Event Report

28th EUROGRAPHICS General Assembly

The Twenty-eighth General Assembly of the EUROGRAPH-ICS Association was held at the Technical University of Prague, Prague, Czech Republic, on September 6th 2007, at 17.30. The Chairman, Professor David Duce welcomed the members present.

1 Minutes of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly

The Minutes of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly, published in *Computer Graphics Forum*, Vol. 25, No. 4, *pp. 844-849* (2006) were received.

2 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

3 Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave an annual report of the activities of the Association. He stressed that he was reporting on the work of a large number of people and he thanked them for their work on behalf of the Association and the wider computer graphics community.

3.1 *Organization*

The Chairman outlined the organizational structure of the Association for the benefit of new members. All members of the Association are entitled to attend the General Meeting. The General Meeting elects 21 members of the Executive Committee, which in turn elects the Officers of the Association (Chairman, two Vice Chairmen, Secretary and Treasurer) and appoints chairs of the Boards of the Association and an Assistant Treasurer. The Boards are responsible for the activities of the Association. The Executive Board is responsible for the operation of the Association between meetings of the Executive Committee and its membership includes the Officers and the Board chairs.

The Executive Committee is responsible for setting policy and strategy; the Boards for the implementation thereof. Policy proposals may arise within the Executive Committee or filter up through the Boards. The National Chapters are also represented on the Executive Committee and they too make an important contribution to the formulation of policy.

3.2 *Workshops Board*

The Chairman stressed the importance of the workshop series. The key role of the Association is to provide services to the community to enable the community to organize events with little overhead.

There are ten Working Groups: Animation, Data Visualization, Geometry Processing and Geometric Modelling, Graphics and Cultural Heritage Hardware, Multimedia, Parallel Graphics, Rendering, Sketch-based Interfaces, and Virtual Environments.

Symposia and workshops have been held, or are planned, during 2007 on Computational Aesthetics, Computer Animation (with ACM SIGGRAPH), EuroVis Visualization Symposium (with IEEE vgtc), Geometry Processing, Graphics Hardware (with ACM SIGGRAPH), Interactive Raytracing, Natural Phenomena, Parallel Graphics, Point-based Graphics (with IEEE vgtc), Rendering, Sketch-based Interfaces, VAST Graphics and Cultural Heritage, Virtual Environments, Volume Graphics (with IEEE vgtc).

The draft programme for 2008 includes Animation, Euro-Vis, Geometry Processing, Hardware, Natural Phenomena, Parallel Graphics, Rendering and Sketch-based Interfaces.

Other proposals are under discussion with the Workshops Board.

3.3 *Publications Board*

The Association runs a journal and also produces high quality proceedings of events.

EG Publishing provides a wide range of services to event organizers including publication, submission and review management and registration and payment. Publications can be produced in print and electronic format (EG Digital library which is interlinked with the ACM Digital Library and CD/DVD). The Submission Review and Management (SRM)

system supports an integrated workflow for submission, reviewing and publication. The registration and payment service includes collection and management of payments by credit card, checking EG membership and optional production of delegate badges and delegate lists. Event organizers interested in using these services are invited to contact the Publications Board.

The flagship publication is the journal, *Computer Graphics Forum*, and the Chairman thanked the Editors-in-Chief, David Duke and Roberto Scopigno. The Chairman announced that David Duke will be retiring as Editor-in-Chief at the end of 2007, having served in this position for 8 years. The Chairman thanked him for his contribution to the journal and announced that Eduard Gröller would replace David from 1 January 2008.

The Chairman also announced that *Computer Graphics Forum* would be expanding in scope from January 2008 (volume 27) to include papers from proceedings of other events as regular issues of the journal, in a similar manner to the proceedings of the Eurographics conference which currently form issue 3 of each volume. He stressed that uniformity of quality would be maintained across all issues of the journal and also uniformity of referencing to content. He said this move reflected the volume of high quality material that is selected for publication by symposia and other events. He announced that proceedings of three symposia (EuroVis, Geometry Processing and Rendering) would be included in the journal in 2008 and that negotiations with a fourth event were almost finalized.

The Chairman explained that Eurographics will print the new issues for Blackwell Publishing using the well-established EG Publishing workflow. There would be no change to the Eurographics membership categories or fee structure; members subscribing to one of the electronic options would have access to all issues of the journal; the proceedings of the symposia selected for inclusion in the journal are currently available under the Eurographics Workshops and Symposia branch of the Digital Library and would in future be available under the Computer Graphics Forum branch. He said that members receiving print subscriptions would continue to receive the three "regular" issues of the journal and EG conference proceedings issue as now. Members would be able to pre-order copies of the new issues at membership application/renewal time or subsequently before the event takes place; EG Publishing will continue to print copies for attendees at events.

EG events proceedings have been produced by EG Publishing since 2004. Ten titles are scheduled for publication in 2007 together with three titles produced through ACM SIGGRAPH and two partner events. The Chairman explained the distribution agreement between Eurographics and A K Peters Ltd. As a consequence, all Eurographics members are entitled to a discount of 20% on **all** A K Peters' titles.

The Chairman reported that the Eurographics Digital Library continues to grow. Contents include *Computer Graphics Forum*, workshop and conference publications, including state-of-the-art reports. The proceedings of partner events are also included in the Digital Library. Easy access is provided for members and non-members alike. Downloads of papers have continued to increase and the average in 2006 was 3,204 per month.

3.4 *Operations Board*

The Chairman explained that the Operations Board looks after membership matters. The number of members in August 2007 was 757 (a slight decrease (1%) over the corresponding number in 2006). The six top countries are Germany 139, USA 87, UK 66, Spain 58, Portugal 53 and France 52. Membership in the Czech Republic has grown to 40. 97 (13%) of the members are student members. There is a high turn-over in membership from year to year and the Chairman encouraged current members to remain members of the Association. Membership, he said, is an indication that one belongs to a community and that one is willing to support what it takes to sustain high quality publications and high quality events in the community. He also encouraged members to encourage more organizations to become Organizational Members.

As announced at the previous General Assembly, the Association had made the issue of paper ballot forms an option. He reported that no paper ballot forms had been requested for the Executive Committee elections; all members voting had done so through the electronic ballot system.

3.5 *On-line Board*

The On-line Board is responsible for the provision of on-line services to members and to other Boards and Chapters. The Chairman reported improvements to the web presence that had taken place during the past yea and new Web pages had been introduced for the EG Awards Programme, EG Fellows and sponsors of EG events.

3.6 *Professional Board*

The Chairman reported that the Professional Board supports the Association's chapters world-wide. He said he was very pleased to announce that SIGRAD (the Swedish Interest Group for Computer Graphics), having had an affiliation agreement with Eurographics for many years, had become the Swedish Chapter of the Association earlier in the year.

He reported that event cooperations continue to be popular and 17 co-operation agreements were established over the last 12 months.

The Professional Board has developed an ethics policy for paper reviewing and this has been approved and is now in place.

He reported that the Professional Board is reviewing the Educational Membership category as the number of organizations taking up this category has fallen to a very low level; a number of former educational members having transferred to the Organizational Membership category.

The Chairman said that the liaison agreement between Eurographics and ACM SIGGRAPH would be due for renewal in September 2008 and a timetable for this had been set up. He reported that ACM SIGGRAPH announced in August 2007 that a new SIGGRAPH ASIA conference is being set up and the first event will take place in Singapore, 10-13 December 2008. He said it is likely that the submission deadline would be in late May. He welcomed the announcement made at SIGGRAPH 2007 that there would in future be three key submission deadlines evenly spaced through the year, for SIGGRAPH, Eurographics and SIGGRAPH ASIA. The chairman also said that Eurograhics and ACM SIGGRAPH would welcome proposals from the Eurographics community for joint Eurographics/ACM SIGGRAPH workshops on new topics. Expressions of interest should be directed to the Workshops Board chairman.

3.7 *Promotions Board*

The Promotions Board has developed a new logo for the Association to reflect the move of the annual event to the springtime. The logo has been designed by a design house in Dublin and was unveiled in a new Eurographics brochure produced for SIGGRAPH 2007 and Eurographics 2007. Roll-out of the new look to the Web site and publications is in hand.

The Promotions Board also manages the Eurographics presence at ACM SIGGRAPH. For many years this work had been done by Professor Andy Day at the University of East Anglia and his colleagues Robert and Stephen Laycock, but has now been taken over by Professor Carol O'Sullivan's team in Dublin. The Chairman thanked Andy, Robert and Stephen for the contribution they have made to the Association through this activity. He also noted that the Promotions Board had taken over the running of the Eurographics Stand at the Eurographics conference.

3.8 *Education Board*

The Chairman reported that good progress had been made on defining and international computer graphics curriculum through Eurographics-ACM SIGGRAPH Education Workshop held in Vienna in September 2007. The final report of the event has been published in *Computer Graphics Forum* and details for a follow-on workshop to be held in 2008 would be announced shortly.

Two paper sessions on computer graphics education and a panel session were held at the Eurographics 2007 conference; submissions to this stream are on the increase.

3.9 *Fellows*

The Chairman stressed the value of the Fellows to the Association. Fellowships are awarded to individuals in recognition of impact on the field and contributions to shaping the Association. David Duce acts as Chairman of the Fellows. Two new Fellows were elected in 2007, George Drettakis (INRIA) and Carol O'Sullivan (Trinity College Dublin). The Chairman said that all had made an impact through their technical contributions and significant service to the community through the Association. The General Assembly congratulated them on their election.

4 Presentation of Accounts

The Treasurer, Werner Hansmann, presented the accounts for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006.

4.1 *Internal Accounts*

The Treasurer explained that he would first present the internal accounts of the Association and then the official accounts. The Euro is the official Eurographics currency and hence the Internal Accounts of the Association have been calculated based on the Euro. As the legal and fiscal seat of the Association are in Switzerland, the Audited Accounts are calculated in SFr. but translated to Euros (using the Association's official exchange rate for 2006) for presentation to the General Assembly.

The Internal Accounts show a surplus of 21K Euros compared to a budgeted deficit of 1K Euros. Table 1 reports income and expenditure on the membership account and compares this with the budget for the period, which was agreed by the General Assembly in September 2005.

Notes

- Income from membership fees was significantly higher than the budgeted amount. The budget was prepared on a conservative basis. Income from events was less than the budget though there is some income still to be received. There is also more income due from proceedings.

- New services were introduced in 2006. More workshop proceedings were published than envisaged in the budget for 2006. Taxation was higher than in recent years, but some will be recovered in 2007.

- Overall a surplus was returned compared to the small deficit envisaged in the budget.

4.2 *Audited Accounts*

The Auditor's Report is reproduced at the end of these minutes. In these minutes the accounts are presented in Euros; the official accounts are in Sfr and the official Eurographics exchange rate for 2006 has been used for the conversion. The

Table 1. *Internal Accounts 2006*

Income	Actual	Budget	Difference
Membership fees	153,453.15	75,000	78,453.15
Events	7,839.75	28,000	−20,160.25
Royalties	19,937.15	19,000	937.15
Proceedings	50,867.98	60,000	−9,132.02
Bookshop	3,480.22	5,000	−1,519.78
Interest/ tax return	4,615.94	5,000	−384.06
	240,194.191	192,000	48,194.19
Expenditure			
Executive Board	12,411.79	12,000	411.79
Prof. Board	0.00	3,000	−3,000.00
Chapters	4,300	4,000	300
Workshop Board	250.55	2,000	−1,749.45
On-line Board	693.68	3,000	−2,306.32
Ops - Secretary	20,819.42	23,000	−2,180.58
Ops - Services	42,733.80	35,000	7,733.80
Ops - Treasurer	6,966.88	8,000	−1,033.12
Ops-Taxation	8,238.43	5,000	3,238.43
Promotions Brd	5,686.32	6,000	−313.68
Education Brd	0	5,000	−5,000.00
Bookshop	5,186.62	7,000	−1,813.38
Publicns Brd			
- WS proc	85,550.87	60,000	25,550.87
- Travel	706.93	2,000	−1,293.07
- CGF	24,759.72	17,000	7,759.72
Strategic Pjts.	0	0	0
Contingency	1,000.01	1,000	0.01
	219,305.01	193,000	26,305.01
Surplus/Deficit	20,889.18	−1,000	21,889.18

Profit and Loss Account for 2006 is shown in Table 2 and the Balance Sheet in Table 3. There were some small differences between the exchange rates used in the presentation of assets and budgets to the previous General Assembly and to this General Assembly which resulted in slightly different numbers for the 2006 financial year to those reported previously.

There are some differences between the internal and the audited accounts as a result of assignment of some items to different categories in the two sets of accounts. The audited accounts report a surplus of 34K Euros. This almost compensates for the loss of 38K Euros reported in the 2005 accounts.

For information, Table 4 summarizes the capital and results reported in the audited accounts over recent years. It should be noted that conversions from Swiss Francs to Euros have been made at the 2006 exchange rate rather than historical exchange rates, hence there are slight differences between these figures and those recorded above for 2005 and in previous General Assemblies for previous years.

The Auditor's Report was presented to the General Assembly.

Mrs J. Brown proposed that the audited accounts be approved, seconded by Professor P. Brunet. The motion was carried, *unanimously*.

Table 2. *Profit and Loss Account (January 1 to 31 December 2006) with comparative figures for 2005*

	2005	2006
Income	Euros	Euros
Subscription	72,984.61	152,130.15
Repayment on book sales	30,942.67	54,073.69
Bank interest	1,787.67	1,929.22
Events	10,416.80	9.162.53
Royalties et al.	19,185.36	22,012.07
Exchange diff.	1,408.75	12,195.44
Result on prev. period	0.00	1,982.28
	136,725.87	253,485.39
Expenditure		
Executive Board	10,336.34	12,415.04
Professional Board	0.00	0.00
Workshop Board	260.20	251.12
Education Board	2,000.00	0.00
Chapters	4,099.65	4,267.70
Online Board	3,763.40	695.25
Operational Serv.	35,891.26	42,927.51
Secretariat	21,667.59	21,040.25
Treasurer	17,411.22	13,084.29
Promotions Board	14,373.30	7,726.24
Bkshp. and Publn. Brd.	56,454.80	116,125.35
Strategic Projects	8,080.00	0.00
Contingency	403.92	1,024.31
Exchange difference	0.00	0.00
	174,741.69	219,557.06
Result		
Profit or loss for period	−38,015.82	33,928.32

Table 3. *Balance Sheet as at December 31st, 2006 with comparative figures for 2005*

	2005	2006
Assets	Euros	Euros
Cash	8.03	24.54
Banks	295,928.28	458,015.62
Federal withholding tax	488.89	1,033.53
Account receivable	59,500.00	12,285.81
EG '04 account	8,066.99	0.00
EG '05 account	10,983.30	6,266.08
EG '06 account	10,000.00	7,452.01
	384,975.49	485,077.59
Liabilities		
Other events	3,969.21	18,989.99
Accounts payable	15,098.04	70,155.00
Fortune	365,908.24	395,932.60
	384,975.49	485,077.59

5 Appointment of Auditors

Dr R. Scopigno proposed that Audit & Co. SA of Geneva be appointed auditors for the financial year commencing 1 January 2008. Professor T. Ertl seconded. The motion was carried *unanimously*.

Table 4. *Capital Assets 2003 - 2006*

Euros	2003	2004	2005	2006
Capital at year end	360,447.29	399,614.49	362,004.27	395,932.60
Surplus/(Loss)	75,437.71	39,167.20	(37,610.22)	33,928.33

Table 5. *Estimates for 2007*

(KEuros) Income	End March	Year End	Budget	Difference
Membership fees	38	90	76	14
Events	2	20	28	−8
Royalties	21	21	19	2
Proceedings	5	52	61	−9
Bookshop	0	4	8	−4
Bank interest	0	4	4	−0
	66	191	196	−5
Expenditure				
Executive Board	0	11	11	0
Prof. Board	0	3	3	0
Chapters	0	4	4	0
Workshop Board	0	2	2	0
On line Board	0	3	3	0
Ops - Secretary	4	23	23	0
Ops - Services	0	35	35	0
Ops - Treasurer	1	7	7	0
Ops-Taxation	1	5	5	0
Promotions Brd	0	6	6	0
Education	0	5	5	0
Bookshop	5	9	9	0
Publns: proc.	0	60	60	0
Publns: travel	0	3	3	0
Publns: CGF	22	22	17	5
Strategic pjts.	0	2	2	0
Contingency	0	1	1	0
	33	201	196	5
Surplus/Deficit	10	−10	0	−22

Table 6. *Budget for 2008 and Forward Look*

(KEuros) Income	08	09	10	11	12
Member fees	83	83	83	83	83
Events	28	29	29	30	31
Royalties	19	20	21	21	22
Proceedings	62	62	62	62	62
Bookshop	8	8	8	8	8
Interest	3	3	3	3	3
	203	205	206	207	209
Expenditure					
Exec. Brd.	11	11	12	12	13
Prof. Brd.	2	2	2	2	2
W'shps Brd.	2	2	2	2	2
Chapters	4	4	4	4	4
On line Brd.	3	3	3	3	3
Operations					
Secretary	24	24	25	26	28
Services	36	37	39	40	42
Treasurer	7	7	8	8	8
Taxation	4	4	4	4	4
Promotions	6	6	6	7	7
Education	4	4	4	4	5
Bookshop	10	10	11	11	11
Publications - CGF	18	19	19	20	20
Publ. procs.	60	60	60	60	60
Publ. travel	2	2	2	2	2
Strat. pjts.	1	1	1	1	1
Contingency	15	3	3	3	3
	209	199	205	209	215
Surplus/(Deficit)	−6	6	1	−2	−6

6 Estimates for 2007

The Treasurer presented an estimate of income and expenditure for 2007 shown in Table 5.

A small end of financial year surplus is currently predicted, compared to a small deficit envisaged in the budget for 2007. He explained that costs for Computer Graphics Forum and some proceedings depend on exchange rates between the Euro, UK pounds and the US dollar and cannot be predicted accurately. He noted that royalty income of 21K Euro had been received in April.

7 Budget and Forward Look

The Treasurer, Werner Hansmann, presented the budget for 2008 and forward look until 2012, shown in Table 6. Figures are KEuro. He explained that the forward look beyond 2008 was provisional.

The membership level used in the preparing the budget was 635 full members and 100 student members. The proportion of electronic to paper membership was based on the current levels of 66% electronic only, 10% paper only and 24% paper and electronic. Income from Organizational Membership was based on 33 such members with a small increase in later years. It was assumed that the price of the journal would be roughly constant. A one-off contingency of 15K Euro had been included in the 2008 estimates to cover any unforeseen costs in the transition of the annual event to the spring-time slot.

Board expenses had been set at levels determined by experience. The Promotions Board budget had reduced to the

normal level now that the EG@25 celebration had taken place.

The budget and Treasurer's report were accepted *unanimously*, proposed by Professor W. Purgathofer, seconded by Professor T. Ertl.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his efforts on behalf of the Association.

8 Proposed Changes to the Constitution

The Chairman explained that the change of date of the annual event had created some inconsistencies with the provisions of the constitution concerning the date of the Annual General Meeting and the grace period before membership is cancelled for non-payment of subscriptions. The Executive Committee had therefore proposed changes to the Constitution to remove these. The proposed changes were:

Delete "after 1 July" in articles 9.2 and 11.7

Current: "9.2 . . . An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every year at such time after 1 July and at such place as may be prescribed by a resolution of the Executive Committee. Normally this meeting should take place at the annual EUROGRAPHICS Conference (so long as such exists), or some other gathering of the Association. . ."

Proposed: "9.2 An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every year at such time and at such place as may be prescribed by a resolution of the Executive Committee. Normally this meeting should take place at the annual EUROGRAPHICS Conference (so long as such exists), or some other gathering of the Association. . ."

Current: "11.7 The Honorary Officers and Administrative Officers of the Association shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at a meeting some time after July 1 in the year before they take office."

Proposed: "11.7 The Honorary Officers and Administrative Officers of the Association shall be appointed by the Executive Committee at a meeting in the year before they take office."

In reply to a question the Chairman indicated that the "July 1" date appeared in the Constitution because when the Association was founded the financial year was 1 July to 30 June, and hence holding the Annual General Meeting after 1 July would ensure that the meeting was able to consider accounts from the previous financial year in a timely manner. The Association's financial year was subsequently changed to the calendar year.

A motion to accept the proposed change was carried *unanimously*, proposed by Dr R. Scopigno, seconded by Dr S. Coquillart.

The Executive Committee considered the current grace period of 6 months to be inappropriate when the conference

Table 7. *Election Results*

Candidate	Region	Votes
Coquillart	3	64
Duke	1	69
Gross	3	92
Heidrich	6	71
Müller, H	2	53
Scopigno	3	97
Seidel	2	95

moves to a spring-time slot in 2008. The Executive Committee therefore proposed an amendment to Article 5.10 as follows.

Current "5.10 Annual membership fees shall be due on 1 January. In the event of non-payment of the fee after six calendar months, membership may be terminated by the Executive Committee." **Proposed** "5.10 Annual membership fees shall be due on 1 January. If payment of the membership fee is not received within 15 days of the due date, membership will lapse." Discussion ensued and some members felt that the 15 day period was too short. The Chairman pointed out that other societies have similar 15 day periods and that the membership renewal process would start earlier than in the past in order to give members more time to arrange payment.

A motion to amend the proposal, replacing 15 by 30 days, was proposed by Dr N. Dodgson and seconded by Dr D. Bartz. The motion failed to gain the support of the majority of members present.

The original motion was therefore put to the meeting and was carried (1 against and 3 abstentions).

9 Executive Committee Elections

9.1 *Results of the 2007 Elections*

The Chairman reported the results of the 2007 elections (see Table 7). There was one regional vacancy in region 3.

The Chairman congratulated those who had been elected and thanked those who were not elected for their support of the Association. Those elected commence their three year terms of office on 1st January 2008.

The composition of the Executive Committee for 2008 will be:

Until 31 December 2008. Cani (3), Fellner (5 recently moved to 2), Navazo (4), Pulli (5), Rushmeier (6), Skala (5), Wyvill (6).

Until 31 December 2009. Baranoski (6), Brunet (4), Duce (1), Ertl (2), Gröller (5), Klein (2), O'Sullivan (1).

Until 31 December 2010. Coquillart (3), Duke (1), Gross (3), Heidrich (6), Müller (2), Scopigno (3), Seidel (2).

The numbers in brackets after each name indicate the region to which the member belongs.

The composition of the electoral regions, approved by the General Assembly in 2005, is given below.

1. United Kingdom, Ireland.
2. Germany.
3. Italy, Switzerland, France, Monaco, Malta.
4. Spain, Portugal, Andorra.
5. All other European countries.
6. All non-European countries.

The Chairman stated that there would be one regional vacancy in region 4 and one in region 5 in the 2008 elections.

9.2 *Appointment of Nominating Committee*

The Chairman explained that the General Assembly appoints two members to a Nominating Committee whose function is to nominate candidates for the Executive Committee elections. The Executive Committee also appoints two members, and had already appointed P. Brunet and E. Gröller.

M. Turner and S. Seipel were elected by acclaim to represent the General Assembly.

10 Executive Board 2008

The Chairman announced the composition of the Executive Board for 2008 (see Table 8).

The Chairman thanked all the Board members for their work during the year.

Table 8. *Executive Board 2008*

Chairman	D.A. Duce
Vice-Chairs	R. Scopigno
	T. Ertl
Secretary	C.E. Vandoni
Treasurer	W. Hansmann
Asst. Treasurer	F. Melero Rus
Education Board	I. Navazo
Executive Board	D.A. Duce
Operations Board	C.E. Vandoni
On-line Board	M. Magnor
Workshops Board	H. Müller
Publication Board	D. Fellner
Promotions Board	C. O'Sullivan
Professional Board	N. John
Strategic issues	D.A. Duce

11 Future Conferences

The Chairman announced that the 2008 conference would take place in the spring, April 14-18, in Crete. He said that the Executive Committee had agreed to hold the 2009 conference in Munich (Garching Campus). This will be jointly organized by TU Munich, and the universities of Erlangen-Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

12 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held during EUROGRAPHICS 2008 in Crete on Thursday 17th April 2008.

13 Any Other Business

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 18.30.