General Assembly Meeting in Lisbon, Portugal
August 18, 2010, 18:00-21:00

ECCAI Board: Grigoris Antoniou, Hendrick Blockeel, Gerhard Brewka (Chair), Marie-Odile Cordier (Vice-Chair), Patrick Doherty, Paolo Traverso

Minutes of the ECCAI 2010 General Assembly Meeting

18.00 – 21.00

1. **Welcome and Opening**

   Attending board members: Hendrick Blockeel, Gerhard Brewka (Chair), Patrick Doherty.

   Excused: Grigoris Antoniou, Marie-Odile Cordier, Paolo Traverso

   Minutes: Patrick Doherty

   Total number of participants: 32

   Number of ECCAI societies represented: 17 (the quorum was thus reached)

2. **Approval of Minutes of Last GA Meeting**

Approved.

3. **Chairman's Report**

There is a written report which can be accessed on the ECCAI web site. The following are highlights:

   - *Werner Horn was asked to run the board member elections.*
   - *Financial situation: Very good. Close to 200k Euro in bank accounts.*
   - *New country represented in ECCAI: Luxemborg joined the Belgium/Dutch Society.*
   - *Norwegian Society has been re-activated.*
   - *New society applied to become an ECCAI member: Polish AI society.*
   - *New funding scheme for highly visible international conferences in place (funding for an invited ECCAI-speaker).*
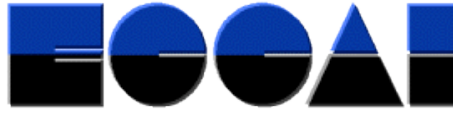
4. **Treasurer's Report**

Hendrik Blockeel reported. ECCAI has a healthy financial status, mainly due to the success of recent ECAIs.

5. **Budget for 2010 and 2011**

The treasurer's report from 2010 and budget for 2011 was approved unanimously.

6. **ECCAI Travel Grant Program**

There were 25 travel grants allocated in the budget but only 16 applied for these grants. The board will think of measures to increase awareness among the ECCAI societies.

7. **ECCAI Dissertation Award**

The selection committee consists of Toby Walsh (chair), Patrick Doherty, Thomas Eiter, Sarit Kraus, Luc De Raedt and Oliviero Stock.

There were only 4 nominations this year although the quality of the nominations was extremely high. The committee chose a winner and a runner-up.

Niels Landwehr was the winner. Title: Trading Expressivity for Efficiency in Statistical Relational Learning
We also had an honourable mention. Héctor Palacios. Title: "Translation-based approaches to Conformant Planning".

8. **ECCAI Fellows Program**

The fellows selection committees consisted of Luigia Carlucci Aiello, Gerhard Brewka, Marie-Odile Cordier (chair), Georg Gottlob, Luis Moniz Pereira and Constantine D. Spyropoulos The committee selected 3 out of 7 nominees this year: Yves Demazeau, Chris Mellish and Vicenc Torra. The board reminds potential nominators that nominees should have strong ties to Europe.

9. **ECAI 2010 Status Report**

Joao Balsa da Silva presented a status report of the ongoing ECAI 2010 conference. Preliminary figures showed 589 in attendance with 530 paid. 296 registered for 18 workshops with an average of 16 registrations per workshop. STAIRS had 33 participants. 44 countries were represented. Low attendance by Spain was a surprise.

A discussion also ensued concerning whether paper proceedings were necessary for ECAI in addition to the workshop policy of obligatory registration fee. The Lisbon representatives stated that without the current obligatory policy, the conference would have gone with a loss.

[Actions:] Discuss both workshop registration policy for ECAI and status of paper proceedings during the next board meeting.

10. **ECAI 2012 (Montpellier) Progress Report**

Christian Bessiere gave a short presentation about the conference location and the current planning status. According to the latter the break even point for the conference is around 460 attendees.

There have been some changes in initial budgeted prices due to inflation. There is still a discussion as to whether lunch will be included in the registration fee or not.

In general, planning is on time. Tentative dates for the conference are 20-24 August.
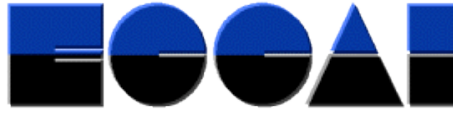
11. ECAI 2012 Conference Chair

Luc deRadt was nominated and then chosen unanimously as the program chair for ECAI 2012. He also introduced himself to the assembly.

12. ECAI 2014 Site Selection (bid from Prague)

Olga Stepankova (president of CSKI), Vladimir Marik (CVUT Prague) and Tomas Raboch (Guarant International) presented the Prague bid to host ECAI 2014 and provided detailed information about the proposal. Prague was unanimously chosen as the venue for ECAI 2014.

13. ACAI 2009 Final Report

There was a 2000 euro surplus for ACAI 2009. The event was considered a great success**.**

14. ACAI 2011 Site Selection (bids from Freiburg and Porto)

Malte Helmert presented the Freiburg bid. Proposed topic: Automated Planning and Scheduling.

Carlos Feurodos presented the Porto bid. Proposed topic: Intelligent Environments in the Social Computing Era.

There was an open vote with bidders outside the room. An overwhelming majority voted for the Freiburg bid.

15. Membership Status of Socieites; Membership of application from Poland

Antoni Ligeza from Krakow, Poland presented the new Polish AI Society PAIS. A vote to include this society in ECCAI was taken. The represented member societies voted unanimously in favour of accepting the new member (0 votes against). The Polish AI Society is now part of ECCAI.

16. ECCAI Membership Fees for 2011

No changes for 2011.

17. Election of ECCAI Board Members

The election was chaired by Werner Horn, former ECCAI president. He proposed to re-elect the following existing board members for another term: G. Brewka, G. Antoniou, P. Doherty.

The GA unanimously voted to elect these members for another term.

Since ECCAI regulations require one board member to be a Belgian, a proposal was then put forth to elect Ann Nowé (Belgium) as a new board member to replace Hendrick Blockeel as treasurer who has served his maximum terms.

The GA unanimously voted to elect Ann Nowé to the ECCAI board.

There were three nominees for 2 additional board places. Anna Perini, Jérôme Lang, and Mike Wooldridge.

In a majority vote, the GA elected Jérôme Lang and Mike Wooldridge to the ECCAI Board.

Gerhard Brewka thanked the 3 members leaving the board for their excellent work over the last couple of years.

18. Status of AICom

The journal is running smoothly. As of January 2011 Maria Fox will become new editor-in-chief, taking over from Enrico Giunchiglia.

19. Status of IOS Relationship

Maarten Fröhlich from IOS Press briefly presented the status of ECCAI-IOS Press cooperation.

A new contract has to be re-negotiated. The GA is open for using different media at the ECAI conferences. The general opinion was that our relationship with IOS is solid and a new contract would be pursued.

20. Date for the next General Assembly Meeting for 2011

It was agreed that the next GA is to be held during IJCAI-11 in Barcelona.

21. Any other business

None.

22. Closing