



**General Assembly Belfast, Northern Ireland  
August 28, 2009, 14:30-17:00**

## **MINUTES**

### **1. Welcome and Opening**

**Attendees:** See list attached

**Minutes:** Grigoris Antoniou

### **2. Approval of Minutes of GA (Patras 2008)**

Minutes approved without corrections.

### **3. Chairman's Report [GB]**

- The Chairman reported on contract issues, the Dissertation Award and the new award committee, the new ECCAI Fellows and the new selection committee, membership issues, relationships with other AI societies, past and future ECAI conferences, and conference sponsorship.
- The full report is found at [http://www.eccai.org/admin/chairreport\\_2009.pdf](http://www.eccai.org/admin/chairreport_2009.pdf).

### **4. Treasurer's Report [HB]**

- The number of ECCAI society members is quite steady.
- The finances are in a very good shape due to the financial success of ECAI 2008 and earlier ECAs.
- The full Finance Report is found at [http://www.eccai.org/admin/ga\\_budget\\_2009.pdf](http://www.eccai.org/admin/ga_budget_2009.pdf). It was approved by the General Assembly.

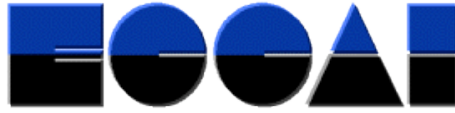
### **5. Membership Fees [HB]**

Due to the sound finances of ECCAI, it was decided to keep the membership fees steady.

### **6. Membership Status of Societies [HB]**

- ADUIS has not paid their fees for 2008 and 2009. The ECCAI Chairman will look into these issues. It was decided that ADUIS status turns to dormant if no acceptable solution is reached.
- The ECCAI President was recently contacted about possible reactivation of NAIS. The possibilities will be further explored.
- Interest on establishing national AI societies in Poland and Cyprus were reported. ECCAI would be glad to invite new member societies, and is willing to assist the national activities in any reasonable way.
- Luxembourg has joined BNVKI.

### **7. ACAI 2009 (Belfast) Report [Juan Carlos Augusto]**



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- ACAI 2009 attracted over 60 students from 16 European countries; 15% came from the UK.
- High-calibre researchers presented courses: Craig Boutilier, Peter Lucas, Da Ruan, Francesca Rossi and Anthony Hunter. In addition several keynote speakers and the dissertation award winner were invited to give presentations.
- The event was financially sound, breaking even or with a small surplus, depending on whether some registrations are paid for.
- Students confirm that the programme was very useful to them, but express their desire for more practical sessions/labs in the courses. This point should be taken into account in future ACAIs.

**8. ECAI 2008 (Patras) Final Report [GB]**

- The final report of ECAI 2008 was approved.
- The conference is considered to have been very successful, and the general assembly thanked the organizers for their excellent job.
- There was discussion regarding the low interest in tutorials. The future shaping of tutorials should be discussed further.

**9. Future ECAI Conferences [GB]**

- Preparations for ECAI 2010 are progressing well. The ECCAI President reported on the March meeting between the organisers and the ECCAI Board. All important dates for the conference have been fixed and are about 4 weeks after the corresponding dates for the AAI conference.
- As to be expected preparations for ECAI 2012 in Montpellier are in an early stage. A site visit by the local organizer, Christian Bessiere, in the conference center confirmed that the planned location serves the needs of an ECAI perfectly well.
- A bid for ECAI 2014 can be expected from Cardiff. The GA welcomes this, but encourages also other interested parties to submit proposals.

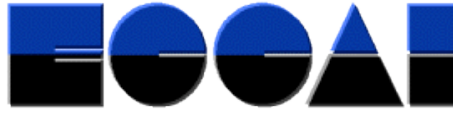
**10. ECCAI Sponsored Conferences [GB]**

- International conferences sponsored so far this year are: AAMAS, IJCAI, ICAPS, RuleML
- ECCAI has established two types of sponsorship:
  - *Regular sponsorship* entails publicity and announcements, but no financial support is provided. The ECCAI Board decides upon application by organisers.
  - *Special sponsorship* provides funding of an invited ECCAI speaker who must be member of an ECCAI society. ECCAI provides travel support of up to 1500 Euros. This scheme is proactive; the ECCAI Board chooses among world leading conferences on general AI or major subfields of AI.
- In 2009 special sponsorship was awarded to IJCAI (ECCAI invited speaker: Luc Steels) and ICAPS (ECCAI invited speaker: Maria Fox).
- In 2010 special sponsorship will be offered to AAI and KR. Other conferences are still to be discussed.



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- Regular sponsorship for 2010 was granted to ICC-C-X, the First International Conference on Computational Creativity.
- 11. ECCAI Bulletin [GA]**
- The Bulletin is published regularly four times a year, edited by Grigoris Antoniou.
  - A new job corner will be added, where AI-related job offers at the European level can be published.
  - There are indications that the Bulletin does not reach members in certain ECCAI societies. In absence of a reliable and up-to-date central member database, it is the responsibility of the national societies to forward the Bulletin to their members. This is also stated in the accompanying email message sent to the national societies together with each Bulletin. The responsible persons at the societies are kindly asked to ensure that the Bulletin reaches all members.
- 12. ECCAI Travel Grant Program (for ACAI 09) [GA]**
- 25 travel grants were on offer for ECAI 2009.
  - The process, which was organized by Grigoris Antoniou, was as follows: all applications collected by the advertised cut-off date of May 8 were evaluated. As only 21 grants were given, there was an open call for the remaining grants, evaluated as they came in.
  - Overall, 25 grants were offered, of which one was turned down shortly before the summer school.
- 13. ECCAI Dissertation Award [PD]**
- The board formed a new dissertation award selection committee. The committee is organized by Toby Walsh, the ECCAI board is represented in the committee by Patrick Doherty. Further committee members are Thomas Eiter, Sarit Kraus, Oliviero Stock and Luc de Raedt.
  - This year 11 nominations were received. The recipient of the 2008 ECCAI Dissertation Award is Steven Schockaert, Ghent University, for his thesis "Reasoning about Fuzzy Temporal and Spatial Information from the Web".
  - In addition, an honourable mention was granted to Christian Plagemann, Albert-Ludwigs-University Freiburg, for his thesis: "Gaussian Processes for Flexible Robot Learning".
- 14. ECCAI Fellows Program [MOC]**
- The selection committee was chaired by Marie-Odile Cordier, and included Luigia Aiello, Gerhard Brewka, Georg Gottlob, Nick Jennings, Luis M. Pereira, and Constantine Spyropoulos.
  - There were eight nominations, and seven new Fellows were named in 2009: Hector Geffner, Francisco Herrera, Ian Horrocks, Gerhard Lakemeyer, Jerome Lang, Pierre Marquis, and Daniele Nardi.
  - The number of ECCAI Fellows is approaching the upper limit of 3% of membership. There was a discussion as to whether the selection process needs to be further



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tightened, or whether retired fellows should not be counted. This issue will be taken up again at the next General Assembly in Lisbon.

- It was suggested that ECCAI Fellows receive their certificates every two years at ECAI, as not many can attend the ACAI events. This year only Ian Horrocks was able to attend.

### **15. AI Communications [GB]**

- Maria Fox has accepted the position as new Editor-in-Chief. She will take up this position in 2010 or 2012.
- Enrico Giunchiglia has established a new Editorial Board and increased the responsibility of Associate Editors. The new Associate Editors are:

Franz Baader	Daniele Nardi	Markus Stumptner
Gerhard Friedrich	Luigi Palopoli	Mirek Truszczynski
Jörg Hoffmann	Carles Sierra	Gerard Verfaillie
Pierre Marquis	Alessandro Sperduti	Weixiong Zhang

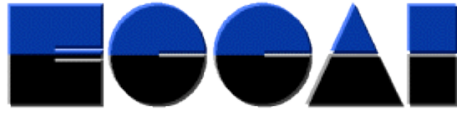
- The idea of a special issue directly coming out from ECAI/PAIS/STAIRS is under consideration. AICom also intends to provide a forum for each year's ECCAI dissertation award winner, possibly in the form of an extended PhD report.
- There was a reminder that ECCAI members have free access to the latest issue of AICom.

### **16. Board and GA Meeting Planning**

- The next GA will be held in August in Lisbon during ECAI 2010.
- The next Board meeting will be held in Heraklion in spring 2010.

### **17. Any Other Business**

### **18. Closing**



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**List of Attendees at the GA**

Mojca Arsenijevic	SLAIS
Deepak Mehta	AIAI
Hernandez Sanchez	ACIA
Laura Saviciene	LIKS-AIS
Gerd Brewka	ECCAI Board, Chair - GI
Marie-Odile Cordier	ECCAI Board, Vie-Chair - AFIA
Grigoris Antoniou	ECCAI Board, Minutes - EETN
Hendrick Blockeel	ECCAI Board - BNVKI
Patrick Doherty	ECCAI Board - SAIS
Juan Augusto	ACAI 2009 organisation
Hui Wang	ACAI 2009 organisation