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Dear EMS member,

Things are moving rapidly now for our colleagues in Aachen being in charge of organizing EMC 2008. With a short extension of the abstract submission deadline, the count of abstracts has gone past 1000, thus exceeding the number of contributions received at EMC 2004 in Antwerp. Now the program committee together with the appointed session chairs has to make sure that all these abstracts are properly assigned and incorporated into an exciting, well-structured program for participants and organizers alike. The Eveni on-line submission system has worked very well (less than 1% of the submissions have caused some minor problems) and will now also be used for the reviewing process by the session chairs. The next deadline is that of the early bird registration set to June 30, until which you can take advantage of reduced registration rates. The deadline for hotel reservation is July 31. Registration and accommodation are handled by a local PCO assisting the local organizing committee - it can be reached via the general congress website www.emc2008.de.

At this website you can also check the steadily growing number of exhibitors registered that will display their products at EMC 2008. At the time of writing, the number of registered companies has been up to 42, but experience tells us that more companies will still enlist between now and the meeting. Interested companies are urged to contact the congress secretariat via Mrs. Stefanie Stadler (gfe@rwth-aachen.de, Tel.: +49 241 80 24345, Fax: +49 241 80 22313) as soon as possible. ECMA members, i.e., the commercial members of EMS, are offered substantial benefits. To take advantage of these special conditions, companies can still become ECMA member for 2008.

The offer of scholarships by EMS to participate at EMC 2008 has been a great success. 37 applications have been received and the EMS secretariat will now check eligibility after which the EMS Board will make a selection based on the rules set forward during previous meetings. The applicants will be notified as

soon as possible and may already be informed of the outcome by the time this Newsletter is published. Please do note that also several national societies are offering scholarships or other forms of sponsoring to their members to participate in EMC 2008.

Meanwhile the EMS Board at its meeting on February 14, 2008, in Toulouse, has been preparing the General Assembly and General Council which both will take place during EMC 2008 in Aachen (the exact dates have still to be set and will be announced in due course). At the General Assembly, among other business, a new Executive Board will be proposed and elected for the coming 4 years, whereas at the General Council the venue for EMC 2012 will be decided. The agendas and various documents for these two meetings will be made available in due course.

The deadline for applications for the 2009 EMS Extension remains June 30, 2008. This Extension is the follow-up of the 8MCM meeting that was held in

Prague in June 2007. More details on these events and eligibility criteria for EMS sponsoring can be found at www.euremicsoc.org under "Meetings". Only two applications for regular funding of EMS sponsored events for the second half of 2008 were received by the March 31 deadline, probably because fewer events are organized due to EMC 2008 coinciding with that time of the year. One event, the LEEM-PEEM 6 workshop organized in Trieste, Italy, from 7 till 11 September, was accepted as EMS sponsored event and will be provided with the usual funding for inviting one or two international speakers. Also, remember to inform us of any other future microscopy meetings you are organizing so that we can regularly update our members by bulk-mail and put these events on the EMS website. Please do check out the "Events" page to make sure that your meeting has been properly listed. Last but not least, keep an eye on the job-info page that is as active and frequented as ever.

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