

Swedish Optical Society

September 10, 1999

To the
European Optical Society
EOS Advisory Committee
Prof. David Briers, chairman

EOS and National Societies

The Board of the Swedish Optical Society has in three meetings dealt with the proposal of suggesting to its members to become personal members in the European Optical Society and continuing to run the National Society under its established namn with the addition "The Swedish Chapter of the European Optical Society".

The EOS wanted to receive a statement before September 30, 1999. The SOS Board wished to present its position as follows:

"The Board of the Swedish Optical Society (SOS) recognizes the immediate need to create a strong representation for optics in Europe. The Board believes it can recommend its members to approve a transition to personal membership in the EOS according to David Brier's message of January 26, 1999, and EOS President Michel Papuchon's letter of May 6, 1999.

In addition to the policy given in the President's letter, the following circumstances should be provided:

1. The membership for individuals should not exceed 30 or 35 Euro, i. e. about the present fee for EOS alone.
EOS takes care of all membership administration including collecting the fees.
EOS returns 25% of the fee as a bulk sum to the National Chapter, NC, for its activities. (This percentage share makes also an incentive for the NCs to recruit more members for the EOS).
2. Companies with a predominantly national market should be members in the NC directly and administered by the NC. For symmetry, the NC's transfer 25% of the income from these companies to the EOS.

3. EOS keeps care of the membership register and mailings to the members. The NCs should have direct access to the database of their members (preferably a regularly updated copy of the database) in order to be able to feed in data of new members, changes of members's data known to the NC, and to download member data and addresses for national mailings, calls for scientific and business meetings of the NC etc.

4. The National Societies keep their legal status as societies registered under the law of their countries. Any assets of a National Society remain the property of the NS/NC when the members start paying their dues to the EOS (and, seen from the point of the NS's, via the EOS).

5. The EOS provides a convincing action plan for developing optics in Europe to be presented by the NS's to their members in support of the proposal to them to leave their national society for joining an international one, at a substantially higher fee, not OSA/SPIE/UNO but EOS.

6. The EOS provides a business plan convincing the NS's that the EOS, with the base of the enlarged membership, will be equipped with the intellectual and organisational resources to fulfill its tasks according to # 5 and the administration of the membership in a professional way."

With this statement, the Board of the Swedish Optical Society hopes to contribute with one more step forward to the efforts to strengthen optics in Europe.

With best regards

Klaus Biedermann
SOS International Relations