

## Editorial

Three years ago the European Microbeam Analysis Society (EMAS) was founded. Its aim was, first of all, to offer to European scientists a forum in Europe for discussions, exchange of experience and presentation of results of common interest in the field of microanalysis. In fact, till 1987, this task was carried out by the Microbeam Analysis Society (MAS) in America, which organizes yearly an Annual Meeting with an obviously limited attendance from the European countries. Since its foundation, EMAS is an independent society, which intends to promote the development in Europe of the modern microanalytical techniques based on *focused* beams as the primary source (in particular X-ray microanalysis). It has good relationships with MAS, and wishes to cooperate in a synergic way with national groups and European scientific societies with related interests. In addition to stimulate the exchange of ideas and experiences among European users of microanalytical techniques, EMAS plans to set up educational projects at a scientific and technical level, as well as to stimulate the interest of the European industries of instrumentation related to microbeam analysis, thus favouring the technological innovation.

Since the foundation of EMAS, the organization of periodical workshops, aiming at assessing the state of the art and reliability of microanalytical techniques, was considered as an objective of primary importance. The first Workshop of the series was held in Antwerp from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 1989 and is generally regarded as a success. This was due in part to the growing demand of meeting opportunities from European microanalysis (the Workshop was almost devoted to electron probe microanalysis) and in part to the original schedule, which was conceived to maximize the transfer of knowledge among the participants. The morning sessions were reserved for tutorial lectures of one hour each, dealing with a number of selected topics, whereas in the afternoon round-table discussions, animated by experts in the field, were organized. The arguments of these round-tables were chosen on the basis of a questionnaire included in a final announcement. In this way the Workshop was highly interactive and the limitation imposed to attendance (150 people) was judged by the participants as an added benefit rather than a constraint. The next Workshop will be held in Dubrovnik (Yugoslavia) in May 1991; the scientific program will include also EELS and Auger microanalysis. It is also planned to organize the third Workshop in 1993 in Bologna (Italy).

Among its activities, EMAS publishes regularly a Bulletin titled EMAS News, which contains information useful to the microanalysis community, e.g. new technical developments in EPMA and quantitative microanalysis. Moreover, a service is offered to the interested scientists for literature search, a data base which covers presently about 1000 publications in the EPMA field, and is free of charge to EMAS members.

It has been a constant policy of EMAS to try to overcome the established subdivisions in Europe, in order to become a truly European Society for microbeam analysis. At the beginning of the last decade of the century, the scenario in our Continent has completely changed and EMAS

will make a step forward, by increasing the membership from the East-European countries, where it is shown that an interesting research activity in microbeam analysis is going on.

The Society is run by an Executive Board of 10 members, which is assisted by an International Advisory Board of 29 members.

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