

## European Presidents Meeting

The annual meeting of European Presidents was hosted by the French Society (SFRP) in Paris on 20/21 October, and was attended by 20 persons representing 11 European Societies and IRPA. IRPA's work programme was presented by Vice President Roger Coates. Overall there was much support for the programme, with no adverse comment or suggestions for other activities. It was notable that many societies had programmes which reflected much of what IRPA is doing – in particular pretty well every society had an increasing engagement in public understanding issues.

The societies all recognised the common challenge of engaging their members to get 'the voice of the profession' in a timely manner. Sharing of experiences of ways of doing this could be done through the 'Effective Societies' committee.

There was a report on the Geneva European Congress, which is very much on track for an effective Congress. One outstanding issue is the location of the next European Congress in 2018, which needs to be agreed shortly. Currently there are no volunteers.

The Eye Dose report was presented, including learning from the process of production. The importance of managing the work to timescale was emphasised, which was successfully achieved under John Broughton. The need for a standard IRPA Report style/template was noted. It was also noted that ISO are about to produce recommendations on eye dose monitoring, and IRPA has not been engaged. Actions were agreed to engage on this.

The importance of the upcoming Milan Workshop on Ethics was noted. This will be held on 16-18 December.

Alfred Hefner presented on Young Persons networks. The larger societies already have such groups or are actively considering one. Smaller societies (except Austria!) are a little more tentative – perhaps they do not have the same drivers.

The Netherlands society makes a special effort to have a welcome session for new members at every event they run – a good idea!

The European Presidents were content at having no formal regional structure for the IRPA European network. However, on relevant occasions IRPA will want to interact with the European Commission as the international voice – in this case the European voice – of the profession. In such cases it should do so emphasising the banner of the European Presidents. Given that this meeting decided to appoint a 'permanent' secretariat for the Euro Presidents – Klaus Henrichs – then this would give a mechanism for such interaction. Overall there was much support for this annual Euro Presidents meeting, with a strong view that IRPA must be represented.

Roger Coates October 2013