web site despite the shortcomings of the system being used through the IEEE.

Points of concern / Topics for future discussion

- Many sections still fail to update their web sites.
- Many sections who have had elections and therefore new leadership fail to inform IEEE through Vtools officer reporting tool about this. This is of great importance as this is the only way for all concerned officers and staff to realize that changes took place. It is also noted that in many sections, the officers' term does not end by year end. This is causing complications as the IEEE system recognizes that officer's terms end by year end only.
- Sections are not submitting their reports for the R8 meeting on time. This is a serious issue that needs addressing by all concerned.
- Delayed attention to the requirements for obtaining a Visa by many attendees. This causes delays in the process of registration and causes unnecessary headache to all concerned parties.

Miscellaneous

- I would like to thank my colleagues in OpCom and our R8 communications coordinator for all of his efforts.