

Report on EU-AESS Chapters meeting 11-12-2016

May 12-13, 2017

Seattle, WA

**Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Koch and
Prof. Dr. Leo Ligthart**



Meeting 11-12-2016

Venue: Mercure airport hotel, Amsterdam

Present:

**Dr. Leo P. Ligthart (AESS international
Director Europe)**

Dr. Heinz Wipf (AESS chapter chair Switzerland)

Dr. Mark Bentum (AESS chapter chair Benelux)

Dr. Wolfgang Koch (AESS chapter chair Germany)

E.M.H.M. Ligthart-Versaevel (report)

Extra reports received from Chapter Chairs who could not attend: Denmark, Poland, Slovakia, Ukraine, France

Prime problem in EU-AESS Chapters/Sections

Insufficient funding for Chapter lectures which are important for knowledge transfer, recruiting new members, and promoting IEEE-AESS

Main criticism: AESS members in EU pay IEEE fee but AESS-EU chapters hardly benefit. Zero funding by AESS is criticized, other societies have different attitude.

Prime request: Partial (20% to 30%) BoG funding as support for organizing chapter events in Mid- and Eastern-European countries especially.

Actions derived from the Amsterdam meeting (1)

1. Recruiting new members (Wolfgang)

- In order to illustrate the benefits of being member of AESS there should come a marketing plan. Benefit of being an IEEE-AESS member is access to IEEE-Xplore. Question: " Access to IEEE-Xplore extended to more societies"?
- No recognition for IEEE in EU companies and research organizations; no impact for members in their job or salary.
- IEEE membership can play a role in academia (but more important are the H and Citation index).
- For EU industry recognition as Chartered Engineer becomes important.
- AESS chapters in EU may fulfil a platform role to stimulate future applications in traditional and new AESS areas. The applications require challenging technology and system developments. System-oriented approach for these applications is characteristic for AESS.
- Multi-disciplinary and system-related research is a key future topic for AESS in EU.
- New ideas: for "critical mass" make a special AESS EU chapter's linkedin group. Also creating an IEEE + young engineer + industry platform which organizes workshops . Students should get an one year AESS membership for free when they attend the workshop.
- Ideas to have student competitions should be worked out.
- Mind mapping about all the ideas mentioned during the meeting will be set up.

Actions derived from the Amsterdam meeting (2)

2. **Funding issue (Leo):** If BoG is willing to give financial support, EU AESS chapter chairs should prepare a budget overview and present plans how to strengthen EU AESS chapters and how to organize needed regional AESS activities
3. **Membership (Wolfgang):** With the help from national engineering organizations and support from the BoG, AESS more active members will show up at events organized by EU AESS chapters. Note: importance of building up alliances between national engineering organizations and IEEE.
4. **Conferences (Leo):** Limited IEEE support for national conferences because (too) many conferences result into lower quality of the papers. Academia may think differently.
5. **Creating an IEEE-EU network between the chapters (Wolfgang, Leo):**
IEEE-EU representatives in areas as ICT and Energy, but none in Aerospace Electronic Systems (http://www.ieee.org/about/ieee_europe/index.html)
IEEE representatives are not well-known in EU organizations.
Koch will analyze the options for an IEEE-EU establishment

Actions derived from the Amsterdam meeting (3)

- 6. IEEE-USA is unknown in EU, exists for many years and supports USA members in many useful ways including political lobbying for the profession, employment issues like: salary, insurance, career planning, self-employment, consulting networks, industry job offers, and professional networks (see <https://ieeeusa.org>).**

Explore establishing IEEE-EU based on IEEE-USA organization (Wolfgang, Leo):

Inquire information related to the IEEE-USA organization and find out how to establish the IEEE-EU organization.

Apparently, a legal entity IEEE-EU exists in Geneva, Switzerland.

IEEE GmbH c/o Fiducia-Intergest SA, rue Joseph-Girard 24 CH-1227 Carouge.

However, we have no experience with it

- 7. Issues mentioned in chapters reports (Leo)**

Strategic plan shows what has been done, not what could (not) be reached

Set up of a federation of small chapters. Leo will discuss first with the EU chapters and then make a proposal for the BoG.

Attending lectures of 1-2 hours not attractive when to travel more than 1 hrs

Promoting member benefits (see Ignite presentation of IEEE summit 2014)

Some chapters disappointed; more visibility by publishing chapter reports on the AESS website as well as the yearly reports by the international directors