

## The EPE President's Address



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This first issue of the EPE Journal is the major event of our European Power Electronics and Drives Association since its establishment. The Journal is our first accomplishment which will be followed, I hope, by many others.

But, before talking about the future, let me briefly return to the history of our Association. The exceptionally good attendance of the first meeting of EPE in 1985 in Brussels showed that the idea of a European Conference on Power Electronics was not merely an academic utopia but an actual need for industry and research. The tremendous success of EPE 87 in Grenoble confirmed this need. It became then urgent not only to set up a permanent organization for the next EPE conference, but also to join international efforts to bring to industry and academia more than a biennial conference. A permanent secretariat, a European publication, the organization of workshops, tutorials, and technical meetings will enrich in the area of Power Electronics the work done today by national societies.

Brussels has been chosen to be the headquarters and our colleague the eminent Professor G. Maggetto was unanimously elected as the first chairman on June 27th, 1988.

This meeting marked the actual birth of the EPE & D Association, which has been officially registered later on as a Belgian nonprofit organization. The first task on which the executive committee began to work was the journal of the association, the first issue of which appears today.

This task which, at first glance seemed to be very easy, was in practice very difficult and revealed several weaknesses in

our Association : for example, several languages, position of EPE among existing national societies, the constitution and the membership status, the financial aspects and so on ...

The solution of many of these problems but not of all, took about two years before an agreement has been reached on the choice of the publisher and on the constitution which will be presented to the next general assembly. In addition, we are now proposing a membership fee which results from the subscription to the journal and gives access to the secretariat in Brussels for information and contacts.

The Association and I are very grateful to Professor G. Maggetto without whose untiring efforts all the accomplishments would not have been possible.

During the period of my mandate I will try to extend the services and broaden the scope of the association by encouraging the establishment of a technical group on the machine aspects of drives, and by setting up some educational services such as short courses or tutorials on various aspects of power electronics. We shall also give full assistance to EPE 93 in Brighton (U.K.).

As you can see, we have a lot of projects already planned but your ideas and suggestions for new projects are always welcome.

I am looking forward to meeting you next september in Florence during EPE 91.