List of Participants

Full Name	Position
Abdelouahab Mekhaldi	IEEE Algeria Sub-Section
Adam Jastrzebski	IEEE R8 Assistant Treasurer
Adeel Sultan	IEEE R8 Memebership Development Chair
Adel Abdulla	IEEE Bahrain Section Chair
Adel M. Alimi	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination Chair
Adrianus Bernardus (Bart) Smolders	IEEE Benelux Section Chair
Ahmed Darwish	IEEE Egypt Section Chair
Aleksandar Szabo	IEEE R8 Section Vitality Coordinator
Alexandros Osana	IEEE R8 Chapter Coordination
Alexey Rodionov	IEEE Russia (Siberia) Section Chair
Ali Hessami	IEEE UK and Ireland Section Chair-Elect
Alistair Dabbs	IEEE R8 News Production Editor
Amara Amara	IEEE France Section Chair
Amer Al-Hinai	IEEE Oman Section Chair
Ana Katalinic Mucalo	IEEE R8 Professional Activities Chair
Ana Madureira	IEEE Portugal Section Chair
Andrejs Romanovs	IEEE R8 Latvia Section Vice Chair
Antonio Luque	IEEE R8 Membership Development
Athanassios Skodras	IEEE Greece Section Chair
Bakr Hassan	IEEE Gulf Accreditation Subcommittee Chair
Basak Yuksel	IEEE Turkey Section Representative
Brian Harrington	IEEE R8 Treasurer
Carl Debono	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Carlos A. López Barrio	IEEE R8 Student Paper Contest Coordinator
Cecelia Jankowski	IEEE Managing Director, MGA
Charles Turner	IEEE R8 Life Member Activities Coordinator
Cheryl Sinauskas	IEEE Director, Geographic Activities
Christian Schmid	IEEE R8 Secretary
Costas Stasopoulos	IEEE R8 Director
Dalius Navakauskas	IEEE Lithuania Section Vice-Chair
Dana Al-Tehmazi	IEEE Bahrain Section Secretary
Daniel Pasquet	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Dinko Jakovljevic	IEEE R8 SAC Awards and Contests
Doug Gorham	IEEE Managing Director, Educational Activities
Dusanka Boskovic	IEEE R8 Vice-Chair, Member Activities
E. James Prendergast	IEEE Executive Director and COO
Efthymia Arvaniti	IEEE R8 Student Representative
Elya Joffe	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Emilio Corchado	IEEE Spain Section Chair
Fadhel Abulhasan	IEEE Kuwait Section Secretary/Treasurer
Flavia Dinca	IEEE R8 Young Professionals Chair
Florin Pop	IEEE Romania Section Student Activities
Fred Mintzer	IEEE 2016 President-Elect Candidate
George Michael	IEEE R8 Electronic Communications
Georgi Stoyanov	IEEE Bulgaria Section Chair
Habib M Kammoun	IEEE R8 Strategic Planning
Hadi Moradi	IEEE Iran Section Secretary
Hafidh AlSamarrai	IEEE Saudi Arabia (West) Section Vice-Chair
Heind ElRawy	IEEE R8 SAC Electronic Communications
Howard Michel	IEEE President and CEO
Ievgen Pichkalov	IEEE Ukraine Section Vice-Chair
Igor Kuzle	IEEE R8 Vice-Chair, Technical Activities
Imad Elhajj	IEEE Lebanon Section Chair
Jacob Baal-Schem	IEEE R8 Nominations and Appointments
Jan Haase	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination
Jens Haubrock	IEEE Germany Section Chair
John Matogo	IEEE R8 Action for Industry
John Day	IEEE Director, Member Products and Programs
Jorge Soares	IEEE R8 Awards and Recognition

Kabwe Bellington	IEEE Zambia Section Chair
Kalle Tammemäe	IEEE Estonia Section Chair
Karen Bartleson	IEEE 2016 President-Elect Candidate
Karine Iffour	IEEE Business Development Europe Director
Kateryna Osypenko	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Khaled AlFawaz	IEEE Saudi Arabia (East) Section Treasurer
Konstantinos Karachalios	IEEE Managing Director, Standards Association
Lawrence Wong	IEEE Vice-President, MGA
Lebogang Madise	IEEE R8 Student Branch Coordinator
Ljupco Karadzinov	IEEE Macedonia Section Chair
Maja Matijasevic	IEEE Croatia Section Vice-Chair
Manuel Castro	IEEE R8 Educational Activities Chair
Margaretha Eriksson	IEEE R8 Director-Elect
Maria-Alexandra Paun	IEEE Switzerland Section Secretary
Marina Ruggieri	IEEE Division IX Director
Marios Antoniou	IEEE Cyprus Section Chair
Marko Delimar	IEEE R8 Awards and Recognition Chair
Martin Bastiaans	IEEE R8 Past Director
Matej Pacha	IEEE Czechoslovakia Section Chair
Mats Edvinsson	IEEE Sweden Section Chair
Messaouda Azouzi	IEEE Algeria Sub-Section Secretary
Mohamed Abdelazeez	IEEE Jordan Section Chair
Mohamed Amin	IEEE R8 Action for Industry
Mohamed Almualla	IEEE United Arab Emirates Section Chair
Moira Patterson	IEEE Global Activities, Standards Association
Mona Ghassemian	IEEE R8 Vice-Chair, Student Activities
Nazih Khaddaj Mallat	IEEE R8 Chapter Coordination Chair
Nihal Sinnadurai	IEEE R8 Action for Industry Chair
Ole M Lauridsen	IEEE Denmark Section Chair
Owen Casha	IEEE Malta Section Chair
Panayiotis Symeou	IEEE Cyprus Section Past Chair
Patrick Mahoney	IEEE Chief Marketing Officer
Paul Canning	IEEE Xplore for Europe and Africa
Peter Palensky	IEEE Austria Section Chair
Peter Nagy	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination
Peter Kadar	IEEE Hungary Section Chair
Rafal Sliz	IEEE Finland Section Chair
Raja Chiky	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Ralph Kennel	IEEE PES R8 Chapter Coordinator
Raphael Onoshakpor	IEEE Nigeria Section Vice-Chair
Roberto de Marca	IEEE Past President
Rui Costa	IEEE R8 Educational Activities
Ryszard Jachowicz	IEEE Poland Section Chair
Sara Barros	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Sebastian Sichelschmidt	IEEE Germany Section Young Professionals
Sergey Shaposhnikov	IEEE Russia (North West) Section Chair
Sergey Nikitov	IEEE Russia Section Chair
Shaun Kaplan	IEEE South Africa Section Chair
Simay Akar	IEEE R8 Women in Engineering
Sohaib Qamar Sheikh	IEEE R8 Educational Activities
Steve Nightingale	IEEE UK and Ireland Section Chair
Tiziana Tambosso	IEEE Italy Section Vice-Chair
Toni Mattila	IEEE R8 Action for Industry
Urban Burnik	IEEE Slovenia Section Chair
Valentin Baranov	IEEE Belarus Section Chair
Vera Markovic	IEEE Serbia and Montenegro Section Chair
Victor Croitoru	IEEE Romania Section Representative
Vincent Kaabunga	IEEE Committee on Activities in Africa Chair
Vincenzo Piuri	IEEE Vice-President, Technical Activities
Vladimir Kutuzov	IEEE Russia (North West) Section Past Chair
Vytautas Urbanavicius	IEEE Lithuania Section Chair

Wanda Reder	IEEE Board of Directors
Youmna El Bitar	IEEE R8 Assistant Secretary
Yuming Jiang	IEEE Norway Section Chair

Saturday, 28 March 2015

101. Call to Order

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** opened the 104th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting by welcoming everyone and then asked the R8 Secretary, **Christian M. Schmid**, if there was a quorum. The secretary replied in the affirmative.

102. Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers

All Section representatives introduced themselves by stating their name and the Section they represent.

103. Welcome by Cyprus Section

IEEE Cyprus Section Chair **Marios Antoniou** welcomed everybody to the beautiful island of Cyprus.

104. Introductory Remarks

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** continued by introducing special guests (see the list of participants) and Secretary **Christian M. Schmid** announced some logistic information.

105. Approval of the Agenda

Director **Costas Stasopoulos** presented the agenda (see below) for the meeting and it was approved by the committee.

AGENDA
Saturday, 28 March 2015

Time	Minutes	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:00	5	101	Procedural	Call to order	Stasopoulos
8:05	15	102	Procedural	Roll call and Introduction of new officers	Schmid
8:20	5	103	Procedural	Welcome by Cyprus Section	Antoniou
8:25	5	104	Procedural	Introductory remarks	Stasopoulos/Schmid
8:30	5	105	Action	Approval of the agenda	Stasopoulos
8:35	5	106	Action	Approval of the consent agenda	Stasopoulos
8:40	20	107	Discussion	Director's address	Stasopoulos
9:00	5	108	Discussion	Address by the Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment	Kouyialis
9:05	15	109	Discussion	IEEE Presidents' address	Michel
9:20	15	110	Discussion	IEEE Executive Director's address	Prendergast
9:35	25	111	Procedural	Break	
10:00	10	112	Discussion	IEEE Collabratec	Day
10:10	10	113	Discussion	Nominations & Appointments	Bastiaans
10:20	40	114	Discussion	Member Activities report	Boskovic
11:00	10	115	Discussion	MGA Chair's address	Wong
11:10	20	116	Discussion	MGA Managing Director's address	Jankowski
11:30	45	117	Discussion	Technical Activities report	Kuzle
12:15	10	118	Discussion	Interactive Session Instructions	Stasopoulos/Schmid
12:25	1	119	Procedural	Recess	Stasopoulos
12:26	4			Group photo	
13:30	5	201	Procedural	Call to order	Stasopoulos
13:35	150	202	Discussion	Interactive Session	All
16:05	1	203	Procedural	Recess	Stasopoulos

Sunday, 29 March 2015

Time	Minutes	#	Type	Item	Presenter
8:30	5	301	Procedural	Call to order and roll call	Stasopoulos/Schmid

8:35	45	302	Discussion	President-Elect candidates debate	Arvaniti/Mintzer/Bartleson
9:20	5	303	Discussion	Secretary's report	Schmid
9:25	15	304	Discussion	Treasurer's report	Harrington
9:40	40	305	Discussion	Student Activities report	Ghassemian
		306	Action	Establishing Region 8 Section Award for Student Activities	Arvaniti/Ghassemian
10:20	10	307	Discussion	Awards & Recognitions	Delimar
10:30	30	308	Procedural	Break	
11:00	20	309	Discussion	Section development and vitality	Szabo/Eriksson
11:20	10	310	Discussion	Reflections of the Past-President	De Marca
11:30	15	311	Discussion	Building Technical Communities: TABs Priority and MGA Cooperation	Piuri/Ruggieri
11:45	15	312	Discussion	What is new in Standards?	Karachalios
12:00	10	313	Discussion	IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa	Kaabunga
12:10	10	314	Discussion	IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe	Delimar
12:20	15	315	Discussion	Future R8 Conferences (Histelcon, Africon, Eurocon, Energycon, Melecon)	Kuzle
12:35	10	316	Action	Motions	Stasopoulos
12:45	30	317	Discussion	New business	Stasopoulos
13:15	10	318	Info	Next meeting	Schmid/Burnik
13:25	5	319	Action	Adjournment	Stasopoulos

106. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Director **Costas Stasopoulos** presented the consent agenda (see below) and it was approved by the committee.

#	type	item
401	Action	Approval of the minutes of the 103rd Region 8 Committee meeting
402	Action	
	Report	Approval of the Reports in the Agenda Book of the 104th Region 8 Committee meeting

All reports can be found in the Agenda Book of the 104th Region 8 Committee meeting. All reports and presentations are also made available on the Region 8 Webserver.

107. Director's Address

Director Costas Stasopoulos welcomed everyone again, stressing Region 8's 3 priorities

- Getting closer to industry,
- Students and Young Professionals and
- Section Vitality

and Region 8's rules and vision as well. The complete director's address may be found on the Region 8 Webserver.

109. IEEE President's Address

IEEE president **Howard Mitchell's** address revolved around IEEE in 2030, and the process that is being followed to shape IEEE in 2030.

110. IEEE Executive Director's address

In his address, IEEE Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer **Jim Prendergast** gave an overview of how the vision of IEEE 2030 was formed, and how this vision may benefit from the success story of IEEE Xplore.

- Question from Mats Edvinsson: Are there plans to restructure the financial model of IEEE to allow open access to IEEE Xplore?
  - Answer by Jim: Open access is a future plan, and new financial models are currently being considered. Currently, open access is available to several sections of Xplore and a number of selected journals.
- Question from Imad El Hajj: Why did you follow a top-down approach to strategic planning instead of a bottom-up approach that involves the sections more?
  - Answer by Jim: Since it is difficult to put too many people together, and since senior leadership conveys section views, not only senior staff were selected, but also 10 Region directors, society chairs, and 10 division directors. All are in contact with the people they represent.
- Question from the committee: Members are in the heart of IEEE. How will sections in 2030 be different than sections now?

- ○ Answer: In 2030, it is necessary to make IEEE more diverse, embrace the future of technology, re-think the organizational and sectional structure (it does not make sense to have 10 regions where Region 8 covers half of the world's geography), optimize government processes, get closer to industry.

112. IEEE Collabratec

John Day gave a presentation to introduce IEEE's new online professional networking tool: IEEE Collabratec. He encouraged everyone to be present on the platform, and to join/create communities.

113. Nominations & Appointments

In his report, **Martin Bastiaans** explained the roles fulfilled by members of the N&A subcommittee, giving an overview about the annual election process for IEEE in general and Region 8 in particular. More details can also found in the bylaws which govern the operation of the committee. He also highlighted the concepts of Region 8 "delegate" and "director", and called for nominations.

- Comment by Charles Turner: If N&A only sends 2 candidates for the R8 committee, the committee has no choice but to petition. Hence in his opinion it is preferred that N&A sends at least 3 candidates for proper elections to take place.

114. Member Activities report

Vice-Chair for Member Activities **Dusanka Boskovic** briefly presented her role and introduced the subcommittees under Member Activities.

Antonio Luque presented the Membership Development Subcommittee Report, including the variations of membership numbers. Membership Development is a major point of concern in Region 8.

The Professional Activities Report was presented by **Ana Catalinic Mucalo**, while the Young Professional Report was delivered by **Rafal Sliz**.

Charles Turner continued detailing his vision of retaining members through life member activities. One goal is to establish life member affinity groups.

Jacob Baal-Schem talked about history activities by highlighting IEEE milestone events and tools of collaboration.

The WIE activities and goals for the year were presented by **Simay Akar**. She called for the help of the section officers to get contacts.

Alistair Dabbs rounded off the member activities report by detailing the creation process of the Region 8 News. All Region 8 officers are invited to submit news via r8news@ieee.org.

All presentations are made available on the meeting website.

115. MGA Chair's address

MGA Chair **Lawrence Wong** shared MGA's mission and vision. He identified the following main challenges:

- IEEE breadth of activities is wide, but may lack cohesiveness
- OUs have their own strategies but may lack common alignment
- Value to Young Professionals & "Practitioners" is elusive
- Overall membership growth is positive but not for all segments
- Membership retention for certain segments is problematic
- Strong volunteerism but variable quality

His vision of the solutions led to his definition of the MGA Priority Projects in 2015:

- Collabratec
- Career Experience
- Implementation of Women in Engineering Business Plan
- Volunteer Training
- Free access to IEEE Digital Library (SC14 Recommendation)
- Incentive & Recognition Program for Companies (SC14 Recommendation)
- YP Focus on the Member Loyalty Rewards
- MGA Presence in Global Offices
- Implement Japan and India Growth Plans
- Enhance vTools
- Metro Area Workshops (MAW)
- Facilitating volunteer Initiatives (SC14 Recommendation)
- Loyalty Rewards (SC14 Recommendation)
- Promotion tool for local events (SC14 Recommendation)

116. MGA Managing Director's address

MGA Managing Director **Cecelia Jankowski** talked about the six areas that MGA has to engage in. After covering some of the challenges Cecelia also concluded with the MGA Priority Projects in 2015.

117. Technical Activities report

R8 Vice Chair **Igor Kuzle** started by presenting his team:
- **Nazih Khaddaj Mallat** (Chapter Coordination)
- **Adel Alimi** (Conference Coordination)
- **Manuel Castro** (Educational Activities)
- **Nihal Sinnadurai** (Action for Industry)
- **David Law** (Standards, not present)

Nazih Khaddaj Mallat started by introducing major goals for the Chapter Coordination team. **Adel Alimi** continued by highlighting the R8 flagship conferences in 2015/2016. During his presentation he encouraged bids for EUROCON 2017 and AFRICON 2017 as well as nominations for conference officer. Educational Activities Sub-Committee chair **Manuel Castro** gave an overview of the structure of his team and the planned meetings and activities. The main goals are making use of synergies and to increase educational activities in Region 8. The presentation about educational activities was ended by **Sebastian Sichelschmidt** taking about the Committee on Global Accreditation Activities. **Nihal Sinnadurai** delivered a presentation about the objectives and the first year plan of the Industry Activities team:
- Year 1
  - Information
  - Reaching out to Industry
  - Support to Sections
  - Actions to create and show IEEE worth to Industry
- Year 2
  - Consolidation of actions through Sections
  - Proposed Changes to IEEE practices and procedures

An important part of the solution will be Section Industry Ambassadors. **Nihal Sinnadurai** also delivered the standards presentation which can be found on the Region 8 Webserver.

118. Instructions

IEEE Region 8 Secretary Christian M. Schmid detailed the interactive sessions that were held later in the afternoon. The following interactive sessions were hosted:
- Action for Industry, Team leader: Nihal Sinnadurai
- Chapter Coordination Subcommittee, Team leader: Nazih Mallat
- Conference Coordination Subcommittee, Team leader: Adel Alimi
- Educational Activities Subcommittee, Team leader: Manuel Castro
- Membership Development Subcommittee, Team leader: Adeel Sultan
- Young Professionals Subcommittee, Team leader: Flavia Dinka
- Student Activities Subcommittee, Team leader: Rafal Sliz
- Member and Geographic Activities (MGA), Team leader: Lawrence Wong
- IEEE Presidents - IEEE Candidates, Team leader: Howard Michel
- Africa Ad Hoc Committee, Team leader: Vincent Kaabunga

Every group provided sessions of 25 minutes that were five times. Breaks of 5 minutes in between allowed the participants to attend multiple sessions depending on their preferences. All participants were asked to hand in feedback forms after the interactive sessions. All collected feedback forms were scanned and distributed to the interactive session team leaders after the meeting. It is expected that the working groups modify or enhance their activities based on this feedback.

Sunday, 29 March 2015

301. Call to Order and Roll Call

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** opened the second day of the 104th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting by welcoming everyone again and then asked the R8 Secretary, **Christian M. Schmid**, whether there was a quorum. The secretary replied in the affirmative.

302. President-Elect Candidates Debate

After President-Elect candidates **Karen Bartleson** and **Fred Mintzer** introduced themselves and moderator **Efthymia Arvaniti** opened the debate, followed by questions from the Committee.
- Question from Andrejs Romanovs: Do you see that SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises) are a valuable resource for the IEEE?
  - Answer by Fred: Larger Enterprises have their own resources, whereas SMEs have a greater need for the educational benefits provided by IEEE.
  - Answer by Karen: IEEE provides an "incubator environment" for SMEs and has major partnerships with very large companies, both offering great value to IEEE.
- Question from Mats Edvinsson: What is your experience working and delivering in a truly multicultural environment - finding a solution and implementing it?

- ○ Answer by Karen: I've been in Standards Committee meetings that include people from all over the world who have little in common and who communicate differently.
- ○ Answer by Fred: For years I worked on projects with the Vatican Library, the Hermitage Museum, and the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, developing and delivering technology to locals having different cultures.

303. Secretary's report

Secretary **Christian M. Schmid** introduced his team (**Youmna El Bitar**, Assistant Secretary and **George Michael**, Electronic Communications coordinator). He emphasized the importance of R8's 3 priorities:

- Getting closer to Industry
- Students and Young Professionals
- Section Vitality

More information may be found in the Secretary's report.

304. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Brian Harrington explained the reimbursement form and the current year's budget. He summarized R8's financial position, the allocation of expenditure for 2014, and pointed out the importance of timely reporting which is among the issues he discussed in his presentation. More details about the budget can be found in the Treasurers Report online and in the presentation.

305. Student Activities report

After SAC Chair **Mona Ghassemian** introduced the team, she gave an overview of SAC's plan to align with R8's 3 priorities. Student Representative **Efthymia Arvaniti** presented the major student events in R8, especially the upcoming R8 Student and Young Professional Congress 2016, for which she encouraged proposal submissions. Student Branch Coordinator **Lebogang Madise** presented the benefits offered by IEEE to students, encouraged Section Chairs to appoint a Student Representative for each section, and emphasized the importance of vtools reporting. Awards and Contests Coordinator **Dinko Jakovljevic** gave an overview of SAC's campaigns. Student Paper Contest Coordinator **Carlos Lopez Barrio** summarized the contest's process and current situation. Project Coordinator **Youmna El Bitar** presented SAC's new project Mind the Gap. Electronic Communications Coordinator **Heind El-Rawy** pointed out the importance of communicating IEEE's benefits and events to their target audience, and shared strategies for effective communication. More information may be found in SAC presentation.

- Question from the committee: What are the current and forecast numbers of students in IEEE?
  - ○ Answer by Efthymia: student population is expected to keep growing since IEEE offers tools and networking needed by every engineering student.
  - ○ Comment by Mona: an average of 10 student branches in the region is approved every month, giving an indication of growth. However, continuous work is needed in order to keep the numbers increasing.
- Question from the committee: How do you encourage students to keep active after they leave their student branch?
  - ○ Answer by Efthymia: SAC is developing a strategy for active student branch officers to transfer knowledge to the new officers.
  - ○ Comment by Mona: before approving a student branch, SAC makes sure they have plans to ensure their continuity.
  - ○ Comment by Christian M. Schmid: first, during congresses, we educate student branch officers that they need to prepare others; second, we tell counselors that they should ensure the continuity of their student branch; third, section chairs are also needed to help the student branches stay active.
  - ○ Costas: direct contact between SAC and every student branch is not easily achieved; hence, sections should find the right student branch volunteers because they are closer to their students.

306. Establishing Region 8 Section Award for Student Activities

This motion was withdrawn.

307. Awards & Recognitions

Marko Delimar showed Region 8 and MGA awards, and encouraged everyone to submit nominations as early as possible. Besides the awards shown below, others are mentioned in the presentation.

- Region 8 volunteer award: Adeel Sultan, UAE
- Clementina Saduwa Award: Eman Alashwali, Saudi Arabia
- Region 8 outstanding Section Award: no nominations, no recipients
- Chapter of the year award:
  - ○ IEEE Poland AP/AES/MTT (Small, Medium)
  - ○ IEEE Ukraine (East) AP/NPS/AES/ED/MTT/GRS (Large)
  - ○ IEEE AP Society ITE NASU-Kharkiv (Student Branch).

309. Section development and vitality

In his report, **Aleksandar Szabo** stated that section vitality is a priority of IEEE. He encouraged section officers to visit and learn from the Section Vitality Dashboard, and suggested numerous ways for membership development. Aleksandar stressed the importance of

- reporting,
- preparing good successors to lead the section,
- and the importance of timely elections.

A discussion followed.

- Comment by Costas Stasopoulos: it is a good practice to appoint an assistant treasurer and an assistant secretary to learn about the process and duties.
- Comment by the committee: even if the assistant secretary and assistant treasurer are appointed, they don't automatically become secretary or treasurer, but elections will happen.
  - Aleksandar: if the assistant decided to run for elections, he will be the best candidate for the position.
  - Comment from the committee: Why does the assistant spend two years learning about a position if he might not get it after the elections?
  - Marko Delimar: the assistant secretary or treasurer may be elected and they automatically become the secretary or treasurer (a change in the procedural documents is needed). Else, trust is needed in the Nominations and Appointments procedure.
- Comment by Dusanka Boskovic: more communication is needed between MGA financial department and the sections, regarding the financial reporting. Costas Stasopoulos: progress is achieved in terms of communication between MGA and Region 8 regarding the sections' financial status.
- Comment by Aleksandar: a section has to present five reports.

310. Reflections of the Past-President

IEEE Past President Roberto De Marca presented insight to IEEE focus areas, challenges, membership division, categories of income, as well as valuable recommendations for the future, mainly "making the right changes with preservation of the IEEE Culture". His presentation may be found online.

- Question from Yumig Jiang: what is the distribution of IEEE expenditures?
  - Answer by Roberto: we are trying to figure it out with the Infrastructure Committee.

311. Building Technical Communities: TABs Priority and MGA Cooperation

Vincenzo Piuri discussed the importance of the Technical Activities Board (TAB), along with its mission, vision, values, goal, priorities, cooperation with MGA, and other aspects that can be found online.

In her presentation, Division IX Director **Marina Ruggieri** introduced the seven societies belonging to Division IX. She described the process that led all societies to a common word: "environment", and presented an overview of IEEE Collabratec.

312. What is New in Standards?

Konstantinos Karachalios discussed the IEEE Standards Association (SA) in R8, as well as IEEE SA's strategic goal: expanding global presence, mainly in Africa and in Europe (Since Europe has an important normative role worldwide, SA's presence there is considered as a start for worldwide expansion). He also noted that SA represents all of IEEE, not a specific region or unit. His presentation may be found online.

313. IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa

Vincent Kaabunga presented his committee's mission, as well as an overview of IEEE in Africa; the large and diverse continent offering an opportunity for growth. He also shared ideas for development in Africa in his presentation.

314. IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Engagement in Europe

In his presentation, **Marko Delimar** gave an overview about his committee's work and purpose. It was formed in order to "establish a significant presence in Europe", and to determine whether to establish an office there. Marko also mentioned IEEE Signature events, Working Groups (Energy, ICT, and Standards), and Technical Statements.

- Question from the committee: What are the selection criteria for the office location?
  - Answer by Marko: In the first round of selection, ideas were that Brussels is the capital of Europe, Geneva is well known for standards, London and Munich as technical centers, Vienna as a central city, Zurich for ease of registration, and Athens from an economical point of view.

316. Motions

No motions were entertained.

317. New Business

No new items were suggested.

318. Next Meeting

Slovenia Section Chair **Urban Burnik** invited the R8 Committee to Ljubljana, where the next IEEE Region 8 meeting will be held on October 10-11th, 2015. He also gave a short presentation about Slovenia.

319. Adjournment

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** entertained a motion to end the Region 8 Committee meeting. The motion was adopted.