

Address by ESIS President Alberto Carpinteri

After four years of very intense activity and cooperation within the European Community of Fracture Mechanics, the European Structural Integrity Society (ESIS) is in good health and ready to tackle future challenges. I wish to express my most sincere acknowledgement to the two Vice-Presidents of the Society, Professor André Pineau and Professor Karl-Heinz Schwalbe, for their continuous and precious advice, as well as to the Secretary and Treasurer, Professor Giuseppe Ferro, and to the Newsletter Editor, Professor Stefano Beretta, for their important help in communicating with the National Groups and the Technical Committees. Such a communication has been improved through a well-structured and efficient website, in addition to the more traditional Newsletter, which was reestablished two years ago.

So far, fourteen (14) Nations have been officially affiliated to ESIS and are using 2/3 of the ESIS Membership Fees to meet the organizational needs of the National Groups, according to the new Federal Statute approved in August 2004, when a very advantageous agreement was also approved and entered into with Elsevier, according to which their main journals on fracture, failure and fatigue now carry the ESIS logo on the cover sheet. Elsevier will also publish under ESIS editorial control, a Series of Special Technical Publication as dedicated issues of their journals. Elsevier already financially supports these activities and this should be a stimulus to organize more scientific events and to strengthen the ties with the Countries of Eastern Europe.

In Alexandroupolis (Greece), next July, we expect to hold an outstanding 16th European Conference on Fracture (ECF16), organized by Professor Emmanuel Gdoutos. Exactly thirty years have passed since the 1st European Conference on Fracture (ECF1), held in Compiègne (France) in 1976 and organized by Professor Dominique Francois. In Torino, last year, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the International Congress on Fracture (ICF), that was founded in 1965 in Sendai (Japan), under the presidency of Professor Takeo Yokobory. Fracture studies are already in their maturity and the time has come for establishing stronger links between these two glorious scientific societies through a federal and cooperative setup.

Four years ago, I received the "staff of command" from Professor Keith Miller, so I am going to hand it over to the next ESIS President, who will take responsibility for these constructive and expanding activities.

Alberto Carpinteri
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