

## **Report of the President – July 2008-07-27**

### Reform of Statutes

The executive committee decided that the Statutes of the EEA would need to get adjusted to changed circumstances. Therefore, the secretary and the president made specific reform proposals that were discussed and further specified at the executive committee meeting in May 2008. As a consequence, the General Assembly at the Milano meeting will decide on the proposed reform of the Statutes of the EEA.

### Transfer of EEA Secretariat

The new secretary Piero Tedeschi – and his assistants Amelia Spinelly and Gemma Prunner-Thomas – successfully transferred the EEA secretariat from Warwick to Milano. This involved a myriad of complicated and labor-intensive administrative steps. We are very grateful to Piero, Gemma and Amelia for their effort in accomplishing this transition.

### Fund-Raising and Institutional Members

The executive committee decided to strengthen the fund-raising efforts for the EEA. When the EEA was founded there were more than 40 institutional members. In the meantime, the number of institutional members has declined by about two thirds, implying that tremendously reduced funding comes from this source.

The executive committee established a fund-raising committee consisting of the secretary (Piero Tedeschi), the current vice-president (Nick Stern), the current past-president (Guido Tabelline), the current treasurer (Juan Dolado) and the current president (Ernst Fehr). In a first successful attempt, the EEA receives an increased membership fee of €10.000 from the central banks of several European Countries. Other central banks and potential institutional members will also be approached in the coming autumn in order to explain the needs for an increased funding of the EEA to perform its important function as a provider of private and public goods for European economics.

### Journal of the European Economic Association

The executive committee decided to ask Fabrizio Zilibotti from the University of Zurich to replace the leaving main editor Xavier Vives, whose term comes to an end in December 2009. I am glad to announce that Fabrizio Zilibotti has accepted this position. Orazio Attanasio's term, which also ends in December 2008, has been extended by a further year.

For the first time, the JEEA has been listed in the Web of Science so that a first impact factor is available.

### BBVA-JEEA Lecture at AEA Meeting

The BBVA Foundation sponsors a lecture at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association. This lecture is also intended to increase the visibility of JEEA in the US. The

first BBVA lecturer was *Alberto Alesina* who presented his work on “*Gender-based Taxation*”. The lecturer for the meeting in January 2009 is *Jordi Gali* who will speak about “*New Perspectives on Inflation and Unemployment: Pitfalls and Promises*” – a topic that is likely to raise quite some interest.

### Yrjo Jahnsson Award

Because of the bi-annual nature of this award for the best young economist in Europe there will be no Jahnsson medal awarded in 2008. The executive committee decided to replace the leaving members of the award committee – Marco Pagano and Elhanan Helpman – by Manuel Arellano and Ernst Fehr. Ernst Fehr will chair the committee after the current chairman’s term will have come to an end in 2009.

### Hicks-Tinbergen Award

This year the Hicks-Tinbergen prize for the best paper published in the JEEA will be awarded at the Milano congress. I wish to congratulate the authors (who need to remain anonymous for the time being), and thank the members of the evaluation committee (Andreu Mas-Colell, Tim Besley and Xavier Vives) for their work. There was a close-run decision between an excellent theoretical paper and an excellent empirical-methodological paper, and the committee suggested that the second-ranked paper should also be explicitly mentioned during the award ceremony.

### Nominations

Nominations for the election of officers of the EEA have already been made and the EEA members will soon be asked to vote on a number of candidates who replace the leaving members of the EEA council, and on two candidates for the position of the vice president. The nomination committee is chaired by Torsten Persson – a former EEA president. On behalf of the association I thank the chair and the other committee members for their work and I encourage them to organize – together with the EEA-secretariat – the planned election soon.

### Milano Congress

This congress promises to become an exciting event with many interesting presentations. Many individuals have contributed their time and effort to make this congress a success. I want to thank, in particular, the programme chair of the congress, Armin Falk from the University of Bonn, and his assistant Stefanie Lehmann, as well as the local organizers, in particular Pierpaolo Battigalli, Donato Masciandaro and Elena Geltrudi.

Ernst Fehr  
July 27, 2008