

Report of the President

Guido Tabellini

Budapest Congress 2007

Implementation of past decisions and activities

In our previous meeting in Vienna in August 2006, Andreu Mas-Colell outlined some new steps that the EEA would take to broaden its activities and provide useful services to the community of European economists. These initiatives were implemented in the course of 2007. In particular:

- The EEA now maintains a web page designed to provide a virtual international job market for economists, to facilitate the matching of demand and supply. This web page was initially set up by the Spanish Economic Association and is now operated by the EEA. On behalf of the EEA, I want to thank Antonio Cabrales, Carlo Favero and Leonardo Felli who devoted time and effort to implement this initiative and who are now supervising its operation.
- Two standing committees, respectively on Research and Teaching, are being set up, to follow European initiatives and policy debates on these issues and to make sure that the voice of economists is heard. We are grateful to the individuals who will serve on these committees.
- To increase membership throughout Europe, the EEA has entered into agreements with some national economic associations, to offer and promote joint membership of the EEA and of the national economic association at a discount. Similar agreements are being sought with other national economic associations throughout Europe.

Journal of the European Economic Association

The publishing contract for *JEEA* with MIT Press expired. The contract has been renewed, with minor changes. The new contract will terminate in 2010 and the situation will be reviewed in the Spring of 2009 or earlier.

Two of the editors of *JEEA*, Patrick Bolton and Roberto Perotti, have completed their term. On behalf of the EEA, I thank them for their excellent work. The Executive Committee is now selecting their replacements. To increase the visibility of *JEEA* in the , a plenary lecture, called the *JEEA* lecture, will be delivered at the ASSA meetings in the by a prominent European economist (based in Europe or in the). This event will take place every year, according to an agreement with the *American Economic Association*. The lecture will then be published in *JEEA*. The first lecture will be delivered in January 2008 by Alberto Alesina of Harvard University.

Secretariat

At the end of 2007, the term of office of the current secretary, Ian Walker, will expire. Understandably, Ian has expressed his intention to step down. We are extremely grateful to him and to his assistant, Fiona Brown, for the time and energy that they so successfully devoted to their task over these years, and for what they will continue to do in the next few months.

After an extensive search, in May 2007 the Executive Committee unanimously decided to propose the appointment of Piero Tedeschi, of Catholic University in Milan, as new secretary of the EEA. If the Council approves this appointment, Piero will start as secretary of the EEA in January 2008, and the secretariat will be based in his university. We thank him for his willingness to assist the EEA and to undertake this important responsibility.

Fund raising

The revenues of the EEA traditionally originated from two sources: the journal of the association and membership fees. The switch of publisher from Elsevier to MIT Press enabled the EEA to reduce the price of the journal, but this implied a loss of revenues. To make up for this, in May 2007 the Executive Committee decided to step up the fund raising efforts of the association by creating a special category of institutional members – called EEA sponsors – that would be asked to contribute with a larger membership fee than the one currently envisaged for institutional members. Different European institutions are now being approached by members of the Executive Committee and invited to become EEA sponsors.

Yrjö-Jahnsson award

Continuing with existing tradition, the 2007 Yrjö Jahnsson Award for best young economist in Europe will be delivered at this Congress. I congratulate the recipient (whose identity I cannot yet reveal), and I thank the selection committee (consisting of Elhanan Helpman, Seppo Honkapohja, Guy Laroque, Marco Pagano and myself) for their work.

Nominations

Nominations for election to the offices of the association have been made, and candidates have been selected. On behalf of the association I thank the chair of the nominating committee, Peter Neary, and the other committee members.

Budapest Congress

This year Congress promises to be an outstanding event, full of interesting scientific presentations and debates, and other cultural and entertaining attractions. The program is a testimony to the vitality and relevance of economics, both as a science and in support of policy analysis and decisions. A special effort was made to increase the external visibility of our Congress, as well as to enhance the policy relevance of the topics discussed, by arranging special lectures and panels with highly distinguished policymakers and personalities outside of academia. Many individuals contributed with their time and energy to make this Congress a big success. In particular, I want to thank the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Giancarlo Corsetti of the European University Institute in Florence, and his assistant, Laetitia Jaspers, as well as the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Laszlo Matyas of the Central European University in Budapest, and his assistant, Katalin Lassu, for their outstanding work. We are also very grateful to the Central European University and the Hungarian Academy of Science for their hospitality and for making all of this possible.

Guido Tabellini
August 19th, 2007