EDITORIAL BY THE ESIS PRESIDENT

Dear colleague,

I am most humbled and honored to have been elected President of ESIS, a prestigious organization involved in the structural integrity of engineering structures, components, systems and their associated materials. I would like to thank the members of the ESIS Council for the confidence they have shown in me. I would like to assure you that I will work with all my resources in order to further the progress made so far, and achieve new milestones for ESIS.

I am proud to succeed Professor Alberto Carpinteri, under whose presidency, and with his hard work, dedication and leadership ESIS has made enormous progress. I promise that I will continue on his footsteps so that ESIS fulfils its objectives in the best possible way. I trust that with the enthusiastic support of the Executive Committee, including the two newly elected vice-Presidents Professors Leslie Banks-Sills and Andrzej Neimitz, the Secretary and Treasurer Professor G. Ferro and the Editor of the Newsletter Professor S. Beretta, the ESIS Council and the ESIS members the progress made so far will be furthered and solidified, by achieving all of our goals.

ESIS will extend its realm to the new technological developments of our era, including biological materials, thin film/substrate systems, nanomaterials and nanostructures, while still maintaining a strong tradition in the conventional fracture mechanics analyses of engineering materials and structures. Fracture mechanics plays a protagonist role in the prediction of failure and safe design of materials and structures in the relatively new areas of technology mentioned above. The new developments were adequately addressed at the 16th European Conference of Fracture where six plenary lectures and 93 papers referring to fracture at the micro and nano scale levels were presented. I am sure that ECF17 to be held in Brno, Czech Republic, in 2008, will follow to extend ECF16's tremendous success in that respect, and devote a large number of papers in those areas.

Among our goals are:

1. To increase the ESIS membership and the countries affiliated with ESIS.
2. To extend the realm of ESIS into edge-cutting technologies, including nanotechnology and bioengineering.
3. To pay special emphasis in the educational and training objectives.
4. To play a key role in organizing and sponsoring fracture mechanics activities including conferences, tutorials, summer schools, in Europe and worldwide.
5. To cooperate closely with the International Congress on Fracture and other fracture mechanics organizations in Asia and the Americas in an effort to better serve the international fracture mechanics community.

We will achieve our goals by:

1 Communicating with individuals and fracture mechanics societies in Europe and showing them the need of ESIS membership.
2 Establishing technical committees in the nanotechnology and bioengineering areas which will coordinate the ESIS activities.
3 Introducing tutorials in traditional and new developments of fracture mechanics in conjunction with the biannual conference of fracture.
4 Sponsoring fracture mechanics conferences organized by European fracture mechanics societies.
5 Coordinating our activities with those of the International Congress on Fracture, the American Society for Testing and Materials and the Asian Group of Fracture.

I am looking forward to working closely with the executive committee, the council, the chairs of the technical committees and the members of ESIS for the achievement of our objectives. I am confident that through all of our hard work and dedication we will achieve our objectives, and ESIS will continue to serve the fracture mechanics community in Europe and around the world in the best possible way.

E.E. Gdoutos

ESIS President 2006-2010

If you have any questions, suggestions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me. I would be most glad to hearing from you.