



Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België
voor Wetenschappen en Kunsten



Académie royale des Sciences, des Lettres
et des Beaux-Arts de Belgique

The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

THE ROYAL ACADEMIES FOR SCIENCE AND THE ARTS OF BELGIUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Belgian Federal Science Policy Office

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1. The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

'The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium' (RASAB)

Since March 2001, 'The Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium' (RASAB) follows the work of the National Committees.

The status of RASAB were published in the 'Moniteur Belge / Begisch Staatsblad' of April 19 2001.

Composition of the General Assembly

KVAB

Willems D., Chair

Schamp N., Permanent Secretary

Smeyers P., (Klasse van de Natuur-
wetenschappen)

Witte, Barones E., (Klasse van de
Menswetenschappen)

Laporte A., (Klasse van de Kunsten)

ARB

Richelle M., Chair

Houziaux L., Permanent Secretary

Mahwin J., (Classe des Sciences)

Debusscher G., (Classe des Lettres et
des Sciences Morales et Politiques)

Samyn P., (Classe des Beaux-Arts)

Board of Directors

KVAB

Willems D., Chair

Schamp N., Permanent Secretary

ARB

Richelle M., Chair

Houziaux L., Permanent Secretary

RASAB Activities Report 2008

During the year 2008, the National Committees have organised about thirty meetings, colloquia or lectures at the Palace of the Academies and around ten at other places.

Most of the National Committees were very active during the year 2008. We will highlight here only a part of the activities realised by the National Committees in 2008. More details can be found in the year-reports of the National Committees.

The National Committee for Astronomy (BNCA) was an active member of several national and international organisations, such as Astronomy & Astrophysics (A&A), Belgian National ESO Committee (BNEC) and ESA. They helped organising the International Year of Astronomy 2009. In the framework of IYA2009, the Senate decided to make astronomy the theme of the Dynasty Day of November 15th 2009. The Senate expects to receive two nominations from the BNCA of active Belgian astrophysicists who would be prepared to attend the Senate meeting.

The National Committee BELQUA continued its dynamic activity. They organised the second edition of their Annual Workshop, whose success exceeded that of the 2008 edition, with more than 50 scientists and 20 oral presentations. They also organised an annual fieldtrip that dealt with "Loess sequence of Hesbaye: Pedostratigraphy and sedimentary processes. 3 BELQUA members convened sessions of the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly.

The National Committee on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology helped organising three scientific meetings of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, each of them attracting well over 100 scientists. Several members attended the 33th Annual Congress of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) that took place in Athens, Greece from June 28th – July 3rd, 2008. The meeting was attended by several Belgians. The Belgian delegate who participated in the Council meeting of the FEBS, was the chairman of the Belgian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Prof Joseph Martial (University of Liège). Furthermore the Society has presented three Belgian candidates for election in the various committees of the FEBS Council. None were elected.

On May 14th 2007, the eighth edition of the prize giving of the Belgian crystal growth took place at the Palace of the Academies. It was organised by the National Committee for Crystallography. On October 15th 2008 the Committee organised the contact forum 'Vijfde Belgisch Kristallografie Symposium BCS-5' at the Palace of the Academies. In addition to lectures by J. Helliwell, S. De Feyter and G. Chapuis, a poster session, three selected short lectures and an exhibition were held. Johan Wouters and Luc Van Meervelt represented the Committee during the General Assembly van de International Union for Crystallography in Osaka. Joke Hadermann represented the Committee during the meetings of the European Crystallographic Association in Marrakech.

The subcommittees of the National Committee for Geography have all been very active in 2008. The subcommittee of Geomorphology has organised an excursion with the theme «Tertiary weathering and morphogenesis in the Western Ardennes and the Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse», with more than 30

participants. The subcommission of the Atlas has published 'Political Geography', the first volume of the Third Atlas of Belgium. This atlas counts 82 pages and 204 maps. The second volume, 'Agriculture and Landscape', is in press.

The National Committee for Logic, History and Philosophy of Sciences organised in association with the Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science a two day symposium "Young Researchers Days in Logic, Philosophy and History of Science" where about 30 young researchers have presented their work. The proceedings will be published in 2009 in the serie of Contactfora of the KVAB.

On December 12th, the National Committee of Microbiology organised a symposium: 'Stress Responses in the Microbial World' in the Palace of the Academies, with 180 participants.

The National Committee for Psychology granted their yearly Best Thesis Award. A meeting titled "Psychology: Scenes of Tomorrow" took place on September 19th-20th, 2008, in the LACQUET room of the Academy.

This year the National Committee for Radioelectricity has organized the second Benelux URSI Forum in Brussels : there were 31 participants in total. The Forum was organized in two sessions. The Session A in the morning about RADIO SCIENCE IN BELGIUM chaired by Prof VANLIL and the Session B in the afternoon about RADIO SCIENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS chaired by Prof STROM.

The main activity of the SCOPE-IGBP National Committee was the organisation, jointly with the Belgian Diversity Platform of BELSPO and INBO (Instituut voor Natuur-en Bosonderzoek) of a seminar on ecosystem services, which took place on 22 October 2008 at the Palace of the Academies.

The National Committee for Soil Science has organised its yearly "Day of the Young Soil Scientists" on February 27th at the Palace of the Academies. More than 1500 participants from 77 countries worldwide attended the EUROSIL meeting held from 25 until 29 August 2008 in Vienna, Austria. Members of the National Committee of Soil Science participated to the meeting EUROSIL 2008. S. Deckers chaired the symposium on "Soil Desertification" and E. Van Ranst was co-convenor of the workshop 4 on "Soil Quality". To the advice of participants, the meeting was a great success and was very useful for meeting colleagues.

During the year 2008, a lot of Belgian scientists have represented Belgium and the RASAB at the General Assemblies of International Unions:

- Prof. H. Decler, chairman of the National Committee for Antarctic research, and the Secretary, Dr C. De Broyer, represented Belgium at the XXX statutory meeting of SCAR in Moscow, July 2008.
- Prof. Yves Engelborghs attended the 16th International Biophysics Congress Long Beach (IUPAB) 2-6 februari 2008 and the general assembly of IUPAB on february 2. Prof. Engelborghs participated in the general assembly and took part in the votes of the new board, as the representative of Belgium.
- The National Committee for Space Research the Belgian participation in COSPAR, which held its 37th Scientific Assembly in Montreal from 13 to 20 July 2008. The meeting was attended by 34

Belgian scientists, i.e. significantly more than the 15 Belgian participants to the 2006 Scientific Assembly in Beijing and even more than the 28 Belgian participants to the 2004 Scientific Assembly in Paris.

- G. van Outryve d'Ydewalle and J. De Houwer represented Belgium at the General Assembly of the IUPsyS at the International Congress of Psychology in Berlin July 20-25, 2008.
- The 2008 International Union of Radio Science General Assembly took place in Chicago, August 8-16. This year was marked by the 100 years celebration. Prof E. SCHWEICHER represented Belgium.
- P. De Vos represented Belgium at the International Union of Microbiological Societies conference in Istanbul on August 9th.
- Belgium was represented in five commissions at the General Assembly of the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics held in Tsukuba (Japan) in October 2008, namely:
 - Cosmic Rays: D. Bertrand (ULB)
 - Physics of Development: D. Callebaut (UA)
 - Plasma Physics: D. Carati (ULB)
 - Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter: P. Lambin (FUNDP)
 - Astrophysics: C. Waelkens (KUL).
- Noël Vandenberghe represented the NCGS at the statutory meeting of the International Union of Geological Sciences taking place at the International Geological Congress at Oslo in August 2008.
- The 33th Annual Congress of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) took place in Athens, Greece from 28 June -3 July, 2008. The meeting was attended by several Belgians. The Belgian delegate who participated in the Council meeting of the FEBS, was the chairman of the Belgian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Prof Joseph Martial (University of Liège).
- The chairman of the National Committee for Geography, C. Vandermotten, represented Belgium at the 31st International Geographical Congress in Tunis, 12-15 August 2008.
- Johan Wouters and Luc Van Meervelt represented the National Committee for Crystallographie at the General Assembly of the International Union for Crystallography in Osaka.
- Mechanics

Prof. Niceas Schamp, Permanent Secretary of the KVAB, was the delegate of RASAB during the EASAC Council Meetings. These meetings took place in Prague, Czech Republic on 16 and 17 June and in Stockholm, Sweden on 15 and 16 December. EASAC - the European Academies Science Advisory Council - is formed by the national science academies of the EU Member States to enable them to collaborate with each other in providing advice to European policy-makers. It thus provides a means for the collective voice of European science to be heard. At the meeting in December, a lecture was given by Dr. Willy De Greef, a successful lobbyist of EuropaBio. He claims that to have any influence on European policy, an organisation needs to be located in Brussels. This induced us to start organising the transfer of the EASAC secretariat to the Palace of the Academies in Brussels, where it will be at the center of all European policymaking. We hope to have everything arranged by the next meeting of EASAC in June 2009, so we can actually transfer the secretariat right after this meeting.

2. Annual Report of the National Committees

1. The National Committee for Antarctic research

1. National Committee meetings

The National Committee met in plenary on 19 March 2008 and the Board met three times during the year.

Most of the plenary meeting (19 participants) was devoted to the presentation of the various research projects planned at the Princess Elisabeth Station for the initial years. The forum was introduced by M. Vancauwenberghe (Belspo), and the following projects were presented: Glaciology (F. Pattyn and others, ULB);

Crustal Physics and Gravimetry: LISSA seismology project (T. Camelbeeck, Royal Observatory); GIANT gravimetry - geodesy project (M. Van Camp, Royal Observatory);

Meteorology: N. Van Lipzig and others (KUL);

Atmospheric Physics: A. Mangold and others (Royal Meteorological Institute);

Biology: first biological assessment of Utsteinen (D. Ertz, National Botanical Garden of Belgium);

Protistology and Aquatic Ecology: diversity of microalgae (E. Verleyen, UGent); bacterial diversity (A. Willems, Microbiology, UGent); cyanobacterial diversity (A. Wilmotte, ULG).

The National Committee also designated its delegates to the SCAR XXX Standing Scientific Groups meeting, St Petersburg, 5-7 July 2008, and to the SCAR XXX National Delegates meeting, Moscow, 14-16 July 2008.

2. International Meetings

The Chairman of the National Committee, Prof. H. Declair, and the Secretary, Dr C. De Broyer, represented Belgium at the XXX statutory meeting of SCAR in Moscow, July 2008.

Dr C. De Broyer and Dr. A. Wilmotte participated as Belgian delegates at the SCAR XXX Life Sciences Scientific Standing Committee in St Petersburg, July 2008.

Prof. H. Declair also represented the Committee at the 2008 meeting of the European Polar Board, European Science Foundation.

The secretary of the Committee, Dr C. De Broyer, organized the SCAR- Marine Biodiversity Information Network workshop in Valencia, Spain, 8-9 November 2008 (21 participants from 9 countries).

3. Belgian SCAR secretariat

As usual, BNCAR has pursued its role of SCAR representative in Belgium. The National Committee prepared the annual report to SCAR covering all Antarctic-related research done in Belgium. The report is distributed to the Antarctic researchers of SCAR country members through their SCAR National Committees.

BNCAR also forwarded to Belgian researchers all useful information from SCAR.

4. Representation, documentation and communication

BNCAR has continued to represent the Belgian Antarctic research by answering to information requests at Belgian or international level. The distribution of books related to Antarctica and Belgium has been pursued.

On the other hand, the National Committee has continued to manage its Antarctic documentation as well as the archives of the *Belgica* expedition held at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and part of the archives of the Belgian and Belgian-Dutch Antarctic Expeditions.

2. The National Committee for Astronomy

The Committee gathered twice during Academic Year 2007–2008: on 9 October 2007 and 13 May 2008. All meetings took place in the Jules Bordet Room of the Belgian Royal Academy in Brussels.

1. Astronomy & Astrophysics (A&A)

C. Sterken is the Belgian delegate in the A&A editorial board, where he represents the BNCA and introduces its potential questions or requests. He reported at each BNCA meeting about A&A matters, mentioning the important items about the journal politics and statistics, the rejection and acceptance rates, the mandates; he was designated as A&A EC member for the next 4 years.

A summary is provided in each of the minutes of the BNCA meetings held this academic year. Documentation is also made available through the BNCA website, to which we refer for further information (<http://www.bnca.be>).

2. Belgian National ESO Committee (BNEC)

Reports on the two BNEC meetings that took place on 3/11/2007 and 22/5/2008 were presented by its president, J. Surdej, during the BNCA meetings following the BNEC meetings. A summary is available in the minutes of those BNCA meetings. Noteworthy is the fact that the OPC panels include several Belgian astronomers: C. Aerts (KUL), M. Briquet (KUL), Y. Naze (ULg) and M. Baes (UGent).

3. ESA matters

W. Verschueren, in charge of ESA matters at BELSPO, has been elected as associate BNCA member, and therefore reports about ESA matters (such as budget, missions and their evolution, delays or problems, the Belgian participations, the main political issues...) at each BNCA meeting.

4. International Year of Astronomy: IYA2009

The BNCA was informed by R. Alvarez, Belgian representative for the activities regarding IYA2009, of the progress in the preparation of IYA2009. This information is updated on the web site : <http://www.iya2009.be>. Rodrigo Alvarez, Thierry Hanon - Degroote, Stijn De Jonge and two students will represent Belgium at the opening ceremony of IYA2009 in Paris (UNESCO) on 15 and 16 January 2009.

In the framework of IYA2009, the Senate decided to make astronomy the theme of the Dynasty Day of 15 November 2009. The Senate expects to receive two nominations from the BNCA of active Belgian astrophysicists who would be prepared to attend the Senate meeting. These nominations are due before the Dynasty day of 2008, and will be decided during the first BNCA meeting of the next academic year 2008-2009.

5. FNRS/ROB Contact Group 'ASTRONOMIE et ASTROPHYSIQUE'

M. Arnould (ULB) and J. Sauval (ORB) continued their activities as President and Secretary, respectively, for the organisation of FNRS/ROB Contact Group meetings. One such meeting was held on 11 April 2008 in the Planetarium of the ROB.

6. Obituaries

Two deceased astronomers, Prof. Jacques Henrard and Dr. Henri Debehogne, were honoured by the committee through an official obituary, read by A. Lemaître and R. Van der Linden, respectively. These obituaries are posted on the BNCA web site.

7. New effective and honorary members

No new honorary members were considered for the academic year 2007–2008. Elections for a new effective member from the French-speaking community were held during the meeting of 9 October 2007. R. Alvarez was elected as new effective BNCA member, as of 1 October 2007 in retrospect.

3. The National Committee for Quaternary Research

1. National committee

Meetings of the BELQUA national committee : two meetings took place in Brussels in 2008 (19/03/08, 21/11/08).

2. Activities

- **March 19, 2008** – *BELQUA annual workshop*

More than 50 scientists attended the Workshop, which was organised by M. De Batist, E. Verleyen and K. Fontijn in the Palace of the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium in Brussels. The program consisted of 20 oral presentations (see list below and book of abstract).

Programme of the oral presentations:

Key-note lecture (*contribution to the International Polar Year – IPY*):

The SIBCLIM Community Members (J.-L. Tison, B. Delille, C. Lancelot, L. Chou, S. Becquevort, J. de Jong, V. Schoemann, A. Borges, D. Lannuzel, I. Dumont & F. Masson). Sea Ice Biogeochemistry and the Climate: Popping up the Sea Ice Cork.

M. Sterken, E. Verleyen, D.A. Hodgson, S.J. Roberts, K. Sabbe & W. Vyverman. Late Quaternary marine and lacustrine paleoproductivity in relation to ice shelf breakup and ice sheet history in Maritime Antarctica.

K. Heirman, M. De Batist, F. Charlet, J. Moernaut, E. Chapron, M. Pino, R. Brümmer & R. Urrutia. Seismic stratigraphy of the glacial infill of Lago Puyehue: implications for the timing of deglaciation in the Chilean Lake District.

K.J.J. Van Landeghem, A.J. Wheeler & N.C. Mitchell. Remarkably well-preserved palaeo-glaciated terrain offshore Anglesey, UK: implications for the final deglaciation phase of the Irish Sea.

D. Van Rooij, F.J. Hernández-Molina, J. Iglesias, G. Ercilla, M. Gomez-Ballesteros, E. Llave, B. De Mol, D. Blamart, I.N. McCave & J.-P. Henriët. Variability of northern MOW pathway dynamics and influence on deep-water ecosystems.

T.J. Verleye, K. Mertens, S. Louwye, H.W. Arz. The Holocene salinity changes in the southwestern Black Sea: A reconstruction based on dinoflagellate cysts.

D. Braekmans, B. Neyt & P. Degryse. Identification and Provenancing of Regional Ceramic Fabrics in Pisidia (SW Turkey) during the Iron Age to the Late Roman Period.

J. Moernaut, M. De Batist, F. Charlet, R. Brümmer, R. Urrutia & M. Pino. Paleoseismological exploration of South-Central Chilean lake sediments using reflection seismic profiling.

M. Van Daele, F. Audemard, C. Beck, M. De Batist, A. Van Welden, J. Moernaut & the Guaiqueri II 2006 Shipboard Party. Reconstruction of sea/lake-level changes in an active strike-slip basin (Gulf of Cariaco).

V.M.A. Heyvaert, C. Baeteman, S. Dawson, R. Gehrels & H. Weerts. The impact of channel shifting, sea-level change and human action on the Holocene coastal evolution of the Lower Khuzestan plain, Iran, Persian Gulf.

M. Mathys, C. Baeteman & M. De Batist. From the Pleistocene incision of a palaeo-valley until the Holocene formation of sandbanks: the Quaternary evolution of a shelf with low accommodation potential (Belgian Continental Shelf, southern North Sea).

C. Baeteman. Sediment variations supported by radiocarbon dates as fingerprints for processes of coastal changes in the late Holocene deposits of a tide-dominated coastal lowland.

B. Notebaert, G. Verstraeten, T. Rommens, B. Vanmontfort, G. Govers, J. Poesen. A Holocene sediment budget for the river Dijle.

C. Derese, D. Vandenberghe, E. Paulissen & P. Van den haute. Optical dating of the Late Glacial dune complex at Opgrimbe (NE-Belgium).

G. Ghysels, I. Heyse, J.-P. Buylaert, A.S. Murray, D. Vandenberghe, F. De Corte & P. Van den haute. Relicts and pseudomorphs of Pleistocene thermal-contraction-cracking wedges in Low Belgium: relict sand wedges, composite-wedge pseudomorphs and optically stimulated luminescence dating of their infill.

J. Hus. Some rock magnetic properties of loess-palaeosol sequences in Belgium.

- G. Le Roux, F. De Vleeschouwer, A. Cheburkin, M. Krachler, W. Shotyk, N. Mattielli, N. Fagel. Holocene Records of Aerosols in Continental Environments (HoRACE).
- T. Verfaillie, S. Verheyden, H. Cheng, L. Edwards & E. Keppens. Late Holocene palaeo-climate reconstruction from stable isotope records of stalagmites from three Belgian caves.
- E. Keppens, M. Van Rampelbergh, P. De Geest, H. Cheng, L. Edwards & S. Verheyden. A Holocene palaeoenvironmental reconstruction based on geochemical research (isotopes and trace elements) on three speleothems from Soqatra Island (Yemen).
- K. Fontijn, G.G.J. Ernst, D. Delvaux, D. Williamson, E. Abdallah, A. De Craene, E. Mbede & P. Jacobs. A review on recent volcanology and volcano-related hazards in the Rungwe Volcanic Province (SW Tanzania).
- P. Vermeersch - "Out of Africa 2" and Egypt - an evaluation.

- **April 2008** – EGU General Assembly in Vienna. Several BELQUA members convened sessions.

CLIMATE Session CL42 - N. Fagel, M-F. Loutre and A. Hubert-Ferrari. "Assesment of climate events in lake sediments:deciphering climate, tectonic or anthropic influence"

- **May 17, 2008** – Annual Belqua *fieldtrip* organised by P. Haesaerts, E. Meijs, S. Pirson and E. Juvigné. This excursion dealt with "Loess sequence of Hesbaye: Pedostratigraphy and sedimentary processes. Among 15 persons attended this interesting fieldtrip.

Program of visits:

am: Eben-Emael (Romont): terraces of the Meuse, soil and tephra of Rocourt and the transition towards the lower pleniglacial.

pm: Kesselt (periglacial structures); Op de Schans, Vroenhoven (terraces of the Meuse and the loessic sequence of middle Pleistocene : paleosoils and sedimentary processes sédimentaires).

3. Forthcoming activities

- Winter 2009 - Annual workshop organised by ULB.

- Autumn 2009 - Fieldtrip.

4. The National Committee for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

The members of the National Committee on Biochemistry and Molecular Biology are also member of the board of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and as such are involved in the preparation and organization of all the activities of this Society. The Society/National Committee has organized in 2008 the following three scientific meetings:

1. 198th Meeting of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Topic: "MicroRNAs in Health and Disease" Université de Liège, Sart-Tilman, 4 March, 2008
2. 199th Meeting of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Third International conference on "Dipeptidyl Peptidases" Antwerp, 23-25 April, 2008
3. 200th Meeting of the Belgian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Topic: "Organelle Biosynthesis and Partitioning during the Cell Cycle" FUNDP, Namur . 11 October, 2008

Each of the meetings attracted well over 100 scientists. Possibilities were provided for young scientists to submit an abstract and to present posters about their research topics. Further information about these meetings is available at the website of the Society: <http://www.biochemistry.be>.

The 33th Annual Congress of the Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS) took place in Athens, Greece from 28 June -3 July, 2008. The meeting was attended by several Belgians. The Belgian delegate who participated in the Council meeting of the FEBS, was the chairman of the Belgian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Prof Joseph Martial (University of Liège).

Furthermore the Society has presented three Belgian candidates for election in the various committees of the FEBS Council. None were elected.

Prof Stalmans (KUL) is publications officer of the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Most members of the National committee have participated in many international scientific events. However it would be impossible to provide a an extensive list of all these activities.

5. The National Committee for Biological Sciences

1. In 2008 the Committee convened twice: on January 21st and on November 27th. During the first meeting the discussions were primarily focused on the spreading of creationist ideas in our country, among others by the free distribution of the book "Atlas of Creation". The members of the committee unanimously proposed to submit a motion to the Academies. After discussion and consultation of members by e-mail, they agreed on the following text. "The members of the National Committee of Biological Sciences are concerned about the spreading of a certain kind of propaganda meant to discredit and to deny biological evolution. They propose that training of teachers should be organized to warn them against the unscientific approach of these writings in order to provide them, with modern tools (including the media), with the necessary scientific arguments that support biological evolution."

2. During previous years, at regular intervals, the Committee organized symposia and workshops on specific themes. The members want to continue this tradition, and propose a new thematic workshop. The topic of this workshop should build a bridge between scientific progress and new developments in society. The new presented theme is (provisional title) "Diversity of cultivated plants". Seed banks need preservation, diversity of different varieties needs to be reconsidered, genetic information becomes more and more important, problems in relation to cryopreservation and legal questions need to be addressed. This theme is multidisciplinary, with national and international aspects, and it most certainly has as well scientific as social and economic implications. The Committee wants to prepare this workshop or symposium in the course of 2009, as a contact forum of the Academies.

3. In the course of 2009 the composition of the board of the Committee has changed. During its meeting on January 21st the Committee has elected Jan RAMMELOO (N) as new chairman to replace Jean-Jacques SYMOENS (N), who has been a member of the Committee for nearly thirty years. He was elected honorary member during the meeting of November 27th.

6. The National Committee for Biomedical Engineering

1. MAIN ACTIVITIES

Meeting at the Royal Academy on February 26th 2008, April 15th 2008 and a special meeting of the National Committee at the Royal Academy on August 21st main topic: program committee of the European MBEC2008 Conference.

Numerous Scientific Committee meetings concerning the program of the MBEC2008 conference, in cooperation with the German Society for Biomedical Engineering, the European Society: ESEM and the European umbrella organisation EAMBES as well as the World Federation IFMBE.

At the usual moment where our Annual National Conference would take place, we held a major European congress in Antwerp: Nov. 23-27 2008 with over 950 participants.

A database was updated, on interested contact persons.

A website concerning Biomedical Engineering, the National Committee and BSMBEC was kept online and updated.

2. INTERNATIONAL LIAISON ACTIVITIES:

International relations were kept with IUPESM through IFMBE on the worldlevel, with participation to the meeting of the Administrative Council (IFMBE's highest organ).

Active participation of Jos Vander Sloten (During 2006 President) in the European Alliance for Biomedical Engineering: EAMBES; Jos Vander Sloten was Secretary General in 2005 and became President; Marc Nyssen is board member. This results in active participation in the "BIOMEDEA" effort to coordinate Biomedical Engineering education (curricula and accerditation) in Europe.

Contacts with ESEM were upheld on the European level via Pascal Verdonck, current member of the board of directors of ESEM (treasurer).

These three organisations operate under the umbrella of the IUPESM UNION.

3. NATIONAL LIAISON:

Several members of our National Committee contributed actively to the elaboration of reports for CAWET and CAPAS about Biomedical Engineering in Belgium.

The collaboration with several national and regional associations in Belgium is permanent via TIKVIV, the Association of hospital technicians, the Medical Informatics association (MIM).

7. The National Committee for Biophysics

The National committee collaborates intensively with the Belgian Biophysical Society.

BOARD OF THE BELGIAN BIOPHYSICAL SOCIETY:

During the general assembly of the society on the 1st of September 2006 a new board was elected, which became active in 2007. (Composition published in het Staatsblad/Le Moniteur).

President: Dr. André Matagne (U. Liège),

Vice-president: Prof. Dr. Bart Devreese (U. Gent)

Board members:

Prof. Dr. Marc Demaeyer (U. Leuven)

Dr. Moreno Galleni (U. Liège),

Dr. Philippe Cronet (Eurogentec)

Prof. Annemie Lambeir (U. Antwerp)

Permanent Secretary-treasurer: Prof. Dr. Yves Engelborghs (U. Leuven)

1. Financial report of 2008

Expenses paid by RASAB in 2008

- Prof. Yves Engelborghs attended the 16th International Biophysics Congress Long Beach (IUPAB) 2-6 februari 2008 and the general assembly of IUPAB on february 2. The Royal Academy paid 595,88 Euro travel cost for this participation. Prof. Engelborghs participated in the general assembly and took part in the votes of the new board, as the representative of Belgium.

- In 2008 The Koninklijke Academie paid 2500 Eur for the organization of the contactforum "Proteins and Membranes: a joint venture" of the Nat. Com. on the 7th december 2007. Because the event was organized so late in the year the invoices arrived and were paid in 2008. (The invoices were sent for justification to RASAB in the beginning of the year). The contactforum was very much appreciated and attended by about 120 participants.

- The "Academie Royale" promised to support the forum with 1.250 Eur for the publication of proceedings. Since there were no proceedings published, and the "Academie Royale" did not want to change his original intension e.g. by supporting travel expenses of speakers, this support was not transmitted to the Nat. Com. - The expenses of the following activities were paid by the Belgian Biophysical Society, several contact groups of the FWO, and some company sponsoring.

2. Activities organized in 2008

Summerschool on Glycobiology from 4-6 June organized at the University of Brussels (VUB) by Prof. L. Wyns and Dr. Julie Bouckaert;

Annual Meeting on Protein Folding and Stability organized by Prof. Andre Matagne on the 28th of August. The general assembly of the BBS took place at the end of the meeting. The financial report of the treasurer was approved.

The autumn meeting planned for december 2008 at the University of Leuven was postponed till the 9th of January for reasons of availability of lecture rooms.

3. Activities Planned in 2009

The following events are being planned:

1) A symposium on "Intrinsically Disordered Proteins" on the 9th of January at the University of Leuven, organized by Y. Engelborghs and L. Wyns.

2) On the 1st of April a joint meeting will take place with the Belgian Physical Society at the University of Hasselt, with a session organized by the Biophysical Society. (see website; www.Biophysics.be)

3) at the beginning of July a 3-day symposium is planned at the University of Liege at the honor of the emeritation of Prof. Jean-Marie Frère. The symposium will include the annual folding meeting.

8. The National Committee for Chemistry

Au cours de l'année 2008, **deux actions principales** du Comité National de Chimie sont à mettre en évidence respectivement au niveau national et international.

1. Organisation et Structure du Comité National

La Belgique qui a dans son histoire des chimistes, des chercheurs et savants de renom et une industrie chimique très importante, est aujourd'hui reconnue comme « un pays de chimie ». Nos universités et hautes écoles forment des chimistes de très bon niveau international et notre pays est le siège d'Entreprises Chimiques et pharmaceutiques multinationales ainsi que d'unités de production de première importance ; la chimie occupe en emplois directs près de 100000 personnes.

L'importance de la chimie dans notre pays se traduit par l'existence de diverses organisations dont les fonctions sont complémentaires.

Les Sociétés savantes : KVCV/SRC

Les Institutions en charges des enseignements et de leurs programmes, Les régions et Communautés

Nos centres de formation et de recherche : les Universités et les Grandes Ecoles

Nos centres et notre personnel de Recherche de haut niveau : FWO/FNRS

Les organisations encourageant l'engagement des jeunes dans la science : jeunesses scientifiques.

En 2008, nous avons procédé à quelques remaniements et notre Comité National comprend maintenant des membres représentatifs de nos deux communautés, des principaux centres universitaires, d'industries, du CEFIC, d'Essenscia.

2. Actions Internationales du Comité Nationale de Chimie :

- L'Assemblée Générale de l'IUPAC de Turin en 2007 a voté la proposition de décréter l'année 2011 comme l'année Internationale de la Chimie. **Nous avons évidemment souscrit à cette proposition en tant que Comité National Belge.**
- En 2008, **Le Comité National de Chimie** a recommandé auprès représentant belge auprès de l'UNESCO d'appuyer cette demande auprès de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies.

- A la 63eme Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies et à la demande expresse de l'UNESCO, le 30 décembre 2008, a adopté une résolution proclamant que 2011 sera au plan mondial **l'Année Internationale de la Chimie (IYC 2011)**.
- Cette sera placée **mondialement** sous le **slogan « Chemistry, our Life our Future »** inspiré par la recommandation **de notre Comité National**.
- **Les motivations de cette action sont reprises dans la résolution de l'ONU :**
En résumé :

La chimie est une science centrale, à la connaissance, à la production de nourriture, de médicaments, de ressources énergétiques de matériaux. Elle contribue à la protection de l'environnement et au développement économique. Elle est un élément essentiel au développement durable.

Le choix de l'année 2011 coïncide avec le 100eme anniversaire de l'attribution du prix Nobel de Chimie à Marie Curie.

L'année 2011 marque le 100eme anniversaire de la Fondation avec le concours d'Ernest Solvay de l'IACS (Association internationale des Sociétés Chimiques) précurseur de l'IUPAC et le 100eme anniversaire du premier Conseil de Physique Solvay à Bruxelles auquel participait Marie Curie.

- **Les buts de cette action dans chaque pays :**

Apporter au public l'image d'une Science et d'une Industrie contribuant à l'allongement de la durée de vie, au confort à l'alimentation.

Encourager les jeunes générations à un engagement dans cette science essentielle à l'économie.

Favoriser la coopération internationale.

- **Les actions demandées et suggérées dans chaque pays :**

Sensibilisation des gouvernements à l'importance de la chimie et de son industrie.

Familiarisation des enfants et des jeunes de tous ages.

Démonstrations au public via les media de l'importance et de la contribution de la chimie

...etc

- **En Belgique : le Comité National de chimie est le correspondant officiel de l'IUPAC et sera le rôle de catalyseur auprès des organisations concernées en Belgique :**

Anticipant l'annonce de la résolution de l'ONU, **le Comité National de Chimie a prévu en 2008 :**

L'organisation à Bruxelles pour 2009/2010 une journée de sensibilisation à l'IUPAC comme « base de lancement » à IYC2011.

La demande auprès de l'Administration des Postes d'éditer une série de timbres dédiée à IYC2011 et aux chimistes belges.

De mobiliser au niveau national tous les acteurs de la chimie y compris les industries.

- **Le Comité de Direction de l'IUPAC suggère, demande à la Belgique d'organiser la Cérémonie de Clôture de IYC2011 à Bruxelles en décembre 2011.**

Cet évènement de prestige serait pour la Belgique un honneur et une reconnaissance de l'importance de la chimie en Belgique. Elle ne pourra s'organiser qu'avec le support de moyens publics et privés. Elle demandera le soutien de l'Académie

L'IUPAC attend notre réponse pour la fin février. **La décision sera prise par le Comité National de Chimie** mais des premiers contacts pris avec l'Industrie dont le soutien sera indispensable il ressort que cette opportunité unique est vue de façon très positive.

9. The National Committee for Crystallography

De eerste vergadering werd gehouden op 12 maart 2008. Tijdens deze vergadering werd de organisatie van het Fifth Belgian Crystallography Symposium BCS-5 grotendeels voorbereid (algemeen programma, keuze sprekers, voorbereiding aanvraag Contactforum, overzicht mogelijke sponsors...). Tevens werd een overzicht gegeven van de inschrijvingen en voorbereidingen bij de Belgische Kristalgroeiwedstrijd en werd de prijsuitreiking in het Paleis der Academiën op 14 mei 2008 vastgelegd. Tenslotte werd de Belgische vertegenwoordiging tijdens de General Assembly van de International Union for Crystallography (IUCr) en Council Meeting van de European Crystallographic Association (ECA) te Osaka besproken.

Tijdens de tweede vergadering die plaats vond op 14 oktober 2008 bracht Johan Wouters verslag uit van de General Assembly van de International Union for Crystallography te Osaka. Joke Hadermann en Luc Van Meervelt brachten verslag uit van de Council Meeting van de European Crystallographic Association (ECA) eveneens gehouden te Osaka. De voorbereidingen van de negende editie van de Belgische Kristalgroeiwedstrijd in 2009 werden opgestart. Tevens werd een planning afgesproken om de website van het Comité (www.belgiancrystallography.be) up-to-date te houden.

Het Nationaal Comité voor Kristallografie organiseerde in 2008 met steun van beide Academiën en de firma Chem-Lab een succesvolle achtste editie van de Kristalgroeiwedstrijd voor leerlingen uit het secundair onderwijs (zie ook website <http://www.chem.kuleuven.be/bcc/>). Voor deze editie werd ammoniummagnesiumsulfaat als te kristalliseren verbinding gekozen. De jurering van de ingezonden kristallen vond plaats op 26 april 2008 te Namen. Op 14 mei 2008 vond in het Paleis der Academiën de officiële prijsuitreiking plaats in aanwezigheid van astronaut Vladimir Pletser (ESA).

Op 15 oktober 2008 organiseerde het Nationaal Comité voor Kristallografie het contactforum 'Vijfde Belgisch Kristallografie Symposium BCS-5' in het Paleis der Academiën. Naast lezingen door J. Helliwell, S. De Feyter en G. Chapuis werden een postersessie, drie geselecteerde korte lezingen en tentoonstelling gehouden.

Johan Wouters en Luc Van Meervelt vertegenwoordigden het Comité tijdens de General Assembly van de International Union for Crystallography te Osaka. Joke Hadermann werd er verkozen tot lid van volgende IUCr commissies: Aperiodic crystals en Electron Crystallography. Joke Hadermann vertegenwoordigde het Comité tijdens de vergaderingen van de European Crystallographic Association te Marrakech. Luc Van Meervelt nam als lid van het Executive Committee van de European Crystallographic Association eveneens deel aan deze vergaderingen. Frederique Hatert (ULiège) wordt de nieuwe voorzitter van SIG5 – Mineral and Inorganic Crystallography.

10. The National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics

In de loop van 2008 heeft het Belgisch Nationaal Comité voor Geodesie en Geofysica (BNCGG) een algemene vergadering gehouden op 29.01.2008 en twee gewone zittingen (op 15.05.08 en 9.10.08). Een derde gewone zitting was op 27.11.08 voorzien maar het werd geannuleerd omwille van ziekte van de spreker.

Het BNCGG heeft volgende conferenties georganiseerd:

Op 29/01/2008 gaf Prof. Joachim Voigt, uit « Jacobs Universität Bremen », een lezing in het Engels met als titel:

"Effects of internal geomagnetic variations on the Earth's space environment and the middle atmosphere"

Hieronder volgt een korte samenvatting:

On geological time scales, variations of the internal geomagnetic field affect the structure and the dynamics of the Earth's magnetosphere and contribute to what may be called space climate and

paleomagnetospheric processes. The presentation summarizes the paleomagnetospheric research that was carried out in the context of the DFG priority Programme SPP 1097 "Geomagnetic Variations". Structural aspects of paleomagnetospheres were studied using theoretical concepts of magnetosphere formation, a potential field approach to model magnetopause shielding, and magnetohydrodynamic simulations. The types of geomagnetic variations considered here include changes of dipole moments magnitude and excursions of the dipole axis. Quadrupolar paleomagnetospheres serve as important examples to assess the rich variety of non-dipolar configurations that may arise during geomagnetic polarity transitions. Energetic particles of solar and cosmic origin into the magnetosphere were studied by means of scaling relations for cutoff energies and differential particle fluxes as functions of a reduced dipole moment. We further investigated how higher-order core fields can open the polar caps and even create new particle entry regions in the equatorial region. The resulting particle fluxes into the upper and middle atmosphere during solar particle events were coupled into a numerical model to study ionization, chemistry and dynamics of the middle atmosphere. In combining magnetospheric and atmospheric modelling, we were able to identify geomagnetic transition field scenarios that could significantly affect the ozone chemistry in the middle atmosphere.

Op 15/05/2008 gaf Dr. Dewitte uit Koninklijk Meteorologisch Instituut, een uiteenzetting in het Engels met als titel:

**"30 years of Total Solar Irradiance measurements:
status and outlook for the future."**

Hieronder volgt een korte samenvatting:

The climate on earth is driven by the radiative heat exchanges with outer space at the top of the earth's atmosphere. For the monitoring and understanding of the change of climate with time, it is therefore necessary to make long term measurements of these radiative heat exchanges, including the heat input by the incoming solar irradiance, referred to as Total Solar Irradiance (TSI).

Useable TSI measurements from space exist since the launch of Nimbus 7 in 1978. Our institute has made important contributions to these measurements with a first instrument on Spacelab in 1983, six space shuttle flights of the SOLCON instrument from 1992 to 2003, the SOVA instrument on the European RETrievable CARrier (EURECA) in 1992-1993, the DIARAD/VIRGO instrument on SOHO since 1996, and recently the DIARAD/SOVIM instrument on the International Space Station. Currently we are preparing the SOVAP instrument for launch on the PICARD satellite in 2009.

The variations of the TSI with time are the most relevant for climate change on earth. The TSI measurements cover 2.5 11 year solar cycles, indicating a variation of the order of 1 W/m² in phase with the solar activity, and causing weak temperature variations of the order of 0.1 °C to 0.2 °C on earth. There exists some controversy whether on top of this cyclic 11 year variation, there exists a decadal long term variation of the TSI, which would have a stronger climate change impact. Recently we were able to demonstrate that for the last solar cycle 23 there exists no such long term variation. This milestone result was obtained thanks to our DIARAD/VIRGO instrument which covered the entire cycle 23 with unprecedented stability, and thanks to the objective analysis of all other available TSI measurements.

The original intent of the TSI measurements was to measure the mean value of the TSI, referred to as the Solar Constant. Ironically, after 30 years of TSI measurements, we still have a relatively large uncertainty on the value of the solar constant, particularly after the launch of the TIM instrument on SORCE in 2003. We plan to finally determine the value of the solar constant by comparing our retrieved Sova 1 radiometer with a reference cryogenic radiometer.

Although there appears to be no long term decadal TSI variation during the recent 11 year solar cycles, there are strong indications that such a long term TSI variation did exist between the Maunder minimum corresponding to the little ice age around 1700, and the modern solar maximum conditions. With the PICARD project which is currently in preparation we will try to have an indirect reconstruction of these long term TSI variation through a correlation with solar diameter variations.

Finally, the SOVAP instrument on PICARD will contain a Bolometric Oscillation Sensor (BOS), which will resolve TSI variations at time scales smaller than those of the solar p mode variations. The BOS is developed in collaboration with the Royal Observatory of Belgium.

Op 9/10/2008 gaf Prof. Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, uit UCL en vice-chair van IPCC, een uiteenzetting in het Engels met als titel:

"Climate change: The last IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report and new developments."

Hieronder volgt een korte samenvatting:

Key messages :

- *Climate change is happening now, mostly as a result of greenhouse gases (GHG) from human activities;*
- *Impacts will be important, with most damages in developing countries, but developed countries will be affected too;*
- *Together with lifestyle and behaviour changes, known technologies and policies can reduce GHG emissions at reasonable costs, but effective policies, including an effective carbon-price signal are required;*
- *The IPCC, which received the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore produces the most reliable set of assessed information about climate change in all its dimensions. Its Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) was published in 2007;*
- *Since the AR4, new observations and scientific analyses have confirmed the key messages from the IPCC;*
- *Some of the unique characteristics of IPCC, at the frontier between science and policy will be described, together with its work plan until 2015.*

Op 27/11/2008 moest Prof. Philippe Huybrechts, uit VUB, Belgische correspondent van IACS (International Association of Cryospheric Sciences), een uiteenzetting in het Engels geven met als titel:

"Overview of cryospheric science in Belgium."

Hieronder volgt een korte samenvatting:

The cryosphere is one of the most dynamic spheres on the Earth's surface on almost any time scale owing to the Earth's temperatures being around the freezing point of water. Recent interest in cryospheric research is fueled by its sensitive role in the Earth's climate system and by the threat of substantial sea level rise if land ice starts to melt in a warmer greenhouse world. Belgium harbours a very active cryospheric research community despite the fact that Belgium has no ice on its soil or that it was covered by large ice sheets during the Quaternary ice ages. Among other reasons, this is rooted in Belgium's historic presence in Antarctica and by theoretical palaeoclimatic research on the origin of the ice ages since the seventies. Cryospheric research groups at Belgian universities are currently involved in glacier studies in Alaska, the Alps, and the Himalaya and participate in glaciological field activities in Greenland and Antarctica, as well as on Arctic islands. Several groups play an important role in large international programmes for ice coring in Antarctica and Greenland. Moreover, Belgian research groups are deeply involved in sea-ice and ice-sheet modeling and in the modeling of the surface mass balance of the large polar ice sheets. As such, Belgian scientists have co-authored subsequent IPCC assessment report chapters dealing with the cryosphere, the modeling of ice-climate interactions, and the projection of sea-level changes. This presentation intends to give a (selective) overview of Belgian cryospheric science and its role in international scientific activities.

Maar Prof. Huybrechts was ziek op deze dag zodat de zitting wordt geannuleerd. Deze uitzetting zal in 2009 voorgesteld worden.

11. The National Committee for Geography

Deux réunions se sont tenues en 2008: les 26 avril et 29 novembre 2008. Les rapports des activités des sous-comités ont été approuvés lors de cette dernière réunion.

1. Affaires administratives

1.1. Composition du Comité

Il n'y a pas eu de changement dans la composition du Comité National de Géographie.

1.2. UGI

Le président, C. Vandermotten, a représenté le Comité National de Géographie au congrès de l'UGI à Tunis. Des brochures sur la géographie en Belgique ont été imprimées et distribuées lors de ce congrès. Le prochain congrès de l'UGI se tiendra à Cologne en 2012. Il a été demandé au Comité National de collaborer en organisant une excursion en Belgique.

2. Activités scientifiques

2.1. EUGEO

La première rencontre de l'EUGEO a eu lieu en août 2007 à Amsterdam (Pays-Bas), sous la présidence de C. Vandermotten, ce fut un succès (> 400 participants).

A cette occasion un manifeste a été présenté concernant «The Contribution of Geography towards the Future of Europe ».

Différentes organisations par pays peuvent être membres d'EUGEO, à condition que l'organisation déjà membre soit d'accord. En Belgique, BEVAS-SOBEG et SRBG sont membres. La Société Géographique de Liège est intéressée à le devenir.

2.2. L'enseignement académique en géographie

Le Comité National avait décidé de défendre activement l'image et les intérêts académiques de la géographie ainsi que de prêter plus d'attention à la formation de professeurs et à l'enseignement secondaire, d'où finalement les géographes futurs sont recrutés.

A cet effet, des contacts ont été pris avec des universités, des associations scientifiques et associations de professeurs (VLA, Fégépro), dont les présidents seront dorénavant invités à la réunion du Comité comme observateur. Une première collaboration, couronnée de succès, a été réalisée lors des journées des géographes belges où divers workshops pour professeurs ont été organisés.

2.3. Journées des Géographes belges

Les journées des géographes belges (24 et 25 octobre 2008) échelonnées pour la première fois sur deux jours, ont été organisées conjointement par l'ULB et le VUB sur le campus de Bruxelles. Pas moins de 80 présentations et de nombreux posters y ont participé. Tous les auteurs ont été invités à fournir un article pour Belgeo. Le VLA et Fégépro ont participé activement à l'organisation en général et ont complété par des workshops où des académiques présentaient des thèmes scientifiques et où les professeurs y traitaient la traduction didactique.

Le Comité National a décidé d'entamer une sensibilisation active auprès des chercheurs afin de les stimuler à se faire membre d'une des associations scientifiques de géographie en Belgique.

3. Rapports des différents sous-comités

Les rapports des sous-comités ont été approuvés lors de la réunion du 29 novembre 2008.

3.1. Sous-comité de Géomorphologie

Le rapport d'activités 2007-2008 du sous-comité, organisé par l'Association Belge des Géomorphologues (BAG: Belgian Association of Geomorphologists) signale qu'une excursion a été organisée le 5 juin 2008 sous le thème «Tertiary weathering and morphogenesis in the Western Ardennes and the Entre-Sambre-et-Meuse». Celle-ci fut organisée conjointement par le prof. dr. Alain Demoulin, le prof. dr. François Petit (Université de Liège), le prof. dr. Johan Yans (FUNDP (Facultés universitaires Notre Dame de la Paix à Namur) et le prof. dr. Em. Christian Dupuis (Faculté Polytechnique de Mons). On comptait plus de 30 participants dont également les membres de la Soil Science Society of Belgium. La réunion annuelle du BAG s'est tenue pendant l'excursion où entre autres la participation belge à la '7th International Conference on Geomorphology' à Melbourne, (Australie) qui se tiendra du 6 au 11 juillet 2009, a été étudiée.

3.2. Sous-comité de Cartographie

L'UCL a présenté Sophie Vanwambeke comme nouveau membre du sous-comité Cartographie-GIS. Le comité s'est réuni une seule fois à Bruxelles et avait décidé d'organiser une journée d'étude pour les professeurs de l'enseignement secondaire, pendant GIS-o-TOPOLIS les 14 et 15 octobre en collaboration avec FLAGIS. GIS-o-TOPOLIS était cette fois-ci une initiative bilingue qui s'est tenue à Bruxelles.

Le sous-comité prévoit l'organisation de deux activités internationales en 2009 pour lesquelles il sollicite le soutien du Comité National. Le premier événement est le 15^{ème} INTERCARTO-INTERGIS qui se tiendra à Gand du 3 au 5 juillet 2009 et sera organisé par l'International Cartographical Association (ICA), Commission on Geographical Information Sciences (International Geographical Union), GIS Association (Russie), CODATA, International Eurasian Academy of Sciences, Lomonosov Moscow State University, Perm State University et l'Université de Gand. Ce meeting sera suivi le 6 juillet par deux réunions des commissions de l'ICA. Le second événement, le 4th 3D GEOINFO se tiendra du 4 au 6 novembre 2009 à Gand et sera organisé par l'Université de Gand, par la 'Hogeschool voor Wetenschap en Kunst' et par la ville de Gand.

3.3. Sous-comité pour l'Atlas

Le volume de présentation du Troisième Atlas de Belgique a été publié en 2008 ainsi que le volume n° 1, Géographie Politique. L'Atlas compte 82 pages et 204 cartes. Cet Atlas est sponsorisé par la Politique Scientifique Fédérale, l'éditeur est Academia Press (Gand), il s'occupera également de la commercialisation. Un certain nombre d'atlas ont été mis gratuitement à la disposition de la communauté de géographie: des membres du Comité National, des instituts géographiques des universités, de certains membres qui ont reçu la demande d'associations géographiques tant pour les associations scientifiques que pour les associations pour enseignants.

Le volume n° 2, Agriculture et Paysage est sous presse. La publication des volumes 4 (Habitation), 6 (Population) et probablement le 3 est prévue en 2009.

Afin de remédier au problème de données dépassées, causé par le retard des publications, une mise à jour électronique des données sera développée.

12. The National Committee for Geological Sciences

In 2008, the National Committee for Geological sciences held two meetings in the Palace of the Academies on May 5th and November 6th. The activities focused on the different events organized in the framework of the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE), which is taking place from 2007 to 2009. Etienne Brouillard, from the Royal Museum of Central Africa is in charge of the website www.jaarvandeplaneetaarde.be / www.anneedelaterre.be that displays all the Belgian activities organised within the IYPE. The National Committee of Geological Sciences and the Royal Museum of Central Africa contributed to the following activities organized in 2008:

- The IYPE international launching ceremony in Paris from 12-13 February 2008, with the participation of three Belgian students, selected based on a scientific contest at the national scale.
- The Belgian IYPE National Committee launched its program and website in April 2008 during Earth and Space Week (8-11 April 2008), when astronauts and scientists met with more than 4000 youths in several major cities to discuss environmental issues and convey how the Earth appears from space. The contribution of the NCGS-member Philippe Claeys is available on the website.

- The Belgian IYPE National Committee participated in two youth large-scale science fairs in 2008: Expo Sciences (8-10 May 2008) in Brussels, and Wetenschapsfeest (17-19 October 2008) in Mechelen. This last event was organised with three partners: the Royal Observatory of Belgium, the International Polar Foundation and the Royal Museum for Central Africa. At the IYPE booth, it was possible to 'manipulate' the earth, to become an expert on the polar-regions, hydrology and climate and a quiz tested the participants on their knowledge on the Earth poles and Belgian scientific institutions.

- This year, the Flemish government selected the theme of International Year of Planet Earth in its plan to promote scientific communication and outreach. Starting in 2009, a selection of projects to increase earth sciences awareness not only among youths but also to a wide audience will be funded. The Flemish Geosciences community responded with enthusiasm and introduced several projects that use engaging, highly participative means to raise public awareness of the ten IYPE topics. The Belgian IYPE committee and consequently the National Committee for Geological Sciences are involved in several of the submitted projects. Philippe Claeys, Professor of Geology at the VUB, chairs the Belgian IYPE National Committee while the Communication department of the Royal Museum for Central Africa is in charge of event organisation and coordination.

In 2007, the NCGS started an important discussion on the vocabulary used in structural geology and its application to the Belgian geology. The first topic concerns the structural units and their boundaries, including geometrical aspects, the history, terminology, geodynamic aspects and structural implications. The second theme focuses on the structural elements and their terminology. A critical evaluation of the classic terminologies currently applied in the Belgian geology within the modern concepts is required. Both topics have not been worked out during 2008 due to the participation of the members in several activities of the IYPE, but in 2009 a workshop on the vocabulary used in structural geology is planned and will be organised by Sara Vandycke in Mons.

The website of the National Commission on Stratigraphy built by Frédéric Boulvain is operational. The NCGS emphasizes that each modification at the present official stratigraphy has to be submitted for discussion to the responsible stratigraphic sub-commission.

Noël Vandenberghe represented the NCGS at the statutory meeting of the International Union of Geological Sciences taking place at the International Geological Congress at Oslo in August 2008. He summarized the outcome of this meeting and related meetings in a report made available to all members. The national delegates of in total 73 countries reported on the initiatives taken in the framework of the IYPE. The approaches and concerns are very specific for the different countries. In general it was recognised that the Geo-community should focus more on answers rather than raising questions and to share positive news about geology rather than negative aspects such as with geo-hazards. At a well-attended meeting on Quaternary stratigraphic nomenclature organised by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS), the different views on this nomenclature were summarised by members of both the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) and ICS, but a consensus was not reached at the meeting. The OneGeology program, an IYPE flagship initiative of 80 Geological Surveys around the world, was launched at the International Geological Congress. The geological surveys are pooling their expertise, data and know-how in a web resource, improving global access to geological data and maps.

Roland Dreesen (VITO) is elected by the NCGS as a member. He will succeed Piet Laga, who is wholeheartedly thanked for his major contributions to the committee.

13. The National Committee for Logic, History and Philosophy of Sciences

1. OBJECTIFS DU COMITÉ NATIONAL

1.1. Objectifs

La tâche du Comité National de Logique, d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences est formulée en termes généraux à l'article 3 du *Nouveau règlement des comités scientifiques nationaux* (AR 2 avril 1979): "Les comités nationaux ont pour **attribution** de promouvoir et de coordonner pour la Belgique, l'étude de diverses disciplines scientifiques de leur ressort, envisagée principalement au point de vue international. Chaque Comité national, soit seul, soit de concert avec un ou plusieurs autres comités nationaux, a le

droit de soumettre à l'Union ou à l'organe scientifique de l'ICSU, auquel il est rattaché, des objets de discussion dans sa sphère de compétence." Dans la **pratique**, la mission du Comité National de Logique, d'Histoire et de Philosophie des Sciences couvre trois domaines:

_ Au niveau international, renforcer la présence et le rayonnement de la Belgique dans le monde de l'histoire et de la philosophie des sciences et inscrire la recherche belge en histoire et philosophie des sciences dans des projets de recherches internationaux, aussi bien mondiaux qu'euro-péens et bilatéraux.

_ Au niveau national, stimuler et coordonner la recherche en histoire et philosophie des sciences et favoriser la connaissance du passé scientifique, technologique et industriel de la Belgique dans le public intéressé, entre autres par des publications et des journées d'études.

_ Organiser des programmes de recherches collectifs dans les domaines de l'histoire et de la philosophie des sciences.

1.2. Réunions

En 2008 le CN s'est réuni à deux reprises, les 6 juin et 8 octobre. A la réunion du 6 juin, Hendrik Deelstra a présenté une communication intitulée "Analytical Chemistry in Belgium: An Historical Overview". Lors de la réunion du 8 octobre, Joke Meheus a parlé sur "The Microstructure of Scientific Discovery: Challenging Received Views on Logic and Rationality."

Le Bureau s'est réuni à deux reprises, le 23 janvier et le 10 juin.

Le 11 juin, Geert Vanpaemel a représenté le CN à la réunion conjointe des classes des Sciences de l'Académie Royale de Belgique et de la Koninklijke Vlaamse Academie van België, tenue avec le National Council of Scientific Unions. La présentation des travaux du CN n'a pu avoir lieu par manque de temps.

Le 5 octobre, la Société des Sciences, des Arts et des Lettres du Hainaut a fêté son 175^{ème} anniversaire. A cette occasion une séance académique a eu lieu à Mons, lors de laquelle le CN a adressé un hommage officiel, par la bouche de son président.

1.3 Collaboration entre historiens et philosophes des sciences

Dans le cadre de la coopération entre logiciens, philosophes des sciences et historiens des sciences, le CN a organisé conjointement avec la Belgian Society for Logic and Philosophy of Science un colloque de deux jours "Young Researchers Days in Logic, Philosophy and History of Science"

Une trentaine de jeunes chercheurs, principalement doctorants et jeunes docteurs, ont présenté leurs travaux. La publicité des YRD a été assurée par l'envoi d'emails aux personnes et aux institutions, et par affiches. De l'examen des communications il ressort que toutes les universités belges étaient représentées, même si, en particulier en histoire des sciences, il est clair que davantage de chercheurs auraient pu être contactés. Ce domaine est clairement moins structuré que la logique ou la philosophie des sciences. Lors des quatre communications plénières (Stathis Psillos, Hannes Leitgeb, Dominique Pestre et Isabelle Stengers), les liens entre logique, philosophie et histoire des sciences ont été discutés. Les communications proposées ont été présentées dans des sessions parallèles, avec un temps significatif réservé à la discussion.

Les communications seront publiées en 2009 dans la série des Contactfora de la KVAB.

2. RÉALISATIONS, DIFFUSION ET VALORISATION

2.1. Collaborations internationales

Les collaborations internationales du CN couvrent trois domaines: une participation active à l'organisation mondiale *IUHPS*, une implication européenne, notamment à travers l'*European Society for the History of Science*, et des coopérations bilatérales entre le CN et des partenaires étrangers.

2.1.1. International Union for History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS)

Le souci d'une représentation internationale de l'histoire des sciences belge via l'*IUHPS* est depuis des années à l'ordre du jour du CN. En 2008, il a été constaté que le CN n'était plus mentionné comme le représentant officiel de la Belgique auprès de DHST/IUHPS (<http://www.dhstweb.org>). Après une enquête auprès d'Efthymios Nicolaidis, secrétaire général de DHST/IUHPS, il est apparu que Robert Halleux avait annoncé dans une lettre à l'Executive Committee que, dans un proche avenir, le CN cesserait d'exister, et que le Comité Sluze souhaitait être admis comme observateur pour la Wallonie. Dans le procès-verbal de la réunion de décembre 2007 de l'Executive Committee, il est dit à ce propos : "*In view of the imminent disappearance of the Belgian National Committee the E.C. accepts that the "Comité Sluze" obtains the statute of observant until the G.A. in Budapest and will ask the Flemish part of the Belgian N.C. if it wishes to obtain a similar statute.*"

Le CN a adressé une protestation écrite au secrétaire et au président de la DHST/IUHPS. Les Secrétaires perpétuels ont également envoyé une lettre de protestation.

Le CN estime que R. Halleux a porté un préjudice grave non seulement au CN mais à l'ensemble de l'histoire des sciences en Belgique et qu'il s'agit ici d'un mépris inacceptable envers le CN. Le statut légitime du CN comme seul représentant de la Belgique a été entretemps réaffirmé.

Le XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology se tiendra du 28 juillet au 2 août 2009 à Budapest. Le CN désigne ses membres Geert Vanpaemel (NL) en Brigitte Van Tiggelen (F) en tant que représentants à l'Assemblée générale de la DHST/IUHPS.

2.1.2. Collaboration européenne

Geert Vanpaemel a représenté le CN au 3rd Congress of the European Society for the History of Science (Vienne, 10 -12 septembre 2008).

2.2. Projet de recherche BESTOR (Belgian Science and Technology Online Resources)

Ce nouveau projet, qui est en adéquation avec les missions et les moyens du CN, a été présenté par le Bureau et accepté par le CN lors de sa réunion du 12 octobre 2007. BESTOR se propose de constituer une base de données en ligne, mettant des informations, des ressources archivistiques et des illustrations à disposition de divers publics cibles : chercheurs, journalistes, communicateurs de la science, écoles et grand public. L'objectif est de contribuer ainsi à la connaissance et à la visibilité de la science en Belgique et de son histoire durant les deux derniers siècles. Les caractéristiques de la banque de données feront en outre de BESTOR un outil de recherche unique pour les historiens des sciences en Belgique et à l'étranger.

Le projet BESTOR a été très bien accueilli aux Services fédéraux de la Politique scientifique et a été approuvé officiellement fin 2008. Il pourra dès lors débuter en 2009 avec la mise en route du comité d'accompagnement, l'engagement de collaborateurs, l'installation des logiciels nécessaires et l'exploration d'un projet pilote.

Le RASAB s'est montré intéressé par le projet et s'est déclaré prêt à le soutenir. Aussi BELSPO a exprimé le souhait de participer au groupe de pilotage.

2.3. Développement d'un site Internet

Le développement d'un site web, qui avait été entrepris, a été interrompu après quelque temps en raison de la suspension du soutien financier par la Politique scientifique fédérale. Puisque ces moyens ont finalement été attribués en 2008, le développement d'un site web attractif et d'accès aisé sera repris le plus rapidement possible en 2009

2.4. Préparation de nouvelles activités et projets.

En 2009, le CN organisera deux réunions comprenant des communications scientifiques. En outre un colloque Darwin est prévu dans le cadre de l'Année Darwin 2009.

Le site web sera développé et mis en valeur.

Le projet BESTOR débutera.

3. FINANCES

Dans l'attente de l'attribution de moyens financiers par la Politique scientifique fédérale, le CN a adopté une conduite prudente. Elle a impliqué le report à 2009 du développement du site web et de la préparation de BESTOR. En accord avec la KVAB et la Politique scientifique fédérale, une partie des moyens a été consacrée au paiement du salaire de Jan Vandersmissen, qui a travaillé du 1 février au 31 juillet dans le cadre du VIGES à l'Histoire des Techniques en Belgique.

La situation financière du CN est saine et permet – dans la mesure des moyens limités – la mise en oeuvre prudente des projets.

Resultats exercice 2008

<u>Dépenses</u>	<u>Debet</u>	<u>Revenus</u>	<u>Credit</u>
téléphone JVDS 2008	71,43	Subsides 2e partie 2007	16500,00
Compensation JVDS déc 2007	139,62		
JVDS jan-juillet	33806,97		
Total dépenses	34018,02	Total revenus	16500,00
		Solde fin 2007	-11732,24
		Total dépenses	-34018,02

Total revenus	16500,00
Solde fin 2008	-29250,26
<u>A recevoir pour 2008 en 2009</u>	
1e partie 2008	69200,00
Total	69200,00
Position 19/02/2009	39949,74
<u>Encore à recevoir 19/02/2009</u>	
2e partie 2008	17300,00

14. The National Committee for Mathematics

Une réunion a eu lieu le 15 octobre 2008 au Palais des Académies, sous la présidence de J. Schmets.

- A. Hoogewijs souhaite se retirer du Comité du CNM. Le Comité remercie vivement A. Hoogewijs pour ses activités au sein du CNM.
- Maggy Schneider (ULg) est élue Présidente de ICME-Belgique, à partir de 2008, et ce pour une période de 4 ans. Dirk Janssens (K.U.Leuven) devient Vice-Président
- Un nouveau Comité Exécutif d' ICMI(International Commission on Mathematical Instruction) a été élu lors de l'Assemblée Générale (Monterey, Mexico) d' ICMI, le 6 Juillet; pour 2010-2012.
- Le prochain congrès IMU aura lieu en 2010 à Bangalore (India).
- Durant cette année, le Comité a procédé à plusieurs votes par voie électronique. Ces votes ont été en accord avec les décisions suivantes, prises par après par l'IMU:
 - L'Iran et la Norvège passent du groupe 2 au groupe 3
 - La Colombie fait désormais partie du groupe 1.
 - Le Kenya devient Membre Associé de l'IMU
- Une journée "The Mathematics of Ranking" a été organisée par le CNM et la BMS (Belgian Mathematical Society), ce mercredi 15 octobre .Cette journée a été un réel succès. Son programme est joint en annexe à ce rapport d'activités.
- Le président signale que les Académies ont entériné la proposition de nouveau bureau que le Comité leur avait soumise. A partir du 22 octobre et pour une période de quatre ans, le nouveau bureau sera donc composé de la manière suivante :

Président: F.Dumortier;
 Vice-Président: C. Finet;
 Secrétaire: H.Van Maldeghem;
 Vice-Secrétaire: F.Bastin

15. The National Committee for Mechanics

Het Comité heeft in de loop van het jaar twee maal vergaderd: op 20 maart en 23 oktober 2008.

1. Samenstelling van het Comité

In september 2008 liep het mandaat van negen leden van het Nationaal Comité af. Met name Ph. Boulanger, C. Conti, E. Deleersnijder, R. Decuyper, G. De Roeck, Ch. Lacor, D. Vandepitte, M. Van Overmeire, G. Warzée zijn na 8 jaar lidmaatschap als actief lid uittredend en zijn niet herkiesbaar. In overeenstemming met de voorgeschreven procedures hebben de uittredende leden van het Comité elk binnen hun eigen universiteit een vervanger voorgesteld. Na verkiezing zijn 9 nieuwe leden aangesteld: Y. Baudoin (KMS), S. Adriaenssens (VUB), G. Degrande (KULeuven), G. Degrez (ULB), Ch. De Mol (ULB), W. Desmet (KULeuven), D. Lefeber (VUB), V. Legat (UCL), O. Verlinden (FPMs). Daar S. Adriaenssens voor een tweetal jaar in de USA verblijft, heeft het Comité beslist dat D. Van Hemelrijck (VUB) haar gedurende deze periode vervangt.

Het Comité heeft ook een nieuw bureau verkozen:

- Voorzitter: J. Degrieck
- Ondervoorzitter: F. Dupret
- Secretaris-Penningmeester: Y. Baudoin
- Adjunct-secretaris: D. Van Hemelrijck

2. Activiteiten in de schoot van IUTAM

(a) In 2007, had het Comité de aanstelling bevestigd van Ph. Boulanger (ULB), E. Dick (UGent), D. Vandepitte (KULeuven) als vertegenwoordigers bij IUTAM, in het bijzonder voor de deelname aan de General Assembly 2008. Ph. Boulanger heeft de General Assembly bijgewoond, die op 26 en 27 augustus 2008 plaatsvond te Adelaide, Australië, in het kader van het congres ICTAM 2008. E. Dick et D. Vandepitte, die niet konden aanwezig zijn, hebben volmacht gegeven aan Ph. Boulanger, zodat België drie stemmen mocht uitbrengen voor alle punten onderworpen aan een geheime stemming (selectie van IUTAM symposia 2010 en 2011, wijziging van leden in verschillende comités, enz....). Een omstandig verslag van deze vergadering, opgemaakt door Ph. Boulanger, werd uitgereikt aan alle leden van het Nationaal Comité en is bijgevoegd bij dit jaarverslag.

(b) G. Van Der Perre (KULeuven), erelid van het Comité, heeft een voorstel ingediend voor een IUTAM Symposium, met titel « Biomechanical Analysis and Simulation of Human Movement (from advanced methods to practical applications) », dat in Leuven in 2010 zou worden georganiseerd. Dit voorstel, dat ondersteund werd door het Comité, werd aangenomen op de IUTAM General Assembly 2008. Het Comité is bijzonder blij dat een IUTAM Symposium in België georganiseerd wordt, wat sinds meer dan 35 jaar niet meer gebeurd was.

(c) België was vertegenwoordigd door vier deelnemers aan het congres ICTAM 2008 (Adelaide, van 24 tot 29 augustus). Het Comité heeft, uit eigen financiële middelen, de inschrijvingskosten (650 AUD) betaald van twee van deze deelnemers, die hierom gevraagd hadden.

3. Nationaal Congres voor Theoretische en Toegepaste Mechanica

Het Comité heeft de organisatie voorbereid van het Congres (NCTAM 2009) dat aan de VUB zal plaatsvinden, op 28 en 29 mei 2009: de oprichting van een organisatie comité onder de verantwoordelijkheid van Ch. Lacor (VUB), de oprichting van het wetenschappelijk comité, de voorbereiding van de praktische modaliteiten, de keuze van de uitgenodigde sprekers, ... Een aankondiging van dit congres is in bijlage aan dit verslag toegevoegd (NCTAM2009_Flyer_2nd_Call.pdf). Zie ook de website www.nctam.org.

4. Graduate School in Mechanics GraSMech (<http://www.mech.kuleuven.be/GraSMech/index.html>)

(a) In 2007-2008 werden er zeven cursussen gedoceerd, in diverse domeinen van de mechanica:

- Advanced continuum mechanics
- Nonlinear finite elements
- Computational fluid dynamics introductory course
- Functional analysis and the finite element method
- Multiphysics coupling in geomaterials mechanics
- Combustion modelling (dankzij de financiële steun van de Académie Wallonie-Bruxelles en het FNRS, voor de uitnodiging van Professor B. Fiorina van de Ecole Centrale de Paris)
- Uncertainty in complex engineering systems : modelling by Monte Carlo simulation

(b) GraSMech werd uitgebreid met nieuwe onderzoeksgroepen van de KMS. Een nieuw overzicht werd opgemaakt en is in bijlage aan dit verslag toegevoegd. De uitbreiding werd ook officieel meegedeeld aan het FNRS, waar GrasMech erkend is als « Ecole Doctorale Thématique » (Graduate School) (zie <http://www.frs-fnrs.be>). Het nationale aspect van GrasMech blijft bestaan, dankzij een evenwichtige deelname van Franstalige en Nederlandstalige onderzoeksgroepen.

(c) Onder leiding van het Nationaal Comité, vond de tweede « GraSMech Posters Day » (dag van posterpresentaties door doctorale studenten) plaats op 3 oktober 2008 aan de KMS; 35 posters werden

voorgelegd. Verder werden twee lezingen op uitnodiging gehouden, waarvan één door de laureaat van de « BNCM-Best Ph.D. Thesis Prize» 2006, Pietro Rini. Twee prijzen werden toegekend aan doctoraatsstudenten met de beste posters. De organisatie van deze activiteit heeft financiële steun van het FNRS gekregen.

(d) Op initiatief van Ch. Lacor, en ondersteund door GraSMech en het Comité, werd een reeks van vijf lezingen met als thema “New methodologies and multidisciplinary applications in CFD” voorgesteld in het kader van de « Collège Belgique », dat onlangs opgericht werd door de « Académie Royale ». Dit voorstel werd met prioriteit aangenomen door de « Collège Belgique ».

(e) Het wetenschappelijk Comité van GraSMech werd herschikt. J. Vantomme trad toe om de Koninklijke Militaire School te vertegenwoordigen. Vanaf januari 2009, treedt F. Dupret (UCL) af, ten gunste van I. Doghri (UCL), die ook de woordvoerder van GraSMech bij het FNRS zal worden (in plaats van Ph. Boulanger).

5. Vertegenwoordiging binnen ECCOMAS--Wedstrijd « Best Thesis 2007»

Het Comité is lid van ECCOMAS (European Community on Computational Methods in Applied Sciences, <http://www.cimne.com/eccomas/html/about.htm>), met J-A. Essers (ULg) als vertegenwoordiger. C. Hirsch blijft lid van het ECCOMAS « management board ». Zoals elk jaar, heeft ECCOMAS in 2008 een wedstrijd georganiseerd voor de prijs « Best Thesis Award 2007 ». Zoals vorig jaar, heeft ECCOMAS beslist twee prijzen toe te kennen aan de twee beste doctoraten van Europa, die in 2007 werden afgelegd en die betrekking hebben op numerieke methoden binnen de toegepaste wetenschappen. De huidige procedure stelt dat elk land of elke groep van landen, die lid is van ECCOMAS via zijn vertegenwoordigende organisatie, één laureaat kan voorstellen. Zeven kandidaten hebben hun doctoraatthesis ingediend. Na evaluatie heeft het Nationaal Comité, bij stemming, het doctoraatswerk van Liesbet GERIS (KULeuven) voorgedragen. Het selectiecomité van ECCOMAS heeft de prijzen toegekend aan Jeroen Wackers (Nederland) et Lukasz Madej (Polen).

In overeenstemming met de beslissing van 2006, heeft het Nationaal Comité zijn eigen prijs, de « BNCM-Best Ph.D. Thesis Prize» 2007 aan Liesbet GERIS (KULeuven) toegekend. De prijs bestaat uit een certificaat, opgemaakt in samenspraak met RASAB, en een uitnodiging om een lezing te geven in het kader van het nationaal congres NCTAM 2009.

6. Vertegenwoordiging binnen EUROMECH

Sinds 2006 heeft de EUROMECH (<http://www.euromech.org>) « advisory board » één vertegenwoordiger voor de BENELUX. Als gevolg van een overeenkomst met het « Nederlands Comité voor Mechanica » (zie jaarverslag 2005), is P. Fisette (UCL) thans vertegenwoordiger van de BENELUX bij EUROMECH. Het Nationaal Comité moedigt de onderzoekers in mechanica aan om lid van EUROMECH te worden.

7. Relaties met andere internationale organisaties

- EURASEM (European Association for Experimental Mechanics): het Comité wordt vertegenwoordigd bij EURASEM door D. Van Hemelrijck (VUB) en J. Degrieck (UGent). Zij hebben de vergadering van het « EURASEM Permanent Committee » bijgewoond op 14 maart 2008 te Lausanne. Er werd beslist om de bestaande vereniging EURASEM te ontbinden, en te vervangen door het « European Society of Experimental Mechanics » (<http://www.eurase.org/>), dat volwaardige statuten zal krijgen. Dit genootschap zal wel het letterwoord EURASEM behouden. D. Van Hemelrijck (VUB) werd gekozen als secretaris van het nieuwe bureau van EURASEM.
- ISIMM (International Society for the Interaction between Mathematics and Mechanics, <http://isimm.dmsa.unipd.it>): Ph. Boulanger (ULB) is lid van het « executive committee ». In 2008 heeft dit genootschap het symposium STAMM XVI--Symposium on Trends of Applications of Mathematics to Mechanics georganiseerd, te Levico Terme (Italië), van 22 tot 25 september.

8. Andere punten

- Gebruik van de eigen financiële middelen van het Comité: het Comité heeft zoals hoger vermeld steun gegeven aan twee deelnemers van het congres ICTAM 2008 (zie punt 2-c). Bovenop de financiële steun van IUTAM, biedt het Comité zijn eigen financiële steun aan voor de organisatie van het IUTAM Symposium 2010 in Leuven (zie punt 2-b). Het biedt ook een bijdrage aan voor de eventuele verplaatsingskosten van GraSMech docenten, en, in voorkomend geval, voor andere activiteiten die als nuttig zouden beoordeeld worden (voor zover de beschikbare middelen dit toelaten).
- Deelname aan de gezamenlijke vergaderingen van de Klassen (RASAB).

16. The National Committee for Microbiology

Woord vooraf:

Sinds 1997 worden de vergaderingen van het Nationaal Comité voor Microbiologie (NCM) georganiseerd op dezelfde dag van de vergaderingen van de 'Board' van de Belgische Vereniging voor Microbiologie/Belgian Society for Microbiology (BVM/BSM). Alle leden van het Nationaal Comité voor Microbiologie behoren tot de 'Advisory Board' van de BVM. In 2008 werden geen afzonderlijke administratieve vergaderingen georganiseerd door de NCM. De voornaamste gezamenlijke activiteit van de NCM en BVM betrof de organisatie van twee symposia (zie bijlage voor programma).

1. Administratieve vergadering

Op de vergadering van 24/1/08 werd een administratieve vergadering georganiseerd (verslag in gesloten).

2. Werkvergaderingen

De vergaderingen verliepen vooral elektronisch via Email, ter voorbereiding van het gemeenschappelijk symposium van het nationaal Comité voor Microbiologie en de Belgische Vereniging voor Microbiologie (zie volgend punt).

3. Activiteiten

Algemeen Microbiologisch symposium: Stress Responses in the Microbial World

12 December in het paleis der academiën te Brussel (zie bijlage voor programma). Er waren 180 aanwezigen.

4. Internationale vertegenwoordiging

P. De Vos woonde als vertegenwoordiger van het Nationaal Comité, het IUMS congres in Istanboel van 5-9 augustus 2008 bij. In bijlage is een overzicht ingesloten van de bijgewoonde vergaderingen in de internationale context.

17. The National Committee for Oceanology

1. Further steps in the creation of an Interuniversity Marine Centre (IMC)

A Virtual Marine Centre (VMC) was created in 2006. In addition, a proposal, jointly written by VUB and ULB, created an Interuniversity Marine Centre (a vzw/asbl structure), that would be financed by an additional budget (separately from the normal oceanographic programmes) of BELSPO. The main goals of the IMC are: (1) to appoint about 12 post-docs for a longer period (for example 5 years) to ensure a continuity in the marine research field and (2) to act as a focal point to international bodies and networks. The legal document is ready but the discussion between universities and BELSPO did not progress due to governmental uncertainty.

2. EURO-CEANS, European Network of Marine Institutes

Prof. F. Dehairs participated at the annual EUR-OCEANS meeting.

The final meeting of the EUR-OCEANS Network of Excellence was an Open European Conference on "Global Change and Marine Ecosystems", held at the Cavour Congress Centre in Rome, Italy, from 25 through 27 November 2008.

3. 2009 activities

A meeting will be held in March 2009. New members will be elected and a scientific programme for the next future will be discussed.

18. The National Committee for Physics

In 2008 the National Committee for Pure and Applied Physics (hereafter called BNCP or “the Committee”) held meetings on January 24, May 15 and September 25. More details than those that are reported here can be found in the minutes of those meetings and on the website of the BNCP ([http:// www.bncphys.be](http://www.bncphys.be)). The main points of interest can be summarized as follows:

1. Changes in the composition and responsibilities in the Committee were submitted for approval to the Academies:

Election of Prof. R. Weynants (KMS-ERM) as chairman, in replacement of Prof. J. Lemonne (VUB).

Election of Prof. A. Noels-Grötsch (ULg) and of Prof. F. Wuyts (UA) as new ordinary members of the Committee.

Acceptance of the resignation of Prof. J. Lemonne (VUB) and of Prof. G. Demortier (FUNDP) as ordinary members of the Committee and their election as honorary members.

Acceptance of the resignation for personnel reasons of Prof. J. Dirckx (UA) as ordinary member and of Prof. E. Biémont (ULg) as an honorary member of the Committee.

2. Representation of Belgian Physics at IUPAP:

A list of Belgian candidates for the election of the members of the IUPAP (the International Union for Pure and Applied Physics) commissions was prepared by the BNCP in view of the elections at the General Assembly of IUPAP held in Tsukuba (Japan) in October 2008.

This is an important task of our Committee as IUPAP is sponsoring international meetings on physics; fostering communications and publications; encouraging research and education; fostering the free circulation of scientists; promoting international agreements on symbols, units and nomenclature; and cooperating with other organizations on disciplinary and interdisciplinary problems.

In order to reach those goals, IUPAP has created a series of scientific commissions covering most of the disciplines of physics.

The denominations of those IUPAP commissions are: “Symbols, Units, Nomenclature, Atomic Masses and Fundamental Constants”; Mathematical Physics; Statistical Physics; Computational Physics; Particles and Fields; Cosmic Rays; Nuclear Physics; Atomic and Molecular Physics; Plasma Physics; Astrophysics; Low Temperature Physics; Magnetism, Quantum Electronics; Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter; Semiconductors; Biological Physics; Physics for Development and Physics Education.

As a result of our effort, Belgium will be represented in five commissions, namely:

Cosmic Rays: D. Bertrand (ULB)

Physics of Development: D. Callebaut (UA)

Plasma Physics: D. Carati (ULB)

Structure and Dynamics of Condensed Matter: P. Lambin (FUNDP)

Astrophysics: C. Waelkens (KUL).

Five is quite a high number for a small nation knowing that 60 countries from all over the world have liaison committee contacts with IUPAP and that each commission counts 14 members and a few associate members. This illustrates the good visibility and international appreciation which many Belgian physics groups and institutes have been able to establish.

3. Preparation of the 2009 colloquium of the BNCP.

The Committee organises on a bi-annual basis colloquia, aiming to highlight the state of the art in a specific domain of physics. The 2009 will be held, with the help of RASAB, in the Palace of the Academies on September 19, 2008 and is called: ‘Light: At the forefront of Physics’.

The ordinary members of the Committee will be assisted in the organisation by a Scientific Advisory Committee composed of: R. Baets (UG), E. Biémont (ULg), F. Brouillard (UCL) (president), C. Cornet (UCL), P. Herquet (UMH), A. Noels (ULg), K. Temst (KUL), P. Thiry (FUNDP), I. Veretennicof (VUB), R. Weynants (KMS-ERM).

The following talks are planned:

1. Prof. J. BAUDON (Université Paris 13) : La quête sur la nature de la lumière et son impact sur la Physique
2. Prof. C. WAELKENS (KUL) : Licht uit het Universum
3. Prof. S. HAROCHE (Collège de France): Quantum Aspects of Light
4. Prof. H. THIENPONT (VUB): Materials that shape light

19. The National Committee for Physiology and Pharmacology

1. Domestic activities

The Committee held two meetings in 2008, the first was organized in Ulg on 17 May and the second in UCL-Brussels on 8 November.

On May 18, Professor U. Stampinato from Bordeaux (France) delivered the keynote lecture dealing with the mechanism of serotonin/dopamine interaction in the brain. This lecture was followed by 6 oral communications and by two demonstrations. In the afternoon, there was a presentation of 9 Posters dealing with research mainly related to the CNS (see attached full program). 45 members of the Belgian Society of Fundamental and Clinical Physiology and Pharmacology attended the meeting.

On November 8, Dr R.A.J. Challis from Leicester (UK) delivered the keynote lecture dealing with the allosteric modulators of G protein-coupled receptors. This lecture was followed by 13 oral communications and by two demonstrations. In the afternoon, there was a presentation of 22 Posters dealing with various topics (see attached full program). 85 members of the Belgian Society of Fundamental and Clinical Physiology and Pharmacology attended the meeting.

2. International activities

Prof. V. Seutin was our representative at EPHAR Congress in Manchester (UK) on July 13th-17th. He reported that this meeting was a great success with 800 active participants. However the Federation of European Pharmacological Societies feels that it has a too low profile. This is likely due to very limited resources. EPHAR will try to improve the situation by increasing dues of Member Societies, so allowing to support lectures at the World congresses of IUPHAR.

3. Meetings calendar

Domestic meetings:

March 7 2009	UGent	Prof. Dr. R. Lefebvre
October 24 2009	VU Brussel	Prof. Dr. I. Smolders
Spring 2010	FUNDP Namur	Prof. Dr. B. Flamion
Autumn 2010	UL Bruxelles	Prof. Dr. R. Beauwens
Spring 2011	UHasselt	Prof. Dr. J.M. Rigo

International Meetings

The Organisers of the "88th Annual Meeting of the German Physiological Society" in Giessen (March 22-25 2009) invite all the international colleagues to participate at their programme entirely in English

Web: <http://www.uni-giessen.de/dpg2009>

12-15 July 2009 Edinburgh (Scotland)
9th Congress of the EACPT – European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
web: <http://www.eacpt2009.org>

27 July – 1 August 2009 Kyoto (Japan)
36th IUPS Meeting - The International Union of Physiological Sciences

Theme: "Function of Life: Elements and Integration"

Web: <http://www.iups2009.com>

12-15 November 2009 Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Joint Meeting of the Slovenian and Austrian Physiological Societies and FEPS

provisional web: <http://lnmcp.mf.uni-lj.si>

17-23 July 2010 Copenhagen (Denmark)

XVIth IUPHAR World Congress of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology

<http://www.Worldpharma2010.org> – e-mail: worldpharma2010@ics.dk

20. The National Committee for Psychological Science

Minutes of the meeting of April 26th, 2008

At the meeting : S. Brédart, A. Cleeremans (Deputy Secretary-General), D. Hermans, J. Morais (President), B. Rimé, G. van Ostryve d'Ydewalle (Secretary-General), F. Van Overwalle, , X. Seron. E. Soetens

Apologies : R. Cluydts, P. De Boeck, G. De Soete , M. Richelle, A. Vandierendonck, L. Verhofstadt-Denève.

1. Minutes of Meeting of December 8th, 2007

The minutes are approved.

2. Jury Best Thesis Award

F. Van Overwalle, presiding the jury (members: R. Bruyer, O. Klein, G. Storms), reports (see Annex). The jury unanimously decided on a winning candidate, each member reaching the same conclusion independently. Because of this convergence of opinions, no meeting was held. The winning candidate and hence recipient of this years "Best Thesis Award" is Céline Gillebert, from the KUL.

The president thanks the jury members for their work. A discussion about the modalities of the Award follows, echoing a previous similar discussion amongst members of the Executive Committee of BAPS. The following points are discussed: The difficulty of identifying bilingual jury members, the possibility of granting separate awards split by linguistic regime, by domain of investigation, or by the applied vs. fundamental character of the research; and the lack of coherence in the length of theses, where variance is substantial amongst different institutions. It is recommended to keep the unity of the Award in all respects, and that the National Committee suggests to Belgian psychology departments to strive to limit the number of pages of undergraduate theses.

The president of BAPS thanks the members of the jury and announces that he will compose together with Alain Van Hiel (BAPS coordinator of the Award) a press release to be transmitted to the Belgian Federation of Psychologists for publication in their newsletter.

3. New Members

The Committee needs to recruit a new member from the French-speaking community. The president announces that he approached R. Bruyer from the UCL, and that the latter accepted the

invitation. The Committee approves. Hence, R. Bruyer is now a member of the National Committee of Psychological Science.

4. Lecture cycle on "Brain, Consciousness, and Mind (May 2008)

G. van Oustryve d'Ydewalle reports that the Academy will hold a lecture cycle dedicated to "Brain, Consciousness, and Mind" during May 2008 on the initiative of the president of the KVABWK, and invites members of the National Committee to attend and inform colleagues. Several members of the National Committee of Psychological Science will speak at the event (A. Cleeremans, D. Hermans).

5. Next symposium

X. Seron had suggested the topic of "Emotion" during previous meetings. D. Hermans and B. Rimé were approached to organize this symposium. Both accepted to organize a one-day event with international speakers and will make a detailed proposal at the next meeting. A discussion concerning the fees required from the Academy for use of its rooms follows. The visibility of the symposium is also discussed. The Committee notes that the series of events has not achieved the level of visibility it initially hoped it would achieve. Possible approaches are discussed.

7. Relations with IUPsyS

The two delegates who will represent Belgium at the next General Assembly of the IUPsyS, to be held at the next International Congress of Psychology in Berlin July 20-25, 2008, are G. van Oustryve d'Ydewalle (nominated by the National Committee) and J. De Houwer (nominated by BAPS). G. van Oustryve d'Ydewalle will write a letter to the IUPsyS on behalf of the National Committee to officially nominate the two personalities as representatives of Belgium.

7. Varia

A. Cleeremans and J. Morais inform the members of the National Committee that the meeting titled "Psychology: Scenes of Tomorrow" will take place September 19th-20th, 2008, in the LACQUET room of the Academy. The meeting, held in honor of J. Morais, will feature many renowned psychologists, including T. Shallice, J. Melher, S. Dehaene, and many others.

A. Cleeremans mentions that a small cocktail event will be held during the next Annual Meeting of BAPS to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Association. B. Rimé and G. van Oustryve d'Ydewalle have accepted to speak at the event.

NEXT MEETING :

Wednesday the 3rd of December 2008 @ 11:00

Minutes of the meeting of December 3rd, 2008

At the meeting : R. Bruyer, A. Cleeremans (Deputy Secretary-General), D. Hermans, J. Morais (President), B. Rimé, G. van Oustryve d'Ydewalle (Secretary-General), F. Van Overwalle

Apologies : S. Brédart, R. Cluydts, G. De Soete, M. Richelle, E. Soetens, A. Vandierendonck, L. Verhofstadt-Denève.

The president begins by announcing the sad news that our esteemed colleague, Pr. Paul Bertelson (ULB), member of the National Committee, passed away on November 26th, 2008. Pr. Bertelson was, for many years, very active as president of the jury for the BAPS Best Thesis Award. The committee observes a

minute of silence in memory of Pr. Bertelson. A new member from the Université Libre de Bruxelles will be appointed at the next meeting in replacement of Pr. Bertelson.

Next, in light of his recent retirement, the president raises the issue about who would be ready to replace him in the event that he chooses to step down. The point is briefly discussed.

1. Minutes of Meeting of April 26, 2008

The minutes are approved.

2. Jury Best Thesis Award

BAPS communicates the names of the candidates pre-selected by BAPS for the Best Thesis Award. These are Stefanie Adriansens (UG), Leen Bastiaasen (VUB), Florine De Brouwer (ULB), & Astrid Vermeiren (UG). Frank Van Overwalle again agrees to preside the jury. The following members are suggested: Paul de Boeck, Bernard Rimé, and Wim Gevers. Each will be contacted by the president shortly.

3. Report on the meeting "Psychology: Scenes of Tomorrow"

A. Cleeremans briefly reports on the meeting titled "Psychology: Scenes of Tomorrow", which took place on September 19th-20th, 2008, in the LACQUET room of the Academy. The meeting, held in honor of J. Morais, featured many renowned psychologists, including T. Shallice, J. Melher, S. Dehaene, J. Grainger, U. Frauenfelder, I. Peretz, and many others. The meeting was a great success, with substantial attendance over the two days and many excellent presentations.

4. Report on the preparations of the Emotion meeting

D. Hermans and B. Rimé report on the organisation of the meeting. The chosen topic would be "Change and Emotion", which affords a broad range of possible topics: Psychopathology, neurobiological perspectives, and developmental influences. This is attractive both to clinicians as well as to researchers. The provisional title of the meeting is thus "Changing Emotions". The suggested date is October 23rd, 2009. The Lacquet room has been requested but might be under renovation at that date. The Academy has alternative solutions if that is the case (i.e., the Throne Room). Several speakers from different perspectives have already been approached, with the goal of offering about seven lectures. The list of speakers will be confirmed by February. The organisers will seek funding from different sources, including the FWO, the FRS, the King Baldwin Foundation, and the Academy itself.

5. Varia

G. d'Ydewalle indicates that the proceedings about the Symposium on Cognitive Aging will be ready by Christmas. A discussion ensues about how to best distribute the proceedings. It is suggested that copies be distributed at the BAPS meeting on June 3rd. G. d'Ydewalle also suggests that committee members consider possible themes for the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING :

Saturday May 9th @ 11:00. Jury Best Thesis Award meets @ 10:00

21. The National Committee for Radio-Electricity

During the year 2008, three activities have to be noticed : the Benelux URSI Forum, the URSI General Assembly in Chicago and the meetings of the Belgian URSI Committee.

- This year BE has organized the second **Benelux URSI Forum** in Brussels : there were 31 participants in total (10 NL, 21 BE), of which 7 paying members (2 NL, 5 BE, one 150 € of his own pocket only for his personal scientific interest in radio-astronomy !). Thanks to this person the Committee has a small profit (-6% overhead) of 98,94 €. The cost of the reception was 467,13 €. The rest (493,79 € + edition of the proceedings) was paid by the Academy. The Forum was organized in two sessions. The Session A in the morning about RADIO SCIENCE IN BELGIUM chaired by Prof VANLIL and the Session B in the afternoon about RADIO SCIENCE IN THE NETHERLANDS chaired by Prof STROM.

Session A :

A1. *Fast multipole methods for extremely large electromagnetic field problems*

by Femke Olyslager, UGent

A2. *Security applications of THz waves*

by Emile Schweicher, ERM

A3. *New radioastronomy projects in Belgium*

by Frédéric Clette, ROB

A4. *Breast Cancer Detection with a 3D Microwave Imaging Reconstruction Technique*

By Jurgen De Zaeytjij, UGent

Session B :

B1. *Uncertainty quantification in EMC problems: A probabilistic Approach*

by Ousmane Sy

B2. *Toward the Design of a Wide-Scan, Wide-Band, Low-Cross-Pol Printed Array*

by Daniele Cavallo

B3. *Calibration of Phased Array Radio Telescopes*

by Stefan Wijnholds

There were 16 papers presented and 1 keynote speaker. The numbers of papers per commission were as follows :

A : Electromagnetic metrology (1)

B : Fields and waves (9)

C : Radio-communication systems & signal processing (1)

D : Electronics and photonics (2)

E : Electromagnetic Noise and interference (1)

F : Propagation and teledetection (1)

G : Radio-electricity & ionospheric propagation

H : Waves & plasmas

J : Radio-astronomy (1)

K : Electromagnetism in Biology and Medicine (1)

The Forum was honoured by the presence of Prof. Adrianus DE HOOP (member of NL Academy).

Prof VANLIL has talked to Prof. VAN ARDENNE (NL) about the decrease in NL participation : it is due to bad timing and late announcement for the NL.

- The **2008 URSI General Assembly** took place in Chicago, August 8-16. This year was marked by the 100 years celebration. Prof E. SCHWEICHER attended all Commission D sessions ("Electronics & Photonics") as the representative of Belgium at this Commission. He attended also the meetings of the Council as acting president of the Belgian URSI Committee where he represented the real president, Prof B. NAUWELAERS (replacement agreed by the Academy). As such, he played an active role during the meeting of the Council and made a detailed reporting of the GA to the Committee. Prof SOBIESKI, as international president of the Commission F, was also very active. During a meeting of the Commission D, Prof SCHWEICHER proposed to have a session about "Hyperspectral sensing & lidars" during the next URSI GA and accepted to convene this session in conjunction with the director of FGAN-FOM in Ettlingen, Germany. Other future Commission D sessions have been decided, among them a session about "THz technology". A summary of some oral presentations given in Commission D sessions is done in the report of Prof SCHWEICHER to the Belgian URSI Committee.

One Belgian student (Jan FOSTIER, promotor Prof OLYSLAGER) received the 4th place in an highly competitive student paper competition at the GA. Another Belgian student (Jürgen DE ZAYETIJD,

promotor Prof FRANCHOIS), received the Young Scientist distinction for URSI together with a special Prize from Commission B of URSI at GA.

During a meeting of the Council, a new URSI board has been elected as follows :

- as new president : Prof G. BRUSSAARD (NL)

- as new vice-president : Dr ANTAR (CA), Dr WILKINSON (AU), Prof HALLIKANEN (FIN), Prof INAN (USA).

- as secretary general : Prof LAGASSE (reelected)

- as assistant secretary general : Prof OLYSLAGER

So, the URSI secretariat remains in Belgium for the next triennium. Prof LEFEUVRE has become pastpresident.

The Council decided also to rename the URSI GA as URSI GASS meaning URSI General Assembly & Scientific Symposium and to organize the next GASS in Istanbul, Turkey, August 13-20, 2011.

- The **Belgian URSI Committee** has met three times, on 13 August in Chicago (during the URSI GA), on 26 August in the Academy and on 16 December in the Academy too.

On 26 august 2008 Prof VAN LIL (KULeuven), acting secretary, reported about the Benelux URSI Forum organized, while Prof SCHWEICHER (for Council & Commission D) and Prof SOBIESKI for Commission F) reported about the 2008 URSI General Assembly which they attended in august. Then the names of the Belgian representatives in the various URSI commissions were reviewed. In the last part of the meeting a voting session took place for electing new members (effective, associate or honorary). The date of the next meeting was scheduled for December, 16, 2008.

On 16 December, Prof CRAEYE (UCL) gave a lecture entitled "*Efficient simulation of finite wideband arrays*". During the administrative part of the meeting the board made some communications about the updating of the URSI/BE website and the management of the procurations for coming meetings. Inputs for the annual report and the budget 2010 were given by the mebers to the secretary. Concerning the wish of the president to go and participate to the URSI Forum in Poland, the Committee supported unanimously the request of Prof SCHWEICHER for obtaining a funding from the Academy for this activity. The date of the next URSI/BE meeting is 6 March at 1430 h. The vice-president will ask Prof ROGIERS (UGent) if he agree to come and give a lecture. If not, the president will make an oral presentation about "Hyperspectral sensing".

22. The National Committee SCOPE - IGBP

SCOPE: Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment

IGBP: International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme

The main activity of the SCOPE-IGBP National Committee was the organisation, jointly with the Belgian Diversity Platform of BELSPO and INBO (Instituut voor Natuur-en Bosonderzoek) of a seminar on ecosystem services, which took place on 22 October 2008 at the Palace of the Academies.

The purpose of the seminar was to prepare the participation of Belgium to the upcoming European Ecosystem Assessment coordinated by the European Environment Agency.

About 50 scientists took part in the seminar. The papers presented will be made available on the site <http://ecosystem.biodiversity.be>

After the seminar the organising committee met to prepare a draft for a feasibility study on ecosystem services to be sponsored by BELSPO. The text is being finalised at present.

During the seminar an informal meeting of the national committee took place to discuss future activities. A proposal on the role of accidents, crises and disasters in reinforcing environmental protection is now in preparation.

23. The National Committee for Soil Sciences

1. Report of the Chairman, M. Penninckx

On February 27, 2008 a National Committee meeting of Soil Science was organized followed by the General Assembly. In the afternoon the yearly Day of the Young Scientists was held. A total of 12 oral contributions and 10 posters were presented. The meeting was attended by some 70 soil scientists, of which some 50 young scholars.

The French Association for Soil Study (AFES) and more precisely Michel Isambert with L. Bock (Gembloux), organized the annual excursion **from 21 until 25 May 2008** at the contact of **Perche and Beauce regions**, ± 200 km west-south-west of Paris. Twenty colleagues, members of SSSB and about the same number of French soil scientists from various institutions participated to this excursion. Thanks to the efforts of Michel Isambert and AFES this excursion was a great success. A lively article concerning the trip was published in Pedologie-Info and the complete excursion guide as a next Pedologie-Themata is currently in press.

More than 1500 participants from 77 countries worldwide attended the EUROSIL meeting held from **25 until 29 August 2008 in Vienna, Austria**. Members of the National Committee of Soil Science participated to the meeting EUROSIL 2008. S. Deckers chaired the symposium on “Soil Desertification” and E. Van Ranst was co-convenor of the workshop 4 on “Soil Quality”. To the advice of participants, the meeting was a great success and was very useful for meeting colleagues.

On December 5, 2008 an extended National Committee meeting was held in RASAB. Several points concerning the activities of year 2008 were discussed and the scientific plan for 2009 was elaborated upon.

- J. Chapelle summarized the salient points of the report of the mid-term council meeting of International Union of Soil science Societies held in Brisbane, 2008. Members of the Board were unanimous on the fact that attendance of J. Chapelle to this meeting was really worthwhile. It was pointed out that these mid-term meetings should preferably be located in a more central place than Australia in order to be more reachable for the participants and to decrease transport cost.
- A feedback of the ESNB Working group held in Ispra on the development of a 1/250,000 soil database of Europe was provided by E. Van Ranst. The current 1/1,000,000 database is no more sufficient and should be revised. A new working group will revise a previous manual of procedures (Dudal et al, 1993) considered as the valuable reference for the preparation of the future 1/250,000 database.
- The Thematic Day on Technosols supposed to be organized in December 2008 was cancelled. Nevertheless it will be organized on the same topic in December 2009 (“Technosols, a new challenge in Soil Science”). P. Engels was requested to spearhead. J. Chapelle will contact P. Engels and S. Deckers will contact A. Lehman (Germany). The other board members were invited to contact possible contributors, in particular from ISSEP, ULg, SPAqUE and VITO.
- After a discussion initiated by R. Dudal, the members of the Board came to the conclusion that a compilation of “Who is who” in Soil science in Belgium should be useful. The Board members were requested to send the necessary references that will be published in a Pedologie-Info’s issue in 2009.
- Some other points were also treated including (i) announcement of the “International Year of Planet Earth”, (ii) the SSSB site which in the future will be taken over by E. Van Ranst and (iii) the scope of the 2009 Pedologie-Themata’s that will be published in 2009.
- The mandate of M. Penninckx as President of SSSB finished at the end of 2008, and will be taken over by E. Van Ranst. M. Penninckx would like to thank the members of the Board to have given him the opportunity to chair the Society, and hope that in future he could continue to serve the interests of SSSB.

2. Report of the Secretary-General, J. Deckers

The activities of the Secretary-General of the National Committee of Soil Science comprise the execution of daily correspondence, reporting of the meetings, compilation and editing of the newsletter '**Pedologie-Info**' and the scientific Journal '**Pedologie-Themata**'.

- Pedologie-Info no°39 - November 2008

One Pedologie-Themata of the International excursion 2008 is in press:

- Excursion guide - International excursion to The Perche and Beauce Region, France

Two Pedologie-Themata are in preparation:

- Thematic Day 2007: 'Towards a European Soil Directive Soil Resources – State of play in Belgium'
- Day of the Young Soil Scientists 2008

A special effort was made in 2008 to contact young soil scientists in order to draw their attention to the importance of membership to the Soil Science Society of Belgium. That this effort had encouraging results can be seen from next paragraph.

24. The National Committee for Space Research

The main task of the committee is to organize the Belgian participation in COSPAR, which held its 37th Scientific Assembly in Montreal from 13 to 20 July 2008. The meeting was attended by 34 Belgian scientists, i.e. significantly more than the 15 Belgian participants to the 2006 Scientific Assembly in Beijing and even more than the 28 Belgian participants to the 2004 Scientific Assembly in Paris. A majority of Belgian participants (21) was from the federal scientific institutes (IAS, ROB, RMI); there were 10 participants from universities and 3 from the SCK.

At the Montreal Scientific Assembly dr. Valentina SHEVTSOVA (ULB) was nominated as Chair of the Scientific Commission G on 'Material Sciences in Space' for the period 2008-2012. The meeting celebrated the 50th anniversary of COSPAR and took advantage of this milestone to reflect on its past and future role in the coordination of international activities concerning space sciences. Presently, much emphasis is put on so-called 'Capacity Building', i.e. disseminating the expertise built up towards emerging countries as well as on improving the impact of the various publications issued by COSPAR.

Because most active members of the committee frequently meet during the numerous meetings which bring together space scientists in Belgium, among them the meetings of the national committees for astronomy and for geodesy, it has not been felt necessary to organise formal meetings of the committee. However, initiatives are taken now to reconstruct the committee, with the aim to achieve a composition which best reflects the institutes involved in, and the research interests developed at, the bi-annual COSPAR meetings.

3. National Committees Members

Antarctic Research

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Van Reusel (Ms) A. (N), dep.-secretary
Berger A. (F)
Beyens L. (N)
Dehairs F. (N)
Feller G. (F)

Fichefet T. (F)
Hecq J.-H. (F)
Herman R. (N)
Lancelot (Ms) C. (F)
Pattyn F. (N)
Paulissen E. (N)
Simon P. (F)
Souchez R. (F)

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Hamoir G. (F)
Tonnard V. (F)

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Waelkens Ch. (N), Vice-chair
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Alvarez, R. (F)
Baes, M. (N)
Dehant (Ms) V. (F)

Dejonghe H. (N)
Goossens M. (N)
Sterken C. (N)
Surdej J. (F)
Swings J.-P. (F)
Van Der Linden R. (N))
Van Eck (Ms) S. (F)

Honorary members:

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Dommanget J. (F)
De Grève J.-P. (N)
Henrard J. (F)
Houziaux L. (F)

Noels-Grötsch (Ms) A. (F)
Pâquet P.. (F)
Sauval J. (F)
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Camelbeeck T. (F)

Claeys P. (N)
Degryse P. (N)
Groenen M. (N)
Haesaerts P. (F)
Mattielli (Ms) N. (F)
Verleyen E. (N)
Verstraeten G. (N)

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Haubrugge E. (F)
Lambinon J. (F)

Meerts P. (F)
Micha J.-C. (F)
Thys van den Audenaerde D. (N)
Van Cotthem W. (N)
Van Goethem J. (N)
Vanderborght O. (N)

Honorary members:

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Leclercq J. (F)

Maton J. (N)
Symoens J.-J. (N)
Verraes W. (N)

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Delbeke J. (F), dep.-secretary
Brimouille S. (F)
Cornelis J. (N)
Delchambre A. (F)

Flandre D. (F)
Kolh Ph. (F)
Lefevre P. (F)
Lemahieu I. (N)
Van der Perre G. (N)
Vander Sloten J. (N)
Wuyts F. (N)

Honorary members:

Bourgain R. (N)

Veraart Cl.

Biophysics

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Ameloot M. (N)
Brasseur R. (F)
Engelborghs Y. (N)
Galleni M. (F)
Goldbeter A. (F)

Goormagtigh E. (F)
Lambeir (Ms) A.-M. (N)
Martins (Ms) J. (N)
Soumillion P. (F)
Steyaert J. (N)
Voets T. (N)

Honorary member:

Errera M. (F)

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Brandt L. (N)
Crooy P. (F)
Peeters D. (N)

de Chaffoy de Courcelles D. (F)
Dewanckele J.-M. (N)
Herman M. (F)
Moens L. (N)
Pirard J.-P. (F)
Raatz F. (F)
Tourwé D. (N)
Vandendriessche J. (N)

Honorary members:

Bloyaert F. (F)
Bracke W. (F)
Claeys P. (F)
Coekelberghs R. (F)
Colin R. (F)
Crabs L. (F)
De Bièvre P. (N)
De Tillesse P. (F)
Duyckaerts G.
Geuskens G. (F)

Hoste J. (N)
Huyskens P.
L'Homme G. (F)
Loutz J.-M. (F)
Martens G. (F)
Ramioulle J. (F)
Van Binst G. (N)
Van de Sande C. (N)
Vantiggelen P.

Crystallography

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Poelman D. (N), Vice-Chair
Van Meervelt L. (N), Secretary
Wouters J. (F), dep.-secretary
Charlier (Ms) P. (F)
Declercq J.-P. (F)
Elsen J. (N)
Hadermann J. (N)

Jonas A. (F)
Lamoen D. (N)
Maes D. (N)
Savvides S. (N)
Schryvers (Ms) D. (N)
Sporken R. (F)
Van den Bossche G. (F)

Honorary members:

Danguy L. (F)
Dideberg O. (F)
Durant F.
Fiermans L. (N)
Gilles J.-M. (F)
Jacobs G. (N)
Lambot H. (F)
Lefebvre S. (F)
Legrand E. (N)

Michel K.
Moreau J. (F)
Poortmans F. (N)
Reynaers M.
Thiry P.
Van Beeumen J.
Van Landuyt J.
Van Tassel R. (N)
Vennik J. (N)

Geodesy and Geophysics

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Camelbeeck T. (F), Vice-Chair
Pierrard V. (F), Secretary
Bruyninx C. (N), dep.-secretary
Beckers J.-M. (F)
Crucifix M. (F)
De Mazière (Ms) M. (N)

De Smedt F.-H. (N)
Dehant (Ms) V. (F)
Dewitte S. (N)
Fichefet T. (F)
Vandaele (Ms) A. C. (F)
Vanneste Kris (N)
Verhoest N. (N)

Honorary members:

Ackerman M. (F)
Berger A. (F),
De Muer D. (N)
De Troch F. (N)
Ducarme B. (F)
Kockarts G. (F)
Lemaire J. (F)
Malcorps H. (N)
Nihoul J.-J. (F)
Pâquet P. (F)

Peters J.-J. (N)
Ronday F. (F)
Scherer M. (N)
Simon P. (F)
Smets E. (N)
Sterling A. (F)
Van Der Beken A. (N)
Van Twembeke U. (N)
Verbeiren R. (N)

Geography

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Govers G. (N), Vice-Chair
Antrop M. (N), Secretary
Ozer A. (F), dep.-secretary
Charlier J. (F)
De Dapper M. (N)
Decroly J.-M. (F)

Honorary members:

Alexandre J. (F)
Annaert J. (F)
Beguïn H. (F)
De Moor G. (N)
Denis J. (F)
Depuydt F. (N)
Desmet R. (F)

Donnay J.-P. (F)
Kesteloot C. (N)
Lambin E. (F)
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