



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AUTOMATIC CONTROL

Pedro ALBERTOS

President

To:
IFAC Council Members
IFAC Technical Board Members
IFAC Executive Board Members

Valencia, December 8, 1999

Ref.: Next Council meeting

Dear Friends and Colleagues

The main purpose of this letter is related to the next Council meeting, in Patras, July 11-15. Nevertheless, I would like to use this opportunity to comment on some other issues and update you on the status of some pending actions.

Council Meeting:

As already agreed, it will be held in conjunction with the IFAC Conference on Manufacturing, Modeling, Management and Control, MIM 2000.

In addition to the TB, EB and Council, other bodies will meet, in particular, the **b'02 IPC** for Barcelona 2002. The idea is to use this week for IFAC related activities. You surely know that, afterwards, our Colleague Peter Groumos has organised a number of other control events you may consider to attend.

In order to enhance our PR, we plan to have an Industrial Panel discussion in Athens, in cooperation with the local people (Industry and Academia), the day before we start our meetings in Patras. In this way we can try to "let the society know" what IFAC is and what we are doing. This will not be an official IFAC meeting, but everybody is encouraged to attend. Our Secretariat will let you know further details.

My suggestion is to use this opportunity to present and discuss the plans and activities of some of those TCs mainly concerned with applications and social impact. Thus I will propose the related CC Chairs, i.e.:

Hashimoto, Kiencke, Martensson and McA voy, (or a subset), as well as Isermann as members of this panel. P. Groumos and/or a Greek industrialist will also participate. I would chair the panel, on Monday, July 10, 2000.

Of course, our regular meetings of the EB (including Executive Committee meetings), the TB and the Council, will take place in Patras, as scheduled.

Informal meeting:

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As you know, the elected IFAC Officers have a spring meeting at the IFAC premises in Laxenburg. This year we also plan to have a PR activity. This will consist of a Press meeting, also to explain the aims, purpose and achievements of IFAC, followed by an information lecture and a lunch. In this way, we will use this opportunity to thank the Austrian Government and Academy of Sciences for their support and to publicise our Federation.

NMO's:

Russia is on the way to regularise its NMO situation and we are quite confident in getting them back to a prominent place in IFAC activities.

Also, good news comes from our colleagues in Mexico and Brazil, but we are still investigating our communication channels with our partners in Kuwait. There are some signs from members of these NMOs as well as some final payment of the fees in arrears. Thus, in the first two cases, I expect to regularise the situation soon and not to apply the General Assembly decision, last July. In the case of Kuwait, their membership will be terminated if nothing positive happens before the end of this year.

Some talks have been resumed with colleagues in India to try to get them back into our Federation. And last but not least, we hope that the Vietnam application will be reformulated to meet our requirement not to have any political involvement.

Publications:

Our publications policy is based on some key points:

- We want to have prestigious, widely distributed, and inexpensive publications. To attract the best authors, the journals should be as high as possible in the SCI.
- IFAC technical events should be recognised as rewarding meetings, not only to meet friends and colleagues but also to disseminate interesting results, and this means journals with reviewed best conference papers.
- IFAC should be a reference for well established Automatic Control fields, and that implies books or monographs on these subjects, available for all.

The more urgent actions are related to the journals' distribution, the publishing of monographs and the study of options to publish and make visible the best (should be most of them) contributions to IFAC events.

Our Publications Committee, and our representatives in the Elsevier-IFAC Pumb Board, are looking for the best options in the changing publications' field. Any comment or suggestion is always welcome.

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By the way, after some discussions, it is considered convenient to keep the IFAC Library in Laxenburg as it is nowadays, collecting only IFAC volumes and IFAC related documents. To enlarge the scope (for instance with books' donations) is out of our capabilities and objectives.

Homepage:

A new IFAC homepage is under design. A task force chaired by Juan de la Puente, in cooperation with Hook Kwon, Alfons Crespo, and Guztav Hensey, with the local support of the Vienna Tech. University, will shortly present a proposal.

In this new homepage, an anonymous "complaints' box" addressed to Prof. Tibor Vamos will be offered to our prospective visitors. We will later on decide on the convenience of a more formal position in this direction.

IFAC symbols:

In Beijing, at the Council and some other bodies, we proposed the use of the slogan:

IFAC, the ¹ world of Automatic Control

Before a formal use of the slogan is launched, some options are foreseen: to use it (almost) always under the IFAC logo, just in the homepage, in the official letters, I would like to know your opinion to what extent this slogan will clarify the aim, scope and visibility of the IFAC name.

Finally, let me inform that, for the moment, and based on an expert report, the IFAC seat will remain in Zurich.

Dear friends, time to relax and a New Year are soon coming. I wish the best for all of you and a very successful year 2000!!



Pedro Albertos
IFAC President

Summary. Comments and suggestions are sought for:
- The proposed Public Relations activities

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- The slogan
- Publications
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