

## 100: Call to Order

Director Margaretha Erikson (ME) calls the committee to order and opens the 110th Region 8 Committee meeting.

## 101: Roll Call and Introduction of New Officers

Secretary Jan Verweckken invites the full committee to present themselves in name and function. The full present committee present themselves.

## 102: Welcome by Greece Section

Greece Section Vice chair welcomes the committee to the sections. He comments on the honor to receive the R8 Committee meeting as guests, and thanks his many volunteers that helped this event.

## 103: Introductory Remarks

Secretary Jan Verweckken thanks the Greece sections and volunteers, and mentions the procedural changes in the order of the agenda.

## 104: Approval of the Agenda

Director ME manages the vote of the Agenda. The motion to accept the agenda stands.

## 105: Approval of the Consent Agenda

The motion to accept the consent agenda stands.

## 106: IEEE Region 8 Director's Address

Director ME recalls the Sydney meeting, where the concerns of the Section chairs were voiced. Similarly, Director ME invites every section representative to voice their major concern, and invites all who have a solution for the voiced concerns, to contact them with the proposed solutions.

The voiced concerns:

UK&IR: The changes in technical conferences and the fees for it.

UAE: Website of IEEE is very difficult to register, many clicks to become a member.

Ukraine: Difficult to recognize the benefits for members, and to file reports to netsuite.

Turkey: Finding volunteers for the projects.

Tunisia: Developing new benefits, our percentage of renewal is not high enough.

Switzerland: No particular concerns.

Sweden: Recent changes in fee structure on conferences. Attract more members.

Spain: want to increase the number of members, want to promote chapters more.

Slovenia: Fees for conferences, how to attract members with benefits.

Saudia Arabia East: Publication times of conference papers takes too long. Enotice emails not received by all members.

South Africa: Ease of finding benefits for members. One of the meetings should come to Africa.

Russia Siberia: The section is very large in surface, difficult to coordinate all chapters. Very rarely do officers from R8 come to Siberia

Russia North West: We want our volunteers to be more involved in an international level.

Russia Moscow: The number of conferences that we supported increased, but not easy. The large size of the country does not help. Our young member want to be more involved.

Iran: Large potential for growth. However our membership is largely blocked, we need more support from R8 and IEEE Headquarters. We hope to get a reasonable level of support from Vienna Office:

Hungary: No problems currently.

Greece: Worried on how to offer more benefits to members, and how to motivate them to become volunteers

Ghana: Visibility of IEEE in Ghana is not big, not very recognized.

Germany: No concerns in the moment, enough members. Concerned about the planned changes of the term of the treasurer.

France: Price of IEEEExplore is too high. Being compliant with Financial rules of IEEE.

Finland: no particular concerns. We wish there were more active people.

Estonia: How to attract people to join IEEE outside of the capital.

Egypt: Renewal of members is hard, especially with the Dollar going up. Organizing conferences becomes a financial problem. We helped 11 conferences last year, now we are expected to pay 1000 \$ per conferences, not possible for us to support them.

Denmark: Six years of having funds blocked by the bank. This we need to get sorted.

Serbia&Montenegro: New conference fee for conferences is our hardest issue.

Sweden: How to attract more students members.

Czechoslovakia: Technical cosponsorship of conferences. Right now hard for section to support.

Cyprus: We need higher retention.

Croatia: Technical cosponsorship.

Bulgaria: How to attract more young people to engineering. Technical cosponsorship.  
 Bosnia&Herzegovina: Students activity.  
 Benelux: Convincing that IEEE has a useful purpose in a local level. Hard to explain why we need to do that too.  
 Dubai: Updating volunteers takes a long time.  
 Austria: Status quo in our section. Membership is constant. We need better information flow from IEEE to our section.  
 Algeria: Technical cosponsorship.  
 Israel: Convincing members to join IEEE from Industry.  
 Italy: How to convince students to maintain membership, especially if fee is so different. Women in Engineering Affinity group needs to be paid for, is weird. Industry members, a corporate fee would be interesting?  
 Jordan: we had good membership growth, 50% in 2 years. How to keep up this growth, how to retain students?  
 Kenya: Transition of students to full members. Conference costs are very high. Membership picks up in August, what happens?  
 Kuwait: Similar concerns as in other sections. Benefits of the European offices, what are the costs, are they justified?  
 Kenya: Conference fees are high? Women in Engineering, how to start and grow?  
 Lebanon: 11% growth in membership, but how to solve retention. There are prohibited authors lists. Are there a prohibited conferences list? Lithuania: Half of members are in the capital. How can we establish other chapters outside of the capital.  
 Malta: no concerns  
 Morocco: Young professionals, how to communicate with them? IEEE should be more devoted to them.  
 Nigeria: Diversity sometimes influences the interest of possible IEEE members. We want to organize more workshops and events.  
 Oman: Vitality dashboard is currently not very userfriendly. Retention rate is difficult.  
 Poland: Technical cosponsorship is very difficult for conferences. How to attract industry people?  
 Portugal: Conference fees. Women in Engineering, membership fee is too high for it.  
 Qatar: Many members, but not registered in the Qatar section, as they are in their home country... Registration in Qatar is more expensive than in their home section.  
 Republic of Macedonia: Dropping membership. Engagement of industry members is difficult.  
 Romania: SamIEEE is too slow. No clear rule about IEEE Conference fee. Resources for students are not competitive enough with what is free on internet. Romanian members used to be members through their companies. Not available.

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos suggests to keep these questions and post answers on the website.  
 Director Margaretha Erikson comments on the variety of problems, as well as the returning questions. Large potential awaits in African Sections as well as the not yet section countries.  
 Director ME invites the committee to focus on the networking opportunities and efforts.  
 Director ME focusses on volunteering, and how it is presented.  
 Comment from the audience: "We need to get out of the box. Our president plays an important role in that."  
 Director ME focusses on the Industry part of our membership, as 90% of our students, after graduation, take the non-academical road.  
 Director ME focusses on Standards, and the role of them in the opportunities of our members work to bridge international gaps.

## 107: IEEE President's Answers to the most burning questions

President Jim Jefferies, after a short general introduction on IEEE, answers the most pressing questions.  
 Syria members: as long as the US is the physical home of IEEE corporation, we have to follow their rules. The sanctions in place forbid us to do any business in Syria. We stand as an organization behind technology, we do not take political stances, but stand behind our values always.  
 From the audience: Benefit of humanity is the goal. Not taking a political stance, is taking a political stance.  
 African Strategy long-term: More focus on 5 particular sections, to later expand to other countries. Build the base of capability in those countries. Work on Educational opportunities in those countries. Working with the countries, technology policy in those countries.  
 Egypt repeats the concern of the technical conferences sponsorship fee.  
 How to help African countries with concrete actions?: We have worked on the general strategy, but are also having more actions, focusing on visibility.  
 Sister sections program would be a good idea. But the structure is  
 Tunisia: the help for countries that do not have a section? I propose to create something like that, so that IEEE members without sections to have access to the same benefits as other members.  
 What is the future of Region 8? Very bright future, you have many strengths. Structure of IEEE should probably change, to assure balanced representation in the world.

## 108: IEEE President's Elect Introduction

President Elect Jose Moura presents himself. His past is technological, he is the co-founder of the Portugal Section. He was President of a society.  
 Membership: Our average age is increasing, we are missing the YP. As a goal, let's have 1M members. What is the value proposition in that case? Maybe our membership model is no longer up to date. How do we attract YPs? What technology

should we use for it?

Transparency: We need to have a clear picture of how we run our business. We have operations deficits. WE have great products, IEEEExplore, but these products have real challenges. We need to be very efficient of how we run our organizations. Currently we can not answer such questions. How much does it really cost to produce a journal paper?

What are your plans concerning R8? I have a lot of affinity with the Region. Maybe it is necessary or useful to sub-organize the Region.

How can IEEE give more value to industry members? Industry Engagement Committee, for example. Also bringing CTO of several companies to advice IEEE on this issue.

Board representation is unbalanced: We need to be careful with reorganization. Reorganization is easy, making it good is not so easy. Several options and ideas to balance are floating around, but we need to very careful, so that the ideas are not misunderstood.

## 109: IEEE AHC Action Africa: Africa Council

Vincent Kaabunga: I invite you all to play a role in bringing the Africa region forward, towards a council.

Three Actions: Education, Sustainable community of members and volunteers, and supporting Government policy. Support Engineering Education and Workforce Development:

- Expanded Access to IEEE Xplore
- IEEE Virtual Events Program in Africa
- African Conference Subsidy Program
- Equipment and Laboratory Expansion Program
- African Distinguished Visitor Program
- Short Courses for New Engineering Graduates
- Developing Entrepreneurship Capabilities in Africa
- Expanding Access to IEEE Pre-University offerings

Building a Sustainable Community of IEEE Members and Volunteers.

- Strengthening Local IEEE Entities and Building Collaborations
- Engagement with National and Regional Professional Societies
- Volunteer Leadership Development Program
- African Student and Young Professionals Congress
- Supporting African Innovation, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship
- Support for Standards Development in Africa

Government Policy Support and Increasing the Visibility of IEEE as a Resource for Engineering Capacity Development.

- Partnership with African Union/ NEPAD Agency
- African Organization for Standardization
- Revitalization of IEEE Partnership with UNESCO on Education in Africa
- Outreach to the Smart Africa Alliance
- East African Communications Organization
- WEF ? World Economic Forum
- African Telecommunications Union
- Kenya Bureau of Standards, Uganda Bureau of Standards

On the horizon

- Building on a ground swell stakeholder-led movement
- Imperative that the entity is robust to handle anticipated engagements
- Very important that there is no effect on R8 structures and operations
- Need a transitional overlap period for hand-off from AHCA
- ?Beat the clock?

## 110: Introduction to Poster Session

Secretary Jan Verwecken presents the poster sessions.

## 111: Committees Poster session+RSYP poster+coffee break

Poster can be found online.

## 112: Questions to Student Activities Vice Chair

Student Activities Vice Chair Efthymia Arvaniti introduces herself and her team.  
What is the election system applied for student branch officer elections? Vtools is not yet possible for us, but this should be solved this year. We try to have online election software or traditional pen&paper.  
How do you personally support the activities of the different student branches in R8?  
I do not do it alone, I have a team.

- Advertising
- Providing guidance and ideas
- Fundraising advice
- Representing SAC and R8 in Events&Congresses

What is your best advice to Student Leaders of IEEE?

- Stay in touch with your Section and your Region
- Participate in the predesigned events
- Bring new ideas
- Explore the countless possibilities for your future development within IEEE
- Networking
- Build a trusted team
- Be inclusive
- Motivate your peers
- Believe in yourself and in your team members
- You are a role model!
- Ask Ask Ask
- Transfer knowledge
- Do not forget to HAVE FUN!

Mats Edvinsson: Try to start thinking as students already about their life afterwards. Bring your structural thinking to section and industry.

Internship database is being built. "afi.ieeer8.org"

Saudi Arabia East: do you think that there is a particular practices that we can organize? Cross sectional SYP events, to be attended by not only the chair, but someone that will take over next year, smooth transfer. Student Branch Counselors are also vital in the continuity.

Tony Davies: Make sure you have a good student branch counselor, if the current one is not good, get a new one.

Could we have a general forum in the Region to transfer knowledge? Good idea.

Even years, large SYP congress, odd years, cross sectional congresses.

## 113: Questions to Member Activities Vice Chair

Member Activities Vice Chair Antonio Luque: IEEE Smart Tech Workshop Series is an excellent program that gives value to members and helps in membership development and retention. Why did you cancel it? We didn't cancel it, it was not a Region program. It was created in R1-6, later some workshops were organized in R8 too. The program was expensive, and cancelled.

What are the minimum activities required from each section member? Reporting at least 5 activities.

Please describe the real benefit of your activities to the usual IEEE member who works in industry? We, IEEE, are failing to transmit the good image of the existing benefits. He invites the different sub-committee chairs to present their main benefits to the committee.

R8 loses HG members constantly for last 4 years. Do you have any strategy of rising the new interest of this valuable part of IEEE? Andrejs Romanovs explains that this year for the first year, we have a slight increase in membership. We have to look at the section level. It is not easy to renew interest, but organizing activities, encouraging students, providing help to local initiatives.

More questions can be answered on the posters.

## 114: Questions to Technical Activities Vice Chair

Technical Activities Vice Chair Christopher James What kind of technical activities can members participate in? Several different activities are suggested.

Why do we have such technical activities besides the IEEE technical society's activities? There is a place for such activities, as we can make bespoke events, focusing on things that no one society alone can focus on.

How are the Distinguished Lecturer programs being unified and presented collectively? We should definitely keep their selection by the societies. These systems depend on them. Chapter can invite distinguished lecturers.

## 201:IEEE MGA New Issues(GDPR)+ questions

MGA Vice President Francis Grosz presents the MGA priorities for 2019. Vera Sharoff presents the GDPR and IEEE's actions for it. The content of this presentation has legal qualities. To not create any misunderstandings, the presentation can be found on our website.

Q. What benefits do the majority of IEEE members gain from MGA activities?

A. MGA's policies, procedures, and programs support all IEEE members. For example, the YP, WIE, and LM programs all come under MGA. In addition, there are various committees working on ways to improve MGA support of local Organizational Units and increase member value. Sections Congress seeks to provide direct feedback from Sections (and Chapters and Groups) and the members to the Institute. In addition, MGA is constantly focused on increasing support for local Geo Units.<sup>26</sup> Q. How does MGA see its development in the future, in comparison to TA?

A. Both MGA and TA are major Organizational Units of IEEE, but they are also quite different. MGA serves all IEEE members, but only about half of IEEE members belong to one or more Societies. MGA's income comes primarily from member dues, while TA's income includes income from the sale of IP (IEL, Xplore). Chapters are sub-units of both MGA (through their Sections) and TA (through the sponsoring Societies). TA is focused on technology, while MGA supports members through a variety of different programs. Providing quality programs and local Geo Unit support in an era of declining dues revenue will continue to be a challenge.

Q. What is the success story of Collabratec for the last two years, in comparison with other major professional social networks?

A. Collabratec is somewhat different from the usual social network, professional or otherwise, in that it is envisioned as more than just social networking tool. As its name implies, it is envisioned as a platform where people can collaborate and work together on projects. For example, researchers in different locations can work together to write papers and share results. Also, it includes a reference capability and additional tools are planned to further enhance its capacity for people to work together. The number of Collabrated users has continued to grow, as has the time spent by users on the platform. Nonetheless, there is concern at the Board level about the cost of the program and the benefit obtained for that investment. Therefore, the Board has requested additional information on the usage of the platform, plans for future development, and a business plan for the system, and will continue to monitor the future development of Collabratec.

## 202:Presentation of IEEE Region 8 Director Elect Candidates

Antonio Luque and Rafal Sliz have both been approved by the Nominations&Awards committee. After a short introduction, they present themselves. Further questions can be asked directly at the posters session.

## 203:Poster Session 1/3 Sections + IEEE R8 Director Elect Candidates poster+ coffee break

Poster can be found online.

## 204: Humanitarian Activities

Paul M Cunningham, Humanitarian Activities Committee chair presents all current opportunities and activities. The IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee supports the IEEE Board-endorsed vision of IEEE volunteers around the world carrying out and/or supporting impactful "feet-on-the-ground" activities at local level.

HAC supports Sustainable Development related IEEE volunteer activities by

- Providing financial support to relevant projects and events
- Providing educational, mentoring and networking support
- Promoting and supporting collaboration by IEEE & non-IEEE volunteers through IEEE SIGHT (Special Interest Group on Humanitarian Technology) Program
- Building strategic partnerships with other relevant stakeholders
- Providing volunteers who support local teams undertaking "feet-on-the ground" community based activities

Precise actions that can or can not be funded are specified in the presentation, that can be found online.

## 205: Poster Session 2/3 Sections + Humanitarian Activities Workshop(Room:Erato A)

Posters can be found online.

## 206: Group Photo

## 207: IEEE Vienna Office Answer to the most burning questions

Dr Clara Neppel introduces the different employees of the Vienna Offices and their roles Dr. Clara Neppel, Senior Director for European Business Operations

- Responsible for IEEE's operations and presence in Europe
- From the European Patent Office

Dr. Hermann Brand, European Standards Affairs Director

- Lead the regional efforts of the IEEE-SA in Europe
- From the European Telecommunications Standards Institute

MStats. Tania Sanchez Juarez Zugazagoitia, Executive Administrator

- General administration of IEEE's Technology Centre
- From industry (Dell EMC, Kofax) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

Why Vienna?

The easternmost city of Western Europe and the westernmost city of Eastern Europe

Seat of numerous international organizations: UN, OSCE, IAEA

Smart City: ranks highest for quality of living 8th year in a row

Home to multiple science and technology parks, research facilities, and robust university technology transfer programs

Currently the Vienna Office focuses on Standardization and Public Policy.

The European Public Policy Office is supported there, with two working groups.

Expanding collaborations and partnerships

High level meeting between EC DG CNECT and IEEE delegation

- Future collaboration possibilities identified in several technical areas and in education
- Discussed possible involvement in EU framework programs

European Public Policy WG Meetings with officials from DG Justice, CNECT and Energy

- Topics: Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, Internal Electricity Market

Debates in the European Parliament, eg ?Blockchain Applications in Everyday Life ?

Region 8, Standards, Industry, EU officials, Associations

Meeting with the Austrian Ministry of Innovation

- Introduction of IEEE initiatives, follow up planned for Tech Ethics and Autonomous Driving.

More details can be found in the presentation online.

Questions from the audience:

What is the capacity of the Vienna Office and how is it funded?:

Dr Clara Neppel :We are currently only three, recruiting a fourth, our funding is from IEEE HQ. Dirk van Hertem, Marko

Delimar: EPPC is covered by a 5 dollar difference in membership fee of European members.

To what extent can we provide support outside of Europe ?

Dr Clara Neppel: with standards, we support everybody. With more support from MGA, we will be able to support more than Europe.

## **208: Poster Session 3/3 Sections+ IEEE President Elect Candidates poster**

### **209: Voting system of Posters to be presented on stage + reflection question**

Secretary Jan Verwecken explains the voting system of the posters, as well as the changes to the meeting structure. The voting will close at 9PM and the winners will present their poster the next day.

### **210: Closing of day one**

Director Margaretha Eriksson closes the first day of meeting, and wishes everybody a delightful dinner.

### **300: Call to Order and Roll Call**

Director Margaretha Eriksson welcomes everybody back for the second part of the meeting.

### **301: Presentation of Section poster voted best Industry Activity+discussion**

Egypt: Two different Events, in Cairo and Assouan. roughly 15000 visitors, 5000 students, rest are industry visitors. Egyptian Engineering Day, 3000 active volunteers. The Assouan event focuses on South Egypt universities. The event promotes IEEE as well as students

Students got 30% of their membership funded by industry. 150 Engineers from industry gave workshops.

### **302: Presentation of Section poster voted best Membership Activity+discussion**

Tunisia: Our sections lives for 10 years, celebration in June. We started with 200 members, and now over 2000. Most are students in student branches. We try to push our students forward. English is not spoken in our country, so our students do real efforts to improve their skills and getting more connected with IEEE.

In the organized congress, many students join only to be able to attend it. We try to attract both universities and industry, while cooperating with government. SYP was a great event last year.

We were able to arrange free calls between IEEE members, by an agreement with the largest communications provider.

### **303: Presentation of Section poster voted best Young Prof. Activity+discussion**

Lebanon: the YP group started in 2014, is currently one of the most active YP groups in R8. We try to benefit our students as well as our YP. We started by talking to students, what their issues were, what they needed to start their careers. The two big issues were internships and job opportunities. We were able to solve many internships with Memorandums of Understanding with Industry. The first MOU was with Alpha, Ericsson and Telecom. We organized a national IEEE day, always on a Saturday, so everybody can come. The YP Affinity group is organizing many things and growing well.

### **304: Presentation of Section poster voted best Action for Africa+discussion**

Egypt: The issue with Africa is the size of the continent. We are proposing that each country will help the nearby countries to start subsections.

Kenia: We believe in having an end to end solution. We start at colleges already, to not lose any students. We work on local events to reduce travel. We worked on standards, in cooperation with the government. We are working on using blockchain and big data. We are receiving a lot of support from the government. We organized contests at high schools, colleges, universities with the largest telecom provider in our country. Distinguished lecturers were invited. We supported Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania. As results we have more students interested from all these countries. We will end the year with IEEEExtreme, IEEE Day and other events. A WiE Affinity group was started.

South Africa: Our section is 41 years old, and roughly 1000 members in a very large section. We held Africon, with 300 attendees. We held several IEEE sessions at it. The Director Elect Magdalena Salazar Palma presented IEEE, Jan Haase presented how to organize conferences. We will organize a widely advertised workshop event soon. The standardization organization presented.

### **305: Closing remarks IEEE R6 Director**

Kathleen Kramer: Only Region that has all other regions as neighbors. Many activities shared with R7. Region 6 is divided in several areas and some councils. Some councils dissolved, some new councils started. Director ME thanks Director KK for the viewpoints.

### **305b: Awards Addendum**

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos (CS) announces the Award for Outstanding medium section, assigned to Poland.

### **306: Closing remarks IEEE RX Director**

Director ME thanks the Region 8 for the fantastic ideas. Director Kukjin Chun reports the current status of the RX. The diversity of RX is similar in size, countries, cultures, languages as R8. Visa issues also occur in RX. RX has many sections, subsections, students and student branches.

Several sections are large enough to hold their own SYPs, with over 20000 students in China, over 50000 students in India.

### **307: Closing remarks IEEE R4 Director**

Director Bernard T. Sander mentions the strong cultural experiences he has experienced in R8, and the profound impact they have had on his life.

Director ME thanks all Directors for their kind words, and wishes them safe travels.

### **308: Motions, presentation, discussion, voting**

Past Director Costas Stasopoulos (CS) presents the different motions.

#### **Russia far east subsection of Siberia Section**

Aleksandar Szabo presents the motion, and explains the sheer size of the Siberia section, the largest section in the world. The Siberia section agrees with the subsection formation.

Siberia Section chair explains the activities of the proposed subsection. Membership in whole Siberia is roughly 850. The motion: Region 8 supports the formation of the Russia Far East subsection. full details of the motion can be found online. The motion stands.

### Bylaws and Operations manual proposed changes.

Past Director CS explains the separate parts of the motions.

It is clarified that Bylaws cannot be changed, only changes can be proposed to MGA, but need to be approved by it.

Discussion:

GOLD will become YP.

Industry Activity will become Action for Industry.

WiE adhoc committee to become standing committee. Discussion about the funding, what will get less financial support. It is clarified that both have already a budget. It is clarified that the continuity of the operations is the main goal. It is discussed that the subcommittee should be reconsidered, as the committee is only growing, no reconsideration, no

HuAc adhoc committee to become standing committee.

Reducing Fellow grade requirement on the Awards subcommittee to Senior grade. Some discussion about the perception of quality. Some discussion whether this committee decides to promote members to fellow grade. It is clarified that this committee does not partake in such discussion.

Office term of Secretary to be reduced from 2 years to 1 year. It is clarified that this change only would affect the Region secretary, not section secretaries.

Office term of Treasurer to be reduced from 2 years to 1 year. Discussion: this period is considered short. No other Region has a such a 2 year term, only 1 year terms are there. Past Treasurer Brian Harrington comments that the danger exist, seeing the complexity, that this becomes an appointment instead of an election.

Including Africa Area.

Motions that stand:

- GOLD to YP. unanimous
- Industry Relations to Afl. unanimous
- WiE from adhoc to Standing committee. one abstention, no against. Rest in favour.
- HuAc from adhoc to standing committee. 4 abstention, no against. Rest in favour.
- Awards chair grade from Fellow to member Grade. 5 against.
- change to the existence of Africa Area.

Motions that do not stand:

- Term of Secretary from 2 years to 1.
- Term of Treasurer from 2 years to 1.

### Formation of Africa Council

AdHoc Committee for Action in Africa chair Vincent Kaabunga presents the motion to form an Africa Council.

Discussion: Egypt does not approve this council. The name of the proposed Africa Council is in question. It is clarified that any section has the right to opt in or out. The size of Africa as a continent, as well as the support for an Area coming from MGA, instead of the funding for a council that needs to come from sections is mentioned. The inclusiveness of all meetings is discussed. It is clarified that all meetings were open to all, several took place at R8 meetings.

Director ME mentions the importance of IEEE as cooperation and interfacing partner for several large African organizations.

The motion to vote for the motion stands. 2 against, 6 abstentions.

The motion stands. 1 against, 5 abstentions.

### 309: IEEE Region 8 SYP

José Pinto, chair of the 2018 IEEE Region 8 SYP present the organization of the event. Registration Fee: 300 +/- 50  
Included in Registration fee:

- Accommodation chosen by the SYP organization, for 4 nights;
- Transportation during the Congress;
- All meals during the Congress;

NOT Included in Registration fee: Flights and transportation to the Congress.

The program, focusing on technical, industrial and soft skill talks and workshops is presented.

At time of this presentation, 10 Sponsors are confirmed, several more are in the pipeline.

Full details can be found in the presentation online.

VC Efthymia Arvaniti mentions the tradition that sections support the travel of R8 funded attendees. She commends the good work of the SYP team. She stresses the more stringent rules to be selected for funding, also, the reimbursement is participation dependent.

Questions:

Sponsorship is organized by packages? Yes, several packages, ranging from 1000-10000 Euros, flexible content.

Reimbursement after the event can be very expensive for students, can sections prefund it?

Travel can be the first time internationally for several students, how are they supported ? Information to travel from all major airports will be given.

Selection criteria are not linked with the section, that have more information? Would support letters from the section be taken into account? Section endorsement letters are a criteria, as well as many other activity related criteria.

Will there be any travel grants awarded, because the registration fee is just a small part of the actual costs? R8 can not fund



more.

Visa requirements? We make exceptions to the reimbursement, if it can be proven that the visa application was started on time.

### **310: Presentation of President-Elect Candidates**

Question to the President-Elect Candidates: How do you see IEEE developing with ever larger humanitarian projects, without compromising the technical foundations of IEEE.

President-Elect candidates Jacek Zurada, Vincent Piuri, Toshio Fukuda present their answers, in line with their programs, which can be found online on their respective election websites.

### **311: New Business**

Director-Elect Magdalena Salazar addresses the mentioned concerns about the fee to technically co-sponsor technical conferences. It is a large financial burden to pay 1000 \$ to IEEE. It is possible to mitigate the risk by partaking financially in the conferences, and use the proceeds of it.

Societies earn part of the money of papers, why are sections not receiving it? DE MS will bring this paper to the board.

Technical co-sponsorship is also a strong partaking in the conferences, sitting on all technical committees. There are good arguments to partake financially, because sections will also be more selective with participating in conferences.

Strong comments are made concerning that this was sent on the last day of the year 2017, in effect 1st January of 2018. This is a disrespectful way of communicating, sections were unable to respond or prepare well for this decision and change. DE MS comments that this change was not coming from MGA but from the IEEE Conference Committee.

The legal ramifications seem not checked. In many jurisdictions it is not legal to do things retroactively.

Is there any difference made between seminars, conferences? If a conference application was filed, it applies.

### **313: Next Region 8 Meeting**

Section Chair Vera Markovic presents the next Region 8 meeting, which will be held in Belgrade.

### **308: Treasurer's Report**

Past Treasurer Brian Harrington apologizes for the absence of the treasurer Ralph Kennel. He presents the treasurer's report. The Region's finances are healthy. However, the cashflow is not. If you split the net worth down, we have roughly 1 MEUR reserves, but we do not have enough cashflow.

The expenses are mainly the meetings. We budget between 680kEuro and 720kEuro.

We need to prepare for SYP, as this event is very sensitive to sponsorship.

A new accounting system is being set up which will allow for better reviewing options of the budget.

Questions:

73% of our budget is spent on meetings, is that appropriate? Not a questions for the Treasurer.

Do we any analysis to review the activities that create membership, and which not? Director ME will review this.

### **314: Closing Remarks IEEE Vienna Office**

Dr. Clara Neppel: Wish to learn more about the initiatives in the region and learn from them. Invites all sections to contact the office about partnerships that require assistance. Events relating to standards and policy makers are very interesting currently.

### **315: Closing Remarks President-Elect**

President elect Jose Moura: IS amazed with the fantastic efforts of students and young professionals. He commends the questions about funding the right committees and actions.

### **316: Closing Remarks President**

President Jim Jefferies: Let's replicate the things that work really well: poster sessions, innovation. Thanks everybody for the great work done in Region 8

### **317: Closing Remarks R8 Director**

Director ME thanks the committee and the guests for their contributions to the region. She welcomes any ideas and suggestions to improve the meeting and cooperation within the region, from a new meeting setting to budget reconsiderations. She thanks the Greece volunteers and the section that helped make this meeting a success.

### **318: Adjournment**

Director ME adjourns the meeting.