Unapproved Minutes from of the 107th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting held on 24-25 of September 2016 in Porto, Portugal

List of Participants

Last name	First name	Position
Adel	Abdulla	Bahrain Section Chair
Fadhel	Abulhasan	Kuwait Section Secretary
Ghazi	Al Sukkar	Jordan Section Vice Chair
Amer	Al-Hinai	Oman Section Chair
Adel M.	Alimi	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination
Mohammad	Almuhaini	Saudi Arabia East Section Membership Development
Hafidh	Alsammarraie	Saudi Arabia West Vice Chair
Efthymia	Arvaniti	IEEE R8 Student Representative
Nasser	Assem	Morocco Section Vice Chair
Conrad	Attard	Malta Section Vice Chair
Jacob	Baal-Schem	Recipient of Life Member Group Achievement Award
Gaurav	Bajpai	IEEE Ad Hoc Committee on Activities in Africa
Sergey	Bankov	Russia Section Secretary
Constantin	Barbulescu	Romania Section Officer
Sara	Barros	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Martin	Bastiaans	IEEE R8 Past Director
Nazre	Batool	Clementina Saduwa Award 2016 Recipient
Vedad	Beirović	Bosnia and Herzegovina Section Secretary
Dusanka	Boskovic	IEEE R8 Vice Chair, Member Activities
Urban	Burnik	Slovenia Section Chair
Julius	Butime	Uganda Subsection
Ermanno	Cardelli	Italy Section Chair
Pedro	Carvalho	Portugal Section Secretary
Manuel	Castro	IEEE R8 Education Activities
Gloria	Chukwudebe	IEEE R8 Africa Area Chair
Thomas	Coughlin	IEEE R6 Director
Fernando Josè	da Silva Velez	R8 VTS Chapter Coordinator
Marko	Delimar	IEEE R8 Awards
Flavia	Dinca	IEEE R8 Young Professionals
Stamatis	Dragoumanos	Greece Section Representative
Tariq	Durrani	IEEE R8 Director-Elect Candidate
Mats	Edvinsson	Sweden Section Chair
Youmna	El Bitar	IEEE R8 Assistant Secretary
Imad	Elhajj	Lebanon Section Chair
Mircea	Eremia	Romania Section Chair
Margaretha	Eriksson	IEEE R8 Director-Elect
Mahmud	Fotuhi Firuzabad	IEEE R8 N&A Candidate
Jess	Fraile-Ardanuy	Spain Section Vice Chair
John	Funsoadebayo	Nigeria Section Vice Chair
Shashank	Gaur	IEEE R8 Professional Activities
Mona	Ghassemian	IEEE R8 Vice Chair, Student Activities
Steven	Gold	NPSS AdCom
Hanan	Hanjafah	IEEE R8 Industry Ambassador
Brian	Harrington	IEEE R8 Treasurer
Bakr	Hassan	Chair, Gulf Accreditation Committee
Jens	Haubrock	Germany Section Chair
Michael	Heiss	Austria Section Vice Chair
Enrique	Herrera-Viedma	Representative of Coordination Committee
Ali	Hessami	UK and Ireland Section Chair
Feliks	Ianovskyi	Ukraine Section Chair
Jaafar	Ibrahim	Saudi Arabia East Section Secretary
Christopher	James	IEEE R8 OpCom Candidate
Elya	Joffe	IEEE R8 Director-Elect Candidate
Peter	Kadar	Hungary Section Chair
Habib M.	Kammoun	Tunisia Section Chair
Shaun	Kaplan	South Africa Section Chair

Ljupco	Karadzinov	Macedonia Section Chair
Amith	Khandakar	Qatar Section Secretary
Eric	Kuada	Ghana Section Representative
Gunes	Kurt	Turkey Vice Chair
Igor	Kuzle	IEEE R8 Vice Chair, Technical Activities
Ole M	Lauridsen	Denmark Section Chair
Antonio	Luque	Spain Section Chair
Jan	Machac	MTT-S Region 8 Coordinator
Ana	Madureira	Portugal Section Chair
Peter	Magyar	IAS CMD Chair
Mariusz	Malinowski	Poland Section Chair
Vera	Markovic	Serbia & Montenegro Section Chair
Miguel	Marques	Portugal Section Treasurer
Maja	Matijasevic	Croatia Section Vice-Chair
Toni	Mattila	Finland Section Chair, IEEE R8 Industry Ambassador
George	Michael	IEEE R8 Electronic Communications Coordinator
Nicos	Michaelides	Cyprus Section Chair
Hadi	Moradi	Iran Section Secretary
Peter	Nagy	IEEE R8 Conference Coordination
Maciej	Ogorzalek	IEEE Division 1 Director
Raphael	Onoshakpor	Nigeria Section Chair
Alexandros	Osana	IEEE R8 Chapter Coordination Subcommittee
Matej	Pacha	Czechoslovakia Section Chair
Daniel	Pasquet	IEEE R8 OpCom Candidate
Moira	Patterson	EPPI Staff Lead
Maria-Alexandra	Paun	Switzerland Section Vice Chair
Ievgen	Pichkalov	Ukraine Section
Mohamed	Ramdani	France Section Vice Chair
Sergio	Rapuano	Chapter Coordinator of I&M Society
Alexey	Rodionov	Russia Siberian Section Chair
Andrejs	Romanovs	Latvia Section Chair
Marina	Ruggieri	Chair Presidents' Forum
Thomas Philip	Runarsson	Iceland Section Chair
Roland	Saam	IEEE R8 News Editor
Magdalena	Salazar Palma	IEEE R8 Director-Elect Candidate
Christian	Schmid	IEEE R8 Secretary
Samir	Shaheen	Egypt Section Chair
Sergey	Shaposhnikov	Russia NW Section Chair
Linda	Shoop	IEEE President & CEO
Mark	Shtaif	Israel Section Chair
Catarina	Silva	Portugal Section Vice Chair
Josè Pedro	Silva	Portugal Section Vice Chair
Cheryl	Sinauskas	IEEE Director, Geographic Activities
Adrianus Bart	Smolders	Benelux Section Chair
Runar	Såsen	Norway Section Chair
Costas	Stasopoulos	IEEE R8 Director
Georgi	Stoyanov	Bulgaria Section Chair
Adeel	Sultan	IEEE R8 Membership Development
Aleksandar	Szabo	IEEE R8 Region Vitality Coordinator
Tiziana	Tambosso	Italy Section Chair
Kalle	Tammemäe	Estonia Section Chair
Amar	Tilmatine	Algeria Section Chair
Gerald	Too	Kenya Section Representative
Charles	Turner	IEEE R8 Life Member Coordinator
Vytautas	Urbanavicius	Lithuania Section Chair
Jan	Verveckken	IEEE R8 OpCom Candidate
Lawrence	Wong	IEEE Vice President MGA

Saturday, 24 September 2016

100. Call to Order

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** opened the 107th 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.

101. Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers

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

102. Welcome by Portugal Section

IEEE Portugal Section Chair **Ana Madureira** welcomed everybody to Porto and invited the audience to enjoy their stay in Portugal.

103. Introductory Remarks

After Region 8 Secretary **Christian Schmid** provided some logistic information, Director **Costas Stasopoulos** welcomed some special guests:
- **Lawrence Wong**, IEEE Vice President MGA,
- **Maciej Ogorzalek**, IEEE Division 1 Director,
- **Thoma Coughlin**, IEEE R6 Director and
- **Marina Ruggieri**, Vice President-Elect, Technical Activities.

104. Approval of the Agenda

Director **Costas Stasopoulos** presented the agenda (see below) for the meeting. He also informed the committee that items might have to be moved due to travel arrangements of certain speakers. The items in the meeting minutes are documented in the order in which they were presented. The agenda was approved by the committee.

Saturday, 24 September 2016				
8:00	100	Procedural	Call to Order	Stasopoulos
8:05	101	Procedural	Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers	Schmid
8:20	102	Procedural	Welcome by Portugal Section	Madureira
8:25	103	Procedural	Introductory Remarks	Stasopoulos/Schmid
8:30	104	Action	Approval of the Agenda	Stasopoulos
8:35	105	Action	Approval of the Consent Agenda	Stasopoulos
8:40	106	Discussion	IEEE Region 8 Director's Address	Stasopoulos
9:15	107	Discussion	IEEE President's Address	Shoop
9:35	108	Discussion	MGA VP Address	Wong
10:00		Procedural	Coffee Break	
10:20	109	Discussion	IEEE Europe - IEEE European Public Policy Initiative operations and assessment	Marko
11:00	110	Discussion	Student Activities Report	Ghassemian/Arvaniti
11:20	111	Discussion	IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress	Arvaniti/Dinca
11:30	112	Discussion	Best Practices in Region 6	Coughlin
11:40	113	Discussion	Section Development and Vitality	Szabo
11:55	114	Discussion	Technical Activities Report	Kuzle
12:25	115	Discussion	Awards & Recognitions	Delimar
12:35	116	Discussion	Africa Area Report	Chukwudebe
12:45	117	Discussion	Action for Industry	Stasopoulos/Matilla
13:00	118	Procedural	Recess	Stasopoulos
13:01	119	Social	Group photo	
13:05		Social	Lunch	
14:05	200	Procedural	Call to Order	Stasopoulos
14:10	201	Discussion	Sections Congress Presentation Reccommendation Instructions	Delimar/ Salazar Palma/ Bastiaans
14:40	202	Discussion	Breakout Sessions	Delimar/ Salazar Palma/ Bastiaans
16:10	203	Discussion	Presentation of Results	Delimar/ Salazar Palma/ Bastiaans
16:40	204	Procedural	Recess	Delimar/ Salazar Palma/ Bastiaans
18:40		Social	Meeting Point for Bus: Outside Hotel	
18:50		Social	Bus tour through Porto	
19:35		Social	Dinner and Awards Ceremony, Dress Code: Formal Taylor's Port Cellars Porto	
Sunday, 25 September 2016				

8:30	300	Procedural	Call to Order and Roll Rall	Stasopoulos/Schmid
8:35	301	Discussion	Nominations and Appointments Report and Election Instructions	Bastiaans
8:50	302	Discussion	Candidate Presentations and Discussion	Bastiaans
9:50	303	Discussion	Executive Session	Bastiaans
10:30	304	Procedural	Elections	Bastiaans
10:45		Procedural	Coffee Break	
11:15	305	Discussion	Presentation of Election Results	Bastiaans
11:20	306	Discussion	Secretary's Report	Schmid
11:30	307	Discussion	Treasurer's Report	Harrington
11:50	308	Discussion	Innovation Fund	Harrington
12:05	309	Discussion	Member Activities Report	Boskovic
12:25	310	Discussion	Future Conferences (Energycon, Melecon, GCC)	Kuzle
12:35	311	Discussion	Vision for an Enhanced MGA-TA Synergy 2017/2018	Marina
12:55	312	Discussion	Vision for Region 8 2017/2018	Eriksson
13:10	313	Info	Next Region 8 Committee Meeting	Schmid/Edvinsson
13:20	314	Action	Motions	Stasopoulos
13:35	315	Info	New Business	All
13:55	316	Action	Adjournment	Stasopoulos
14:00	317	Social	Lunch	

105. Approval of the Consent Agenda

- Comment by **Imad Elhajj** on item "303. Treasurer's Report": The secretary omitted the following remark: "**Imad Elhajj** commended Treasurer **Brian Harrington** on his exemplary service**."**
  - Director **Costas Stasopoulos** and Secretary **Christian Schmid** agreed that this remark was omitted and promised that it will be mentioned in the minutes for this meeting (fulfilled above).

The consent agenda was approved by the committee.

106. IEEE Region 8 Director's Address

Director **Costas Stasopoulos** started by giving a brief overview of important past events in Region 8:

- Milestone in Königs-Wusterhausen,
- IEEE Region 8 Student and Young Professional (SPY) Congress 2016 in Regensburg,
- the Egyptian Engineering Day 2016 and
- Startup Ole 2016,

Also he commented briefly on progress on Region 8's priorities:

- Industry
  - Survey with Senior members
  - Industry Ambassadors in Sections
  - Mentors from Industry
  - Internships for students
  - Paris, Glasgow, Amman, Birmingham Smart Tech Workshops, **Ali Hessami** shared information and promotional material for the Smart Tech Workshop in Birmingham.
  - Tunisian Forum for Industry Academia Partnership
- Students and Young Professionals
  - Regional Congresses
    - CESYP 8-10 May, Zagreb
    - WESYP 20-24 May, Eindhoven
    - MESBC 4-7 Aug, Amman
    - Egypt Engineering Day 31 Aug, 1 Sep, Cairo
    - Hellenic 30 Oct-1 Nov, Thessaloniki
    - Nordic SYP 6-8 Nov, Stockholm
  - SB and YP groups vitality
  - Region 8 SYP in 17-21 August 2016 in Regensburg, Germany
- Section Vitality
  - The corner stone of Region 8
  - Alive and active Sections – Branches - Affinity groups
  - Democratic Elections Follow the MGA rules (significant progress made)
  - Reporting in time (significant progress made)
  - Sections Cooperating in conferences held in their Region
- Additional Priority: Membership Development
  - Dropping numbers

- ○ Consequences of the economic crisis and the very high dollar
- ○ Efforts being done by the Membership Development team
- ○ Trying to organize a workshop in Region 8
- ○ Should take advantage of the half year dues
- ○ We need your help
- ○ A membership development workshop will be held in Tunisia 18-19 November to address the issue

The director continued by showing the latest membership statistics and by reporting about the newly approved office in Vienna, Austria. He also informed the committee about the Sections Congress in Sydney and the upcoming Region 8 meetings. After touching on

- the Improved Section Vitality Dashboard,
- the new Innovation Fund,
- and the Africa Area,
- challenges with Sections,
- and the presence of Region 8 in higher IEEE positions

he thanked the Region 8 Team for 2015/2016. The complete presentation can be found on the meeting website.

108. MGA VP Address

MGA Vice President **Lawrence Wong** gave an overview on the Strategy and Membership Numbers. He started by providing the framework to address:

- What is our winning aspiration (Goals)?
- Where will we play?
- How will we win?
- What capabilities must be in place?
- What management systems are required?

The 5 activities areas derived are

- Member Experience
- Geographic Unit Activities
- Membership Operations
- Business Activities
- Volunteer Experience

Lawrence Wong continued by presenting key initiatives (Young Professionals, IEEE Collabratec, Industry Professionals, Women in Engineering) and the 2016 MGA priority projects. The ongoing activities relevant for R8 are:

- Ad Hoc Committee on Europe Public Policy Initiative
- Ad Hoc Committee on Global Strategy
- Ad Hoc Committee on Industry Outreach
- Ad Hoc Committee on Industry Engagement
- Ad Hoc Committee on IEEE in 2030
- Vienna office
- TCS fee
- Yellow Card
- Africa initiative

Afterwards **Lawrence Wong** talked about membership statistics (as found in the presentation on the meeting website). Membership numbers are declining in all Regions but Region 10. Especially the decline of young professionals and retention rates is worrying.

The 2017 Workplan and Beyond include

- Continuing focus on:
    - ○ Priority geographic areas
    - ○ YP, WIE and professionals in industry
    - ○ Volunteer training –Careers
    - ○ Collabratec
    - ○ MGA presence in global offices
- Improving membership growth and retention
- Areas to be operationalized
- Addressing gaps and new activities?
- Conferences?
- What will MGA be in 2030?

The complete presentation can be found on the meeting website.

- Comment by **Ali Hessami**: The challenges of IEEE are very similar to the challenges faced by other professional institutions. Out-of-the-box thinking is needed to address this, but can not be seen from the presentation.
    - ○ Answer by **Lawrence Wong**: Agrees about the challenges and that the answers do not exist yet. Believes that young professionals and industry are the solution.
- Question by **Mats Edvinsson**: How are these issues integrated in the 2030 process?

- - Answer by **Lawrence Wong**: At the moment not, as the constitutional amendments are not approved yet. Needs to be addressed after the decision about the amendments.
  - Comment by **Mats Edvinsson**: Changing the structure of IEEE is inwards looking. Word of advice: Bring an out-side in view into the equation.
  - Answers by **Lawrence Wong**: This is done by using segmentation data.
- Question by **Michael Heiss**: Why is the retention rate for higher grade members so low? E.g., it is hard to get there and then you cancel?
  - Answer by **Lawrence Wong**: Retention of senior members is higher, but not for regular, higher grade members.
- Comment by **Charles Turner**: One should look at the segmentation data when analyzed by age. MGA reports massive losses of older members. MGA should proactively address this issue.
- Question by **Antonio Luque**: Can you please elaborate on the changes in the TCS fee?
  - Answer by **Lawrence Wong**: There was a big discussion already last year. The cost to MGA is substantial.
- Comment by **Ole Lauridsen**: IEEE needs to look closer at the value that IEEE brings to members.
  - Answer by **Lawrence Wong**: This is exactly what the segmentation data is for.
- Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: The TCS fee also has to be look at from a copyright perspective. When publications are given to IEEE explore, also copyrights are given to IEEE which they use to make money.

112. Best Practices in Region 6

After a short introduction, Region 6 Director **Thomas Coughlin** gave an overview about the following topics:
- Chapter Recording Initiative, an initiative to record and share meetings.
- Maker Faire - a faire for thousands of makers in Region 6 and beyond.
- The Web Site - increased activities and conferences, and some social networking helped to increase web site traffic.
- Monthly enotice and Volunteers - a monthly newsletter going out to all Region 6 members.
- Region 6 PACE - an important tool in showing the value of IEEE membership in the US.
- Conferences - some of the most important conferences held in Region 6.
- MentorNet - connecting mentors and mentees.
- Membership and Senior Membership - tackling declining membership numbers with senior member evaluation.
- Other Initiatives - such as breakfasts with local industry, corporate awards and Region 6 milestones.
- Making IEEE Cool - the cool Region 6 shirts can be ordered on the Region 6 websites.

More information on all the topics can be found in Tom's presentation on the meeting website.

113. Section Development and Vitality

IEEE R8 Region Vitality Coordinator **Aleksandar Szabo** started by highlighting the need for reporting as a means for showing and measuring activities. Reminders about reporting are sent out via e-mail frequently and should be taken seriously. It is the duty of section officers to report about the officers themselves (within 20 days of the election and appointment) and reporting about activities of the Section, Chapters and Affinity Groups. To receive the rebate Sections should have at least 5 meetings a year and there is a bonus for 10 or more meetings. Affinity Groups should have a minimum of two meetings with a bonus for 6 or more meetings. Financial reports are due by the last day of February 2017 and the other reports are due by 15 March 2017. A bonus of 10% can be claimed when all reports are in by 17 February 2017. Exceptions for payments of the dues rebate to those units submitting the reports after the deadlines shall be at the discretion of the R8 Director, and 10% penalty shall be applied to all such exceptions. A helpful "Section Vitality Checklist" can be found here: http://www.ieeer8.org/category/section-vitality/.

Aleksandar Szabo specifically pointed out the need for elections, which is supported by electronic tools in v-tools. At any rate: The consecutive period of service in any one office should not exceed 4 years. All officers shall not serve in any one position, in any single organizational unit, more than 6 years.

He concluded by discussing the need for Section officers to train themselves and other Section officers by making use of the "Center of Leadership Excellence", the "MGA Operations Manual", the "R8 Bylaws and Operations Manual" and the "Section Vitality Dashboard". All of these documents can be found online by Google search. The presentation can be found on the meeting website.

- Question by **Adel Abdulla**: The Section receives the rebates for the Section, the Chapters and all Affinity Groups. Does this money have to be shared in accordance to the activities and allowance to these groups?
  - Answer by **Aleksandar Szabo**: The money to Chapters and Affinity Groups should of course be given to the specific OUs. However the Section can decide how to spend it's money on members for example through other OUs.
  - Comment by **Costas Stasopoulos**: It is encouraged to spend Section money on very active OUs.
  - Comment by **Aleksandar Szabo**: Usually Chapters can get additional funding through Societies as well, so spending more money on affinity groups is encouraged.
- Question by **Bart Smolders**: It is often hard to convince IEEE members to become active Section Officers. Is this a general problem and how can it be dealt with?
  - Answer by **Aleksandar Szabo**: This question is best to be discussed with the other Section chairs. At any rate e-voting is the preferred tool to make use of, as it gives every member of the Section the right to vote.

Mats Edvinsson about Best Practices in the Sweden Section

After a short coffee break, Sweden Section Chair Mats **Edvinsson** gave a short presentation, that was not part of the main agenda. His presentation can be found on the meeting website.

109. IEEE Europe – IEEE European Public Policy Initiative Operations and Assessment

Marko Delimar introduced the topic by giving some historic background how in 2001 the IEEE Board of Directors made a strategic decision to make IEEE a truly international society. As a result of this Region 8 derived one of the primary priorities in 2011: "Cooperation with European Institutions and Agencies". Activities and achievements connected to this have been reported a total of 12 times in all Region 8 Committee meetings since, with the European Public Policy Initiative (EPPI) being driven by many Region 8 volunteers such as

- Marko Delimar (Chair),
- Martin Bastiaans,
- Christopher James,
- David Law,
- Maciej Ogorzalek,
- Axel Richter,
- Marina Ruggieri,
- Stefan Sauermann,
- Gianluca Setti,
- Costas Stasopoulos,
- Dirk Van Hertem and
- Gordon Day (Corresponding Member)

Like on the level of Region 8, also the global IEEE level picked up the topic, e.g., for "IEEE in 2030". After an outreach and consultation with IEEE members in Region 8, the need for more activities in the area of public policy became clear and the EPPI was consolidated and formed in 2013 as an Ad Hoc Committee supported by the new initiatives committee. Many activities and successes have been reported since. At the same time EU officials have reached out to IEEE to get opinions about policies in technology.

The key components of the EPPI are

- Brussels representation - this guarantees visibility to high level officials in the European Union.
- Policy Working Groups (Energy and ICT) - their job is to create politically neutral papers on technological issues. There are 12 members per group that are selected from more that 200 applications in a peer-reviewed process.
- Events for direct engagement between members and EU officials (Annual Summits)

There are many benefits for IEEE members that include

- The opportunity to help shape public policy in Europe for the benefit of the profession and humanity
  - Papers, consultations, & events provide critical information on technology considerations to the policy community
- Opportunities to participate in peer-selected, volunteer Working Groups, and organization of policy-related events
  - Over 200 applications to fill open seats
  - Deepen knowledge of public policy issues affecting our profession, our employers, and our families.
  - Engage with community of European IEEE members interested in public policy
- Future opportunities
  - To opt-in to review and comment on WG output
  - To receive Brussels policy updates (email; possibly webinars)

To continue the work of the EPPI there is the need for

1) An organizational home for governance and oversight,
2) local staffing (Brussels or Vienna) and
3) a sustainable funding model.

There exist several options for the organizational home within IEEE:

- Region 8
- MGA
- Global Public Policy Committee
- Corporate Activities

The costs for the EPPI include

1) Brussels representation & presence (about USD 145k)
2) Policy Working Groups (about USD 200k) - this part must be funded by members, as it ensures independence.
3) Events for direct engagement between members and EU officials (USD 165k)

Based on the workshop with the Region 8 Section Chairs held in Monte Carlo, **Marko Delimar** proposed an assessment of members in EU and EFTA countries of USD 5, to ensure a sustainable base for the policy working groups.

The complete presentation is available on the meeting website.

- Question by **Peter Kadar**: How would the USD 5 effect the membership numbers in say Hungary?
  - Answer by **Marko Delimar**: To answer this question **Marko Delimar** showed a pie chart how USD 160 (current membership due) would be distributed within IEEE when the dues were to be increased to USD 165. This effects are minor, however the additional USD 5 would ensure the independence of the working groups.
- Question by **Jaafar Ibrahim**: Are the USD 5 going to be a yearly fee or only once and is it only going to be for the EU?

- ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: Yes, the USD 5 will be charged every year, however only members in the EU and 4 additional EFTA countries will be effected, as only they will benefit from the EPPI. However if the program is successful and if others would like to copy it, this will have to be discussed again by the affected parties. For instance the Africa area is also looking into options for localized programs and if there is a champion in the Middle East this could also lead to such a program.
- Question by **Charles Turner**: Also national organizations are trying to find their way into Brussels. How would this effect the EPPI?
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: The EPPI has been talking to a few of the national societies. However the EU has contacted the IEEE looking for opinions that are not biased by one or another nation.
- Comment by **Marina Ruggieri**: It is really important for IEEE to create a localized but nationally unbiased, honest framework for engaging with policy makers.
- Question by **Bart Smolders**: IEEE is seen as a very rich organization, could it be possible to ask members for a voluntary contribution for this initiative?
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: This is one possible way forward, however a stable and sustainable foundation is needed to go forward. Surveys already showed that there is a big interest from members for this program and that USD 5 is a sensible and acceptable price tag. In order to clearly show the independence of the working group and the opinions, the funding for the working groups should not come out of cooperate IEEE.
- Comment by **Martin Bastiaans**: He is clearly in favor of the program. However it is not his opinion that counts, but the members' opinion. Recent member surveys clearly showed that members in the EU and EFTA are asking for such programs and voice support. The survey results give clear guidance for the leaders of IEEE in favor of the EPPI and the proposed assessment.

In a next step **Marko Delimar** showed a draft text for a motion reading
Members of the IEEE Region 8 committee residing in EU/EFTA countries hereby express support for:

- *forming a new IEEE Organisational Unit tentatively called "IEEE Europe" to work on public policy matters on behalf of IEEE members residing in EU/EFTA countries through Working Groups that will be selected from EU/EFTA members by an independent nominations and selections process; and*
- *collecting an assessment in the amount of 5 USD from members residing in EU/EFTA countries that is to be used to partly cover the activities of this unit and ensure the independence of the creation and delivery process of public policy statements under the IEEE Policies.*

The discussion continued

- Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: Sees the strong support for the motion, however warns about the speed of the decision making on an issue that leads to the increase of fees. Especially as the motion came without prior notice, e.g., was not circulated beforehand. He is also concerned, that 5 USD and Europe are only the starting point and could lead to higher fees and issues in low income countries. The issue is the precedence of trying to embed an initiative into membership dues. If this is very important to IEEE and the Region it should be funded independently from other sources.
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: He understands the concerns. Nobody likes to touch membership dues. However, such a model is not unprecedented: IEEE USA (around USD 40) and Japan (around USD 25) are just two examples. Also it should be noted, that the USD 5 were discussed intensively in the past 12 meetings, e.g., in a 90 minutes workshop in Monte Carlo (106th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting). Nobody reaches out to members' money easily. Whether this also has a future in other countries as well depends on the people on these other countries.
- Question by **Ole Lauridsen**: Denmark fully supports the initiative. However, how can it be made clear that the EPPI is seen as independent, with IEEE being an American organization?
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: The question is the only reason why we are asking for USD 5. In order to make sure that the working groups are independent and will also be seen as independent.
- Question by **Alexandros Osana**: Could the costs of the working group be decreased or could the needed 5 USD be cut from another portion of the budget to eliminate the increase in membership fees?
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: The 5 USD cover the basic cost of the document creation process. Intensive studies have been made about other amounts, but 5 USD came out to be the optimal amount. Simply reshuffling the budget, would not lead to the conscious decision that is required to enable fully independent working groups.
- Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: Is afraid that starting IEEE Europe will result in IEEE Middle East and so on. The name should be directed towards the initiative and not towards breaking Region 8 into smaller entities.
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: Ensures to the committee that there is no intention to break apart Region 8. The name is tentative and other examples (IEEE USA) show that this is not about breaking apart Region 8.
- Comment by **Ali Hessami**: Money should not be the center point of the discussion. The question is: Where is the demand for an EPPI coming from within the EU?
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: The European Commission has approached IEEE multiple times. But IEEE is not in the position of a paid consultant, but provides independent opinions. Member surveys clearly show that our members see a demand for interaction with public policy makers.
- Comment by **Brian Harrington**: Where would the organizational home of the working groups be?
  - ○ Answer by **Marko Delimar**: As shown during the presentation the organizational home is still to be clarified. At this point in time the working groups report to the EPPI which is an IEEE Ad Hoc committee.

- Question by **Jens Haubrock**: How are the societies involved?
  - Answer by **Marko Delimar**: In the consultation and review process, societies are contacted by the working groups.
- Question by **Michael Heiss**: If motion passes and the imitative does not have the expected impact, how would we proceed in 5 years from now?
  - Answer by **Marko Delimar**: The exit strategy is very simple. The OU would be dissolved and the fees would decrease again.
- Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: A motion of this caliber should have been circulated earlier. The initiative is important and overdue, however increasing the fees is problematic. The concern is that any future new initiative may potentially lead to an increase in membership fees. He hopes that the affected Section chairs have been aware of this motion and have clarified this with their constituents. Suggests to focus on the first part of the motion and leave out the part about the membership fee.
  - Answer by **Marko Delimar**: The issue was discussed and reiterated in the past 12 meetings. True, the 5 USD were discussed in Monte Carlo (106th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting) for the first time. If we want to create an independent body, we need to ensure independent empowerment. Thus the two parts of the motion should not be separated.
- Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: The concern is the principle of an initiative to push down costs to members directly.
- Comment by **Eric Kuada**: Has a problem to vote, because he can not speak for the members in Europe. The current fee is already too high. There was an initiative to reduce the fee in Rwanda, but Ghana was left out. He would never allow for an increase in fees speaking as a representative for Ghana.
  - Comment by **Costas Stasopoulos**: You have the right to abstain.
  - Comment by **Marko Delimar**: There is no reason to worry. Never would Region 8 increase the fees in Africa without a request coming directly from Africa. On the contrary, volunteers from Region 8 have been fighting against increases of membership fees and for reduced fees in low income countries for years.

The informal vote from the affected Section chairs (EU and EFTA) showed 3 votes against and a majority in favor of the draft text for a motion.

110. Student Activities Report

IEEE Region 8 Vice Chair, Student Activities **Mona Ghassemian** thanked the Region 8 committee as well as the Region 8 Student Activities Committee (R8 SAC) for the support during the past two years. She continued to give an overview on some of the highlights including:

- the Student Branches revitalization program,
- Cross-Sectional Congresses and Region 8 SYP Congress
- Awards and Contests, such as MadC, Mind the Gap! and the Student Paper Contests
- Electronic Communications on platforms such as Collabratec, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, the R8 SAC website and eNotices
- Monitoring of Industry Relations

Special successes on social media include over 7000 likes on Facebook, a new Instagram Account and lots of new and relevant information on the Region 8 website http://www.ieeer8.org/student-activities.

R8 Student Representative **Efthymia Arvaniti** took over to present the numbers of student branches, student chapters and affinity groups. The total number organizational units has grown over 50 % in the past 20 months. The support of the Sections for theirs student, especially to attend IEEE student congresses was a key factor for this success. **Efthymia Arvaniti** thanked all Section chairs for their support.

Mona Ghassemian presented the awards campaign and the submission numbers for all student awards. The "IEEE Regional Exemplary Student Branch Awards" for 2016 go to:

- IEEE Student Branch Eindhoven (Benelux Section)
- IEEE Student Branch Zagreb (Croatia Section)
- IEEE Student Branch Passau (Germany Section)
- IEEE Student Branch University of Patras (Greece Section)
- University of Thessaly Lamia Student Branch (Greece Section)
- IEEE Hashemite University Student Branch (Jordan Section)
- University of Ljubljana Student Branch (Slovenia Section)
- Osmangazi University Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- IEEE Bogazici University Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- IEEE Koc University Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- Middle East Technical University Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- Suleyman Demirel University Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- Izmir Institute of Technology Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- IEEE Istanbul Technical University Student Branch (Turkey Section)
- IEEE University of Southampton Student Branch (UK & Ireland Section)

All IEEEXtreme 9.0 winners were from Region 8:

- 1st place "Team Name" from Iran
- 2nd place "EPFL1" from Switzerland
- 3rd place "Powerhouse" from Romania

The following teams were announced as winners of the IEEE madC contest:
- 1st Place: Team Pinlist (R8 - Croatia Section)
- 2nd Place: iCode (R9 – El Salvador Section)
- 3rd Place: Talkinenglish (R10 – Indonesia Section)
- Young Professional Special Prize: Collegiate (R8 - Germany Section)
- Computer Society Special Prize: School-Carpooling (R10 – India)

Project coordinator **Youmna El-Bitar** announced the winners of the The Mind the Gap! Contest (http://mtg.ieeer8.org) out of 17 competing teams from 10 countries:
- 1. Zlatko Ofak and Meri Tukac (Croatia) for "Escape the Gap!"
- 2. Joao Santos, Carina Fonseca, Diogo Mesquita, and Miguel Dias (Portugal) for "Giving Agency"
- 3. Wafa Ben Hmida and Ikbel Azaiez (Tunisia) for "GG-M: Generation Gap Mobile"
- 4. Skander Mansouri, Slim Bouakez, and Ahlem Jedidi (Tunisia) for "Break the Gap Camp".

Upcoming contest and competition include:
- IEEEXtreme 10.0, http://sites.ieee.org/xtreme/
- Minde the Gap!, http://mtg.ieeer8.org
- The Region 8 Student Paper Contest, http://www.ieeer8.org/category/student-activities/awards-and-contests/student-paper-contest/

Kádár Pèter reminded the Section chairs about the voluntary contribution fund, which supports travel grants and student branch activities.

Finally **Mona Ghassemian** thanked all Section chairs again for their support. The R8 SAC presentation can also be found on the meeting website.

111. IEEE Region 8 SYP Congress

Region 8 Student Representative **Efthymia Arvaniti** and Region 8 Young Professionals Chair **Flavia Dinca** showed a video summary of the Region 8 Student and Young Professionals Congress 2016, which was held between 17th and 21st of August 2016 at OTH Regensburg, Germany. Some statistics of the event:
- 627 total registrations
- 220 cancellations
- 407 active participants
  - 186 Region 8 funded participants
  - 357 attended
  - 50 no-shows
- Total budget: 176.603,47, main expenses:
  - Accommodation: 66,673
  - Gala dinner: 30,820.52
  - Opening ceremony and Danube cruise: 25,014.60
- Amount covered by sponsors: 45,865.12
- The congress featured
  - IEEE-related workshops
  - Technical lectures
  - Soft-skills workshops
  - Social events

Students and Young Professionals are the future of IEEE and **Efthymia** and **Flavia** thanked all Section chairs for their support of these IEEE members.

116. Africa Area Report

Africa Area Chair **Gloria Chukwudebe** delivered a presentation about activities in the Africa area, which was approved during the Region 8 Committee meeting in March 2016.
- Background
- What we have done so far
  - Inaugural Meeting using Skype
  - Digital Africa conference in Nigeria (Non IEEE)
  - Meetings at PES Conference in Zambia
  - Meetings in South Africa
  - Other Activities Challenges
- Increasing IEEE Activities in Africa

The Africa Area committee consists of
- Gloria Chukwudebe, Nigeria,
- Ahmed Darwish, Egypt,
- Shaun Kaplan, South Africa,
- Habib M. Kammoun, Tunisia,
- Bellingtone C. Kabwe, Zambia,

and includes the following Sections
- Algeria,
- Egypt,
- Morocco,
- South Africa,
- Ghana,
- Kenya,
- Nigeria,
- Tunisia,
- Zambia,

and the following subsection
- Alexandria,
- Botswana,
- Sudan,
- Tanzania,
- Uganda and
- Mauritius.

During an Inaugural Meeting using Skype the committee discussed possible activities which include
- Introduce Section Competition,
- Encourage Paper Contest for students,
- Activities help to retain members and recruit new ones,
- TISP,
- Section Vitality List,
- Training Workshops,
- Use of Vtools,
- Collaboration with national associations, institutions and industry, and to establish partnerships in the focus areas of the Committee.

Further highlights include:
- Digital Africa Conference in Abuja, Nigeria,
- Meetings at PES Conference in Zambia,
- Africa Area Meeting in Cape Town, with the IEEE President **Barry Shoop**,
- Skype meetings with Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** and
- Industry connect.

She also highlighted a couple of issues and challenges:
- Africa is diverse there may not be a one-model solution that may fit all countries.
- Cost of membership and fluctuating exchange rate
- Youth unemployment
- Growing volunteers
- Industry Academia Disconnect
- Engineering education is theoretical
- Poor fundamental science background from high school
- Management Skills are required because of differences in cultures
- Participation from professional Engineers after they leave University
- Internet cost for ordinary Members

Gloria Chukwudebe closed with a success story about the "IEEE President Change the World competition of 2009". Her complete presentation can be found on the meeting website.

107. IEEE President's Address

IEEE President **Barry Shoop** thanked the Region 8 Committee for their contributions to IEEE. In particular he highlighted the Region 8 Student and Young Professional Congress as a role model, that has been exported to the US in the form of the IEEE USA future leaders forum. He congratulated Region 8, but also encouraged the committee to continue to think outside the box and not to stagnate.

Barry Shoop continued to talk about his number one priority "Industry engagement". Statistics show that in 2000 60% of the IEEE members worked in industry, while in 2016 industry members are in the 30%-range. IEEE needs to react to this shocking facts. IEEE's history shows that industry is where IEEE originated from. However over the years, practitioners have found IEEE less relevant.

While IEEE is doing a good job with journals, conferences and standards, it lack providing value to the mid range, e.g. engineers working in small or medium-sized companies. This needs to be turned this around, otherwise IEEE will become irrelevant to practitioners. Steps that IEEE has taken in this direction include:
- Global Spec has been purchased as service for bench level engineers.
- Partnership with IP.com
- Ad Hoc Committee on Industry Engagement

- Reach out to industry leaders: What can IEEE do to provide more value to industry partners and IEEE members in industry?

In summary IEEE globally and the Region has to continue to tackle the industry challenge and to think outside the box.

- Comment from **Alex Osana**: Shares the concern about industry. Three important elements have been identified during the chapter coordination meeting as relevant for industry:
  1) Access to the state of the art
  2) Opportunities for networking
  3) Access to academic knowledge
- Answer by **Barry Shoop**: What we've heard from industry is that the large companies are very interested in academic research. But there is a need for more distilled information, such as trend papers.

114. Technical Activities Report

Vice Chair **Igor Kuzle** introduced the technical activities sub-committees

- Chapter Coordination: **Nazih Khaddaj Mallat**,
- Conference Coordination: **Adel Alim**i,
- Educational Activities: **Manuel Castro**,
- Action for Industry: **Nihal Sinnadurai**, and
- Standards: **David Law**.

He went on to delivered the standards coordinator report on behalf of **David Law**, with the following highlights**:**

- Targets: Arrange both individual speakers on standards and/or whole standards tracks at major IEEE R8 conferences. Collaborate with Standards Education Committee (SEC) to arrange workshops on standards in parallel with conferences or as independent events
- Status:
  - Looking for potential opportunities for potential individual speakers and/or whole standards tracks.
  - June 2016: IEEE-SA Standards Board held its second meeting of the year in Berlin.
  - October 2016: The IEEE-SA is planning outreach to Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda the first week of October, in cooperation with the local Sections.
  - Plans include:
    - Meetings with national standards organizations.
    - Roundtables in Kenya and Uganda on standards activities in ICT and renewable energy.
    - Standards Education lecture at Strathmore University in Nairobi.

The following chapters were identified as inactive and subject to termination, in case of ongoing inactivity:

- BT02 (Romania), C16 (Greece, Kenya), COM19/C16 (Ghana), C16/COM19/PE31 (Mauritius), CIS11 (Finland), E25 (Italy), IA34/PEL35 (Russia Northwest), OE22 (Italy, Norway), SSC37 (Switzerland), VT06 (Israel)
- Life Member (Germany, Italy), Women in Engineering (Slovenia)

Alexandros Osana gave an overview of the Chapter Coordination Subcommittee. The activities include

- New Chapters /SB Chapters / Council Approved since Jan. 19 th , 2015
  - 32 Chapters
  - 1 Council
  - 165 → 290 (125 New Student Branch Chapters)
- Updated S/C R8 Chapter Coordinators Roster Operation Manual in collaboration with the past Chair (Elya Joffe)
- Formation, Operation and reporting manual for SB Chapters
- Getting Closer to Industry

Pèter Nagy provided a summary of the Conference Coordination Subcommittee activities. The mission of the sub-committee includes:

- Get/stay in contact with conference organizers who are interested in R8 TCS/FCS. Examine applications for R8 co-sponsorship.
- Find organizers and bids for upcoming R8 flagship conferences (Eurocon, Africon, Melecon, Energycon). Review and examine these bids for flagship conferences and advise the R8 Opcom about which one to choose.
- Discuss plagiarism cases.

He pointed out that a huge portion of all IEEE Conferences are held in Region 8 (36.6% of all IEEE conferences in 2016). The plans for 2016 are as follows:

1) Ensure IEEE R8 TCS conferences papers' quality by checking all papers for plagiarism (http://CrossCheck.ieee.org)
2) Ensure the nomination of a conference coordinator in each R8 section.
3) Coordinate with the sections chairs/conference coordinators about all the upcoming IEEE conferences in their sections (booth, etc.)
4) Creating a new R8 flagship conference: Gulf Conference.
5) Attract industrials by ensuring at least one Industrial Panel in each R8 co-sponsored conference (coordinate with IAS)
6) Attract students by ensuring at least one best student paper award in each R8 co-sponsored conference
7) Increase organizing IEEE conferences in Africa (coordinate with Africa Committee).

The flagship conferences are:

- EnergyCon'2016, 4-8 April, Leuven, Benelux
- MeleCon'2016, 18-20 April, Limassol, Cyprus
- EuroCon'2017, Macedonia
- Africon'2017, Cap Town, South Africa

Conferences Looking for organizers to host: EnergyCon 2018. An open issue is the TCS fees introduced by TAB.

Manuel Castro presented the report of the Educational Activities sub-committee. The focus of the sub–committee is on

- High Education activities and accreditation,
- Pre-University (TISP and community projects), and
- Continuous Education (and Life-Long Learning Activities) and Employment.

Major activities include:

- TISP and EPICS 2016
- Increase of the Education Activities, visibility and synergies with the IEEE Education Activities Board
- Organize more Seminars and Webinars
- EAB Section Educational Outreach Committee (SEOC).

The complete presentation can be found on the meeting website.

117. Action for Industry

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** and **Toni Mattila** delivered the presentation on behalf of **Nihal Sinnadurai**, which focused on one of the priorities of Region 8 to "Get Closer to Industry".

The first step was to approach IEEE Senior Members and Fellows in Industry, which is tricky because the IEEE database does not include affiliation information. About 20 mentors were approached to bring companies and IEEE closer. Further steps and progress include:

- Our R8 Industry Ambassadors have worked intensively and with Section Industry Ambassadors (SIAs) and have established effective and friendly contact with many companies across Region 8, and obtained Internship offers.
- We have had excellent contributions from a number of Section Chairs and Section Industry Ambassadors. We seek more involvement.
- At SYP 2016, a number of YPs volunteered to join with their SIAs to support the AfI programme
- A number of companies have recognised the value of the AfI initiative and willingly contributed to our plan.
- At SYP a participating global company volunteered that they will provide 60 Internship offers across Region 8 in 2017
- New MoUs are being agreed in Africa and Middle-East

A highlight of the subcommittee's work is the Internship program, which has attracted and serverd numerous companies and students.

Information about the action for industry activities can be found here: http://www.ieeer8.org/category/technical-activities/action-for- industry/.

201. Sections Congress Presentation

Marko Delimar presented Sections Congress, which will be held in Sydney, 11 – 13 August 2017. The goals and objectives are as follows:

- Increase member engagement and Section vitality
- Provide training to
  - Develop leadership skills
  - Enable and nurture volunteering efforts
  - Share best practices
  - Learn about available programs
- Build on partnership opportunities with Technical Activities
- Provide for networking opportunities at grass-roots level
- Learn about IEEE products and services

The costs per person are estimated to be:

- Airfare: $2,000+
- Hotel – 4 nights: $1,000
- Ground Transportation: $200
- Registration: $350
- Daily Meal Reimbursement (7 meals not to exceed $200 total reimbursement): $200
- TOTAL: $3,750

The financial model is as follows:

- No Region Subsidies
- MGA will compensate all Primary Sections Congress Delegates one additional travel day covering:
  - Hotel and Meals
- Primary Sections Congress delegates will receive reimbursement for all incremental meals outside of the registration
  - Not to Exceed $200 total meal expense
- Expense reports for all travel and meal expenses submitted to MGA for reimbursement after the Congress
  - All submissions to MGA will be made using the IEEE expense report template

- Allocations for Primary Section Delegates unable to attend are not transferable

More information can be found on the Sections Congress Website: http://www.ieee.org/sc.

All delegates will be involved in the creation of recommendations during Sections congress. Region 8 will start the process to create recommendations during the meeting in Stockholm. All Region 8 members are encouraged to think about recommendations before the Stockholm meeting.

- Comment form the audience: Invitations for the Sections congress and meetings in general should be sent out as soon as possible to reduce travel costs.
  - Answer from **Marko Delimar**: The registration website will go online in February. Invitations will thus not be sent out earlier.

IEEE Europe – IEEE European Public Policy Initiative Operations and Assessment

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** proposed a change in the agenda and to have further informal discussions about "IEEE Europe – IEEE European Public Policy Initiative Operations and Assessment" instead of working on the recommendations for Sections congress through agenda items 202 and 203. IEEE Region 8 Secretary **Christian Schmid** put forward a motion "To remove items 202 and 203 and make room for an informal discussion on IEEE Europe". The motion was seconded by **Imad Elhajj** and adopted by the Region 8 Committee.

As the discussion continued in an informal manner and as not all Region 8 Committee members participated in the discussion (some chose to leave the room and not be part of it) the content is not included in the minutes.

Sunday, 25 September 2016

300. Call to Order and Roll Call

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** asked the R8 Secretary, **Christian M. Schmid**, if there was a quorum. The secretary replied in the affirmative.

301. Nominations and Appointments Report and Election Instructions

Past Director **Martin Bastiaans** gave an overview of the N&A process for the Region 8 elections with the following candidates

- 2017-2018 Secretary
  - Jan Verveckken (Benelux)
- 2017-2018 Treasurer
  - Ralph Kennel (Germany)
- 2017 Vice Chair, Member Activities
  - Antonio Luque (Spain)
  - Adeel Sultan (UAE)
- 2017 Vice Chair, Student Activities
  - Efthymia (Femia) Arvaniti (Austria)
  - Oyewole (John) Funso-Adebayo (Nigeria)
- 2017 Vice Chair, Technical Activities
  - Christopher James (UK and Ireland)
  - Daniel Pasquet (France)

and

- N&A Subcommittee members
  - Mahmud Fotuhi-Firuzabad (Iran)
  - Ali Hessami (UK and Ireland)
  - Ljupco Karadzinov (Rep of Macedonia)
  - Panayiotis Symeou (Cyprus)

with the following cadidates:

The election process itself was described as follows:

- There will be presentations from the candidates running for the first 5 positions.
- The tellers committee will be composed of **Marina Ruggieri** and **Maciej Ogorzalek**.
- For the first 5 positions committee members may choose one candidate.
- For the N&A positions, committee members may choose up to three candidates.
- Discussions about the candidates and voting will be done in executive session.

The following questions were raised before the presentations started:

- Question from **Imad Elhajj**: What is the reason that there is only one candidate for the Secretary and Treasurer positions respectively? Was this due to the lack of candidates?
  - Answer by **Martin Bastiaans**: The nomination process in not disclosed.
  - Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: In the case of only one candidate, the N&A committee effectively exercised an appointment.

- Comment by **Martin Bastiaans**: Everything was done according to the rules and there would have been the possibility of a candidate running by petition, which was not the case.
- Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: Proposing one candidate only is in contrast to the argumentation when 3 candidates were proposed for the slate of director-elect position.
- Comment by **Martin Bastiaans**: It is important to understand, that the Secretary and Treasurer are not policy making positions, but positions supporting the Director. As the cooperation and relationship between these supporting positions and the director is crucial, one may even argue that it might make sense to appoint these positions, which is what most of the other Regions do. However this would require a change of the bylaws. He again pointed out the the process is fully in compliance with the rules.
- Comment by **Costas Stasopoulos**: The Secretary is an assistant to the Director, so it makes sense that this should become an appointed position. He will bring this suggestion to the Region 8 Committee in the future. However it is out of the scope for this meeting.

302. Candidate Presentations and Discussion

All candidate presentations can be found on the meeting website.

303. Executive Session

All discussion were held in a closed executive session.

304. Elections

Elections were held with **Marina Ruggieri** and **Maciej Ogorzalek** serving as the tellers committee.

305. Presentation of Election Results

The following candidates were elected:
- 2017-2018 Secretary
  - Jan Verveckken (Benelux)
- 2017-2018 Treasurer
  - Ralph Kennel (Germany)
- 2017 Vice Chair, Member Activities
  - Antonio Luque (Spain)
- 2017 Vice Chair, Student Activities
  - Efthymia (Femia) Arvaniti (Austria)
- 2017 Vice Chair, Technical Activities
  - Christopher James (UK and Ireland)
- N&A Subcommittee members
  - Ali Hessami (UK and Ireland)
  - Ljupco Karadzinov (Rep of Macedonia)
  - Panayiotis Symeou (Cyprus)

306. Secretary's Report

Region 8 Secretary **Christian Schmid** reiterated the mission of the Region 8 Secretary:
- To support you, the Region 8 Committee, as professionally as we can in order to allow you to pro-actively and efficiently work on the big issues of our organization.

Region 8 Electronic Communications Coordinator **George Michael** demoed the new Region 8 website http://www.ieeer8.org and asked for feedback from the committee.

307. Treasurer's Report

After presenting the Expense Form (can be found on the meeting website) Region 8 Treasurer **Brian Harrington** presented the financial position of Region 8 as of September 2016.
- As at August / September 2016 Total Assets held by Region 8: $ 1,319,572:44
- Capital and Reserves: $ 941,660:66
- From Profit and Loss Account $ 377,911:78 +

Region 8 is technically over-capitalised. Some care is needed with cash-flow. **Brian Harrington** went on to present the budget proposal for 2017. Sections Congress and the Region 8 Development Fund were pointed out as special positions.

The three main concerns of the treasurer are:
1) The Critical Mass,
2) The Diversity, and the
3) Communications Structure

The main issues are:
1) Membership Development and Retention
2) Greater Investment in the Vice Chair operations
3) Streamline the administration required of volunteers

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Out of this **Brian Harrington** derived his three objectives:
1) Maintain Cash Position. Cash flow in Region 8 can be sensitive. This is improved, but needs care.
2) Promote the Region 8 "Initiative" strategy. Offer of up to $30,000 for Section or Chapter projects
3) Improve Section and Chapter Reporting process

The Treasurer's written report and the presentation can be found on the meeting website.

- Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: Again thanked and commended Brian Harrington for the quality and excellence of his work. He recommended the Region and the incoming OpCom to have a "Past Treasurer" position to support the incoming treasurer and to keep Brian Harrington engaged.
- Comment by **Costas Stasopoulos**: Indeed Brian Harrington's work is greatly appreciated.
- Comment by **Margaretha Eriksson**: Thanked **Imad Elhajj** for his comment. Brian will be kept on the team to support the new treasurer for a smooth transition.
- Comment by **Brian Harrington**: The system is in place for a smooth hand-over.

308. Innovation Fund

Region 8 Treasurer **Brian Harrington** went on to present the idea of the Innovation fund to empower chapters, students, young professionals, Section chairs and others to run innovative projects. He presented the innovation fund application form which fits on a two A4 page. Similar programs have also been launched successfully outside of IEEE. The complete presentation can also be found on the meeting website.

- Question from **Christopher James**: What are the measurable outcomes?
  - Answer by **Brian Harrington**: KPIs would have to be established in a dialog. But also some risks need to be taken. But of course there needs to be a report after each project.
- Question from **Ali Hessami**: How will continuity work, and how will this be handed over to the new treasurer?
  - Answer by **Brian Harrington**: Continuity is always an issue in IEEE.
- Question from **Aleksandar Szabo**: In the application form there is a start date, what about an end date?
  - Answer by **Brian Harrington**: There needs to be a sensible approach to this and projects need to be reviewed through progress reports.
- Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: Thanked OpCom for approving the idea, although the fundings seem to be low.
  - Answer by **Brian Harrington**: Discussions about increasing funds can be discussed over time.
- Comment by **Costas Stasopoulos**: Section chairs are encouraged to think about new innovations! However this find must not be used for traditional activities, like meetings.
- Comment from **Ali Hessami**: A platform needs to be established to share success stories of this initiative.

311. Vision for an Enhanced MGA-TA Synergy 2017/2018

Marina Ruggieri her perspective as VP-elect technical activities:
- In 2016 she focused on the Presidents' Forum and N&A (IEEE and TAB).
- In 2017 she will focus on "One IEEE" through
  - Launch of New Topics
  - Enhanced Cooperation MGA-TA
  - Enhanced Cooperation with other OUs
  - Closer Interconnection among Committees
- In 2018 she will focus on Strategic Alignment

The complete presentation can also be found on the meeting website.

309. Member Activities Report

Vice Chair **Dušanka Bošković** introduced the membership activities subcommittees and handed over to **Alexandros Osana** for the Humanitarian Activities (HuAc) report.

Highlights of the HuAc subcommittee include:
- 7 new groups around Region 8 (4 in Africa, 2 Europe, 1 Middle- East)
- Discussion on projects in 3 Sections (South Africa, UK&I, Turkey)
- SIGHT Get-to-Know Workshop in SYP 2016

Information on SIGHT, in order to create sustainable programs, can be found online at http://ieee-sight-toolkit.org.

Shashank Gaur delivered the professional activities presentation on behalf of **Ana Katalinic**. The main points are as follows:
- Speakers Program
  - 10+ Speakers over different topics
  - Workshop/Tutorials on Soft Skills
    - Cross Sectional SYPs, Region 8 SYPs
    - Conferences, Individual events
  - Interested OUs can email to r8pasc@ieee.org
- Online Resources, Webinars, CLE, etc.
  - Work on Collabratec, CareersConnect-Europe community
  - Tutorials and Resources related to PA

- Future direction
  - Enrich Speakers Program with diversity in topics and geographical location
  - Communication with PA officers, help organize events using Speakers program
  - Provide support to Student and Young Professionals events

Antonio Luque gave an overview of the latest membership status. Region 8 is losing members and retention is still an issue. He also presented the membership goals for the individual Sections and congratulated the ones who have achieved the goal. The following efforts are on the way to improve membership development:

- Direct & frequent communication with Section Chairs & MD Officers to start aggressive campaign for 2017 renewal & new memberships
- Working closely with MRRC to ensure R8 sections are aware of (and plan accordingly) towards their respective Recruitment & Retention Goals
- Working with section Industry ambassadors to tap into that important area of memberships
- Encouraging the volunteers to utilize new tools like MentorCentre, Resume Lab, GoogleApps@IEEE, for their campaigns
- MD workshop in November 18/19, Tunisia

All Sections are encouraged to send MD officers to the workshop in Tunisia and to make sure that MD officers get appropriate training.

Young Professionals (YPs) chair **Flavia Dinca** presented some statistics regarding YP:

- Total of 47 Young Professionals Affinity Groups in Region 8
- Currently, only one dormant YP AG in Region 8
- New AGs since March 2016: Israel, Bahrain, Palestine, Republic of Macedonia
- YPs represent 34.71% of total Region 8 membership (as of end of August 2016)
- Significant increase from 28.99% in February 2016

Highlights of the YP activities include:

- SYP Congress 2016
- EuroSim 2016
- Representation at the Egyptian Engineering Day 2016

The plan for the rest of the year is to

- Support organization of elections in AGs that need a new Chair
- Updated GOLD Book - a new guide on how to successfully run YP AGs
- Revise R8 SYP Manual
- IEEE Day 2016

Roland Saam pointed out the importance of the printed Region 8 News and encouraged the committee to send in articles for the Region 8 News.

All presentations can also be found on the meeting website.

310. Future Conferences (Energycon, Melecon, GCC)

Vice chair **Igor Kuzle** presented the 2016 flagship conferences:

- 4th ENERGYCON 2016, Leuven/Ghent, Belgium, 4-8 April
- 18th MELECON 2016, Limassol, Cyprus, 18-20 April

The flagship conferences in 2017 will be

- 17th International conference on smart technologies IEEE EUROCON 2017 – Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, 6-8 July 2017, http://www.eurocon2017.org
- 13th AFRICON 2017 – Cape Town, South Africa, 18-20 September 2017
- 4th HISTELCON 2017 – University of Hyogo, Kobe, Japan, 7-8 August, 2017

The status for 2018 is as follows:

- MELECON 2018, Marrakesh, Morocco – Mohammed El Mohajir, IEEE Morocco Section Chair
- EnergyCon 2018: we didn't get adequate bid yet, we have announcement of the Cyprus section
- EuroCon 2019: no bids yet!
- EnergyCon 2020, Tunis - Gammarth, Tunisia – Habib Kammoun, IEEE Tunisia Section Chair

He also announced a change in dates of for the GCC2017 to 6-9 May 2017.

Adel Abdulla announced that the Bahrain Section has now been officially registered. He specially thanked the Bahrain Government, the IEEE President, the IEEE Legal and Compliance Department, the Region 8 Director, and all who supported. **Mohammad Almuhaini** gave a detailed presentation about GCC. **Ali Zolait** invited the members of Region 8 to submit and participate in the conference. **Hanan Hanjafah** showed some pictures of the venue. More information can be found on the GCC website http://ieee-gcc.org/.

312. Vision for Region 8 2017/2018

IEEE Region 8 Director-Elect **Margaretha Eriksson** shared what the Strategic Planning committee had worked on. She pointed out, that the Region 8 Startegy has to be in Line with the global IEEE 2030 strategy:

- Create a Nimble, Flexible, Forward-looking Organization
- Foster Public Imperatives
- Foster Diverse Technical Communities with Industry, Government, and Academia
- Empower the Discovery, Development and Delivery of Cutting-edge Products and Services

Out of this and Region 8's past strategic goals, **Margaretha Eriksson** derived the following strategic goals:

- Closer to Industry
- Attract and support future members
- Section Vitality
- IEEE in Africa
- Support from IEEE Office in Vienna, Austria

These goals are an extension of the previous Region 8 priorities. She also pointed out the importance of the Section officers, to derive the strategy and action plan for the Section in line with the Region 8 Strategy. **Margaretha Eriksson** concluded by putting out the challenge to increase membership by 1%. E.g., can you recruit just 1 new member?

The complete presentation can be found on the meeting website.

- Question from **Runar Såsen**: How can the Vienna office contribute to the strategic goals of Region 8?
  - Answer by **Margaretha Eriksson**: This is the question to the committee. The mode of collaborations can be shaped based on the needs.
- Comment by **Aleksandar Szabo**: The membership numbers problem is not just a problem of recruiting new members but of retention.
  - Answer by **Margaretha Eriksson**: Agrees, we must also focus on retention.
- Comment by **Eric Kuada**: Membership dues is a major factor and major issue.
  - Answer by **Margaretha Eriksson**: The Sections should work strategies to deal with that.
- Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: In Egypt students have access to publications through the schools, this has lead to a drop in membership, as they have all the access they need without an IEEE membership. New membership models need to be discussed.
  - Answer by **Margaretha Eriksson**: Is open for future discussion.

313. Next Region 8 Committee Meeting

Mats Edvinsson invited the R8 Committee to Stockholm, Sweden, where the next IEEE Region 8 meeting will be held 25-26 March 2017. More information will be published on the meeting website.

314. Motions

- **Costas Stasopoulos** proposed a motion "to approve the treasurer's budget". The motion was approved.
- **Martin Bastiaans** presented a motion to "Members of the IEEE Region 8 committee residing in EU/EFTA* countries hereby express support for: forming a new IEEE Organisational Unit tentatively called "IEEE Europe" to work on public policy matters on behalf of IEEE members residing in EU/EFTA countries through Working Groups that will be selected from EU/EFTA members by an independent nominations and selections process."
  - Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: More information should have been prepared and distributed beforehand. We can not establish a unit without a proper name and proper structure.
  - Answer by **Martin Bastiaans**: This is a motion to express the support and not form a new unit.
  - Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: The Middle East also needs such a group, so this should not be discussed in Region 8. "Region 8 should discuss things about Region 8, otherwise why am I here?"
  - Answer by **Martin Bastiaans**: This is just the first step. For sure there will be something for the Middle East, for sure there will be something for Africa. However, this motion only addresses EU/EFTA.
  - Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: Initially he was supporting the idea. However, the rewording made him turn against it. In addition he felt rushed at the end of a two day meeting, as some people had already left the meeting and as there is no more room for adequate discussion. "If we think this Region has to be divided, then it might as well be. Let's set up a task force on how to break up the Region."
  - Answer by **Martin Bastiaans**: This is not about dividing the Region.
  - Comment by **Imad Elhajj**: "This is what we have been doing the past two days. We have only been asking the EU/EFTA members, we have been lobbying only EU members."
  - Answer by **Martin Bastiaans**: Assured that the moment Africa came up with a proposal it would be discussed in a similar manner and supported.
  - Question by **Runar Såsen**: Is it in accordance with the rules to have a motion that focuses on a specific part of the Region? Also is there even such a thing as an informal motion?
  - Answer by **Martin Bastiaans**: Yes it is.
  - Answer by **Costas Stasopoulos**: This is a motion, there is no such thing as an informal motion.

  Costas Stasopoulos proposed to table the motion, which was adopted by the Region 8 committee.
- **Martin Bastiaans** presented a motion to "IEEE Region 8 Committee endorses forming a new IEEE Organisational Unit tentatively called "IEEE Europe" to work on public policy matters on behalf of IEEE members residing in EU/EFTA*

countries through Working Groups that will be selected from EU/EFTA members by an independent nominations and selections process"

- ○ Comment by **Dušanka Bošković**: Expressed understanding of those opposing the motion and agreed that Region 8 should not be divided. However, when a certain group in Region 8 is asking for support and is overruled, this may also create borders rather than bridges. She did not see a way to divide the Region through the motion.
- ○ Comment by **Charles Turner**: Proposed deleting the text after "IEEE members".
- ○ Comment by **Marko Delimar**: Accepted the amendment, after which the motion reads: "IEEE Region 8 Committee endorses forming a new IEEE Organisational Unit tentatively called "IEEE Europe" to work on public policy matters on behalf of IEEE members".
- ○ Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: Proposed removing the part "tentatively called "IEEE Europe"".
- ○ Comment by **Marko Delimar**: Such an organization already exists within IEEE in the form of the "Global Public Policy Committee". Asked to go back to the original form of the motion and to call for the vote. That way Region 8 clearly states that it does not want Public Policy in EU and EFTA countries.

The motion failed.

Comment by **Samir Shaheen**: Postpone the discussion to Stockholm.

315. New Business

No new items were suggested.

316. Adjournment

Region 8 Director **Costas Stasopoulos** thanked everyone who organized and attended the meeting before entertaining a motion to end the Region 8 Committee meeting. The motion was adopted.