



*International Federation for Systems Research*

Secretary General: Prof. Dr. Gerhard Chroust

c/o OSGK – Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies

Freyung 6/6, A-1010 Vienna, Austria

Tel: +43 664 28 29 978, fax: +43 1 5336112-77

E-mail: gerhard.chroust@jku.at

URL: http://www.ifsr.org

Minutes \*

Board Meeting of the IFSR

Wednesday, April 7, 2010, 18:00 - open end

Melker Stiftskeller

1010 Vienna, Schotteng. 3

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\* Abbreviations: Amanda Gregory (<AG>), Gerhard Chroust (<GC>), Executive Committee (<EC>), Gary Metcalf (<GM>), Leonie Solomons (<LS>), Kyoichi Kijima (<KK>), Matjaz Mulej (<MM>), Yoshiteru Nakamori (<YN>)

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## 1 Opening <GM>

<GM> opens the meeting on behalf of <MM> and welcomes all delegates.

HANDOUT: attendance sheet ()
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HANDOUT: listing of all details of all member organizations for correction ()
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<GC> apologizes for the last minute change of location. It was due to some misunderstanding with the intended restaurant.

### 1.1 Attendance

Total number of votes = 28

#### Present :

- Nikitas A. Assimakopoulos (HSS) votes= 2
- Eva Buchinger (RC5) votes= 2
- Chen Guangya (SESC) votes= 1
- Gerhard Chroust (OSGK) votes= 1
- Daniel Dubois (CHAOS) votes= 1
- Peter Fleissner (BCSSS) votes= 1
- R. Glanville (Am Cab Soc, Hvförster1, SGN) votes= 4
- Amanda Gregory (JRBS) votes= 0
- Gu Jifa (ISKSS1) votes= 1
- Wolfgang Hofkirchner (BCSSS1) votes= 2
- Yoshi Horiuchi (JASSES) votes= 2
- Norimasa Kobayashi (ISKSS) votes= 1
- Antonio Mascia (CHAOS) votes= 1
- Gary Metcalf (ISSS) votes= 1
- Matjez Mulej (SDSR) votes= 1
- Karl H. Müller (HvFSoc) votes= 1
- Leonie Solomons (-) votes= 0
- Robert Trappl (OSGK) votes= 1
- Vrecko Igor (SDSR) votes= 1
- Jennifer Wilby (ISSS) votes= 1
- Xu Jiuping (SESC) votes= 1
- Susana Herrera (IIGG) votes= 2
- Ezhkova Irina (Guest) votes= 0
- Allena Leonhard (Guest) votes= 0
- Janie Chroust (Guest) votes= 0

#### Apologies and transfer of votes :

- Robert Vallee: apologize
- Kyoichi Jim Kijima: apologize

<GC> reminds the representatives to sign the attendance sheet, mark any mistakes and indicate a 'stable' e-mail address and a person.

## 1.2 Amendments to / Approval of Agenda <GC>

- The final Agenda (tabled) is approved

## 2 Minutes of previous meeting (March 26, 2008) <GC>

HANDOUT: Minutes Board Meeting 2006 ()

The minutes have been sent to the members, a further copy is tabled. Correction to the Minutes: none

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The minutes of the Board Meeting of March 26, 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record

## 3 Report from the President <MM>

<MM> gives an short account of the last two years,

He drew special attention to the International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic (IASCYS), presenting the current state (see also section 7.2).

## 4 Report from the Secretary/Treasurer - Membership <GC>

### 4.1 Membership status

Currently the IFSR has 36 Members.

- No change in Membership has occurred. Currently the IFSR has 36 members
- <GC> distributes Membership list and asks for corrections and updates. Additional changes should be sent via e-mail to <GC> (gerhard.chroustc@jku.at).
- Again <GC> requests that he as the Secretary General should be informed about changes with respect to the officers (or even constitution) of member associations. He asks that a stable 'liaison person' should be named.
- He points out that most societies are in arrears with respect to the fees <sup>1</sup>

### 4.2 New members

no new members applied for membership

### 4.3 Fellowships

no discussion, no action was taken in 2009/10

### 4.4 Inactive member, non-paying members

<GC> also requests that for obviously inactive members the cancellation procedure should be activated. As of the date of the Board Meeting 4 member societies cannot be reached and do not respond. According to the Constitution of the IFSR <GC> will write a registered letter (with an e-mail in parallel). If no response comes within 6 month, the membership of this member will be cancelled.

*After the meeting <GC> was able to establish via a different channel contact with Instituto Andino de Sistemas (Prof. Ricardo Rodriguez-Ulloa). This member was therefore removed from the list of potential cancellations.*

<sup>1</sup>currently 100 EURO = approx. 150 Dollar, 1 Dollar = 0,66 Euro

## 4.5 Potential new member

- CROSS (Croatian Systems Science Association)
- Russian Society (Prof. Ezhkova could help in establishing contact)
- Romania

*After the meeting the following additional contacts were brought to the attention of <GC>. <EC> will follow up.*

- Deming Learning Network (DLN) (source: John Raven)
- Society for Systems and Cybernetics in Organisations (SCiO) (source: John Raven)
- World Organization of Systems and Cybernetics, (source: Markus Schwaninger) Director General: Mr. Alex Andrews: <alexandrew@tiscali.co.uk>
- The System Dynamics Society, Executive Director, (source: Markus Schwaninger) Mrs. Roberta Spencer <rspencer@csc.albany.edu>

## 4.6 Supporting Member

The constitution allows us to have Supporting Members - no action has been taken so far!

## 4.7 Membership fee 2010-2011

The constitution of the IFSR states

ARTICLE 6: Rights and Duties of the members

1. ...
2. Only representatives of the Full Members can become officers of the IFSR.
3. Only Full Members of the IFSR have voting rights.
4. Full members of the IFSR have equal votes.
5. Affiliate Members have no right to vote and the method of their participation is determined by the Board for each Affiliate Member on an individual basis.

The IFSR wants to keep membership also of those societies which are not able to pay the membership fee. <GC> will approach them by suggesting to change their status to 'Affiliate Member'

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board, unanimously> : The Membership fee is to be same as in the previous years

That means:

- Full Members: (these have to be are societies) : Euro 100
- Affiliated Members: no membership fee
- Honorary Members, Fellows: no membership fee
- Supporting members (contribution to be negotiated)

## 4.8 Headquarter of the IFSR

The official seat of the IFSR is now:

International Federation For Systems Research  
 c/o OSGK- Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies  
 Freyung 6, 3rd Floor  
 A-1010 Vienna, Austria  
 Tel: +43 664 28 29 978 (<GC>'s private phone)  
 Tel.: at OSGK: 01 53361129  
 fax: +43 1 5336112-77  
 E-mail: gerhard.chroust@jku.at (<GC>'s email)  
 URL: <http://www.ifsr.org>

## 5 Financial Status and Outlook <GC>

HANDOUT: Budget Overview 2008-2009 ()

<GC> tabled a copy of the financial situation for 2008-2009, showing income and expenses, sorted by main categories. It should be noted, that there are no payments or honoraria for the EC-members and practically no payments for employees or external help.

The accounting is always done for two years, starting with Jan 1, of an even year and ending with December 31 of the next year, thus covering essentially the office time of one Executive Committee. The the exception is the Journal of Systems Research and Behavioural Science (JSRBS) where budgeting and accounting runs from April 1 to March 31 of the above period.

- Several projects had been funded in the past 2 years: They were
  - support of speakers at EMCSR from countries with weak currencies
  - Subsidizing the Fuschl Conversations 2008 and 2010
- There are only two sources of finance for the Society: the royalties from the Journal "Systems Research and Behavioral Science" (published by Wiley Interscience) and the membership fees.
- Budgeting is difficult in view of sizeable changes in exchange rates (Dollar and Brit. Pound versus Euro). The IFSR has been hit by the devaluation of the British Pound versus the EURO.
- The current financial situation is very healthy. We have a reasonable buffer for future eventualities.
- The financial outlook of the Journal is also healthy, thanks to the great success of the Journal.
- However, the income from membership fees and JSRBS is definitely too small to cover all expenses. For the near future the savings can be used to supplement the expenses, but in the near future we might have to re-allocate funds and expenses.

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board thanked Prof. M. C. Jackson and Amanda Gregory for their initiative and efforts

## 6 IFSR-Activities

### 6.1 IFSR 25 year celebration - DVD <GC>

The promised DVD is not yet finished, due to many other activities and tasks of <GC> especially setting up the website and the added effort of relocation the Fuschl Conversations

### 6.2 IFSR EC-Meeting 2009, Brisbane <GC>

The EC met during the ISSS Conference in Brisbane and discussed/decided several pending issues.

### 6.3 IFSR-day 2010 <GC>

Due to the great success of the IFSR day 2006 and 2008 we have had a similar event this year (2010). The activities were:

**Tuesday, April 6, IFSR get-together** 18:00 - ?, Members of the IFSR membership met informally in Melker Stiftskeller for exchange of ideas and informal discussions.

**Wednesday, April 7** the IFSR provided a full day of activities at the EMCSR-Conference (the bi-annual European Meeting on Cybernetics and Systems Research) in Vienna (April 6 - 9, 2010), consisting of

**IFSR - presentation** 9.00 - 9:30 Presentation of the motives, aims and organization of the IFSR by <GC>

**Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture** - Prof. J. Eder, University of Klagenfurt, with the topic "Grand Challenges of Computer Science Research". It was especially fitting to the occasion since he related the identified Grand Challenges to the fundamental work of Ross Ashby's.

**2 Symposia within EMCSR** organized by <GC> and <MM> were also specially announced via the IFSR **Board Meeting** Wirtshaus Zattl (for member representatives only)

**Strategy Meeting, Thursday, April 8, full day** at Wirtshaus Zattl. It was moderated by Allena Leonard and Markus Schwaninger using the Syntegration Method (Stafford Beer) on the general topic of how Systems Thinking and Systems Sciences could be better integrated normal business, academia, and society.

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board thanks Allena Leonard and Markus Schwaninger for the professional and goal-oriented moderation of the IFSR Strategy Meeting 2010 in Vienna

**Friday April 9, morning** 10:00-12:00 EC-Meeting, Wirtshaus Zattl

#### 6.4 The Fuschl Conversation 2008 <GM>

Fuschl Conversations are held every 2 years. The 14th Fuschl Conversation was held from March 29 to April 3, 2008 in Fuschl, near Salzburg. The outcome is reported both in the IFSR Newsletter and in a booklet of proceedings. Both are available on the IFSR Web site.

HANDOUT: Fuschl proceedings and IFSR Newsletter ()

<GC> tables copies of the corresponding Newsletter reporting on it and the Fuschl 2006 Proceedings:

<GC> thanked especially Gary Metcalf, but also the other Team Leaders for the excellent work.

<GC> encourages members to access the Website where the past Newsletters and proceedings of past Fuschl conversations (as far as available) can be found.

#### 6.5 The Fuschl Conversation 2010 <GC>

<GM> gives an overview of the history of conversations, from their beginning (1980!), including a discussion of the motivations. 2006 was a break point. The IFSR used it as a strategic meeting with its member organizations. 2008 the conversations was in the traditional way, as envisioned by Bela Banathy.

In the last decades the conversations were more and more impacted by time problems: too little time for preparation, for work afterwards. For many the conversations are not important enough to invest time in it.

Mostly because of the difficulties to reach the site of the Conversation, but also in view of the not quite optimal seminar-facilities in Fuschl it was decided to move the location nearer to Vienna and also try for some better meeting facilities. After quite some searching, following a suggestion by <GM>, <GC> found a new location: Kloster Pernegg

A-3753 Pernegg 1

[www.klosterpernegg.at](http://www.klosterpernegg.at)

mail-address: 3753 Pernegg 1

For 2010 we have chosen this location because we believe it to be more adequate for the purpose of a conversation. The seminar hotel is located in the buildings of a former renaissance monastery, but completely modernized and refurbished in the 90s. It is embedded in a wonderful, almost untouched landscape and looks back at a history of more than 850 years. It provides a focused and inspiring work atmosphere. Details on the location can be found at "[www.klosterpernegg.at](http://www.klosterpernegg.at)". For more details see also <http://ifsr.ocg.at/world/node/75>.

Pernegg is located approx. 100 km northwest of Vienna. It can easily be reached by car in 90 minutes and by train in 2,5 hours from the center of Vienna center and Vienna Airport(!).

The results will be published on the Website in a (very) short version in the Newsletter and in a longer version as proceedings.

The <EC> expressed its hope, that the considerably increased costs of Pernegg will be worthwhile.

A decision with respect to the continuation (2012) is needed.

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The EC is charged with preparing a decision with respect to the continuation of the Conversations

## 7 IFSR Projects

### 7.1 ESCO -Charles Francois - Encyclopedia <GC>

There are no news. Up to now there is no reaction from Saur Publishers, the owners of the copyrights. There is no conclusion yet.

ACTION: Sept 2010 <GC> : <GC> will get into contact with Saur Publishers again

### 7.2 The International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic Sciences (IASCYS) <MM>

HANDOUT: draft of IASCYS constitution supported by additional material ()

<MM> and <GC> report on the current status of the Academy.

A draft of the Constitution for the IASCYS has been sent to all member.

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves the essence of the constitution of the IASCYS and charges the officers of the IASCYS to finalize the constitution in cooperation with the EC of the IFSR

<MM> proposes a list of candidates for the IASCYS. Their credentials and achievements have been verified by their member organization and found correct. They are:

- Matjaz MULEJ- IASCYS EC President
- Jifa GU - IASCYS EC Vice-president
- Ranulph GLANVILLE - IASCYS EC Vice-president
- Pierre BRICAGE
- Guangya CHEN
- Charles FRANCOIS
- Enrique HERRSCHER
- Kyoichi J. KIJIMA
- Yoshiteru NAKAMORI
- Robert VALLEE
- Shouyang WANG
- Andrzej WIERZBICKI
- Jiuping XU
- Jennifer WILBY - IASCYS Secretary General

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approved accepting the candidates above as members of the IASCYS

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approved the interim officers of the IASCYS

### 7.3 System Archives Vienna <GC>

No more news

## 8 IFSR Publications

### 8.1 The Web-Site of the IFSR (www.ifsr.org) <GC>

The website is fully operational since November 2007. It allows users to register (everyone may register!) and to add comments. Members of the IFSR Board get special privileges (write an e-mail to <GC>) allowing them to interact more intensively with the web-site. They may publicize their activities/meetings etc. *themselves!*

Unfortunately the interest in the Web site is rather low.

<GC> Encourages members to access the IFSR web site (<http://www.ifsr.org>) for both getting and supplying information. Use it as a communication tool!

ACTION: summer 2010 <all> : access the IFSR Web site

### 8.2 IFSR Newsletter <GC>

<GC> The IFSR Newsletter has lost much of its previous importance, mostly due to the web site. In 2009 we forgot to publish an Newsletter, but nobody has complained .... should we keep it?

In the future it is intended to produce several smaller newsletters by year and mail them only electronically. Only a few documentary copies for legal and public relations purposes will be printed on paper.

HANDOUT: IFSR Newsletter 2008 ()

A hardcopy of the IFSR Newsletter 2007 is tabled.

### 8.3 Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science <AG>

Both a copy of the Journal and the marketing plan were tabled. Once again the Board thanked Prof. M. C. Jackson for his initiative and efforts and also Amanda Gregory, the Deputy Editor-in-Chief.

In her new role as Vice President <AG> will be especially concerned with establishing a much closer cooperation between the EC and the Journal. It is hoped that would improve awareness of the members of IFSR of the Journal and would also increase the sales of the Journal.

### 8.4 IFSR Book Series

No news received.

### 8.5 Publications by our member societies

Many of our societies publish their own Book Series, e.g BCSSS, Heinz von Förster Society, Chaos, Hellenic society, OSGK. in addition our members organize some 30 conferences which are also documented in proceedings.

ACTION: 2nd half of 2010 <EC> : Make suggestions how IFSR could help publicize these publications

## 9 IFSR Supported Events

### 9.1 Ashby Lecture EMCSR2010 : Prof. Johannes Eder <GC>

The Ross Ashby Memorial Lecture of the EMCSR 2010 was given by Prof. Johann Eder, Alpen-Adria University Klagenfurt, Austria:

*"Grand Challenges for Computer Science Research"*

Grand Challenges are formulated to focus research endeavors, to motivate both researchers and funding organizations and to communicate research goals broadly and boldly. Several Organizations (e.g. UKCR Committee, ISTAG Group of the European Union, the German VDE, and the Gartner Group) have formulated a set of "Grand Challenges for Computer Science" to structure research and funding schemes in the coming years. The Grand Challenges of the ISTAG Group, for example, was instrumental in shaping the 7th framework program of the European Union. We will present the concept of Grand Challenges as research programs and their characteristics, and comparatively present the different sets of Grand Challenges for Computer Science Research brought forward and discuss a few of these Grand Challenges in some detail with a particular focus on the organization of Grand Challenge as research drivers.

## 9.2 EMCSR 2010 <GC>

As sponsorship the IFSR had paid the conference fees for 9 persons to allow them to attend the EMCSR at a cost of approx. 250 Euro each. The names of the delegates sponsored were tabled. They are:

- Tomas Kuhr
- Frantisek Capkovic
- Igor Dubina
- Vladimir Pozdnyakov
- Velislava Stoykova
- Önder Gürcan
- Maximilian Mrotzek
- Thomas Vlk
- Andreas Kreuzeder

## 9.3 Other events

none

# 10 *Release of Obligation of the Executive Committee*

## 10.1 Formal Vote

Robert Trappl (OSGK) takes the chair;

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board releases the complete Executive Committee unanimously from its obligations

## 10.2 Resignation of Prof. M. Mulej and Prof. Nakamori

Prof. Matjaz and Prof. Y. Nakamori resigned from their offices in the EC of the IFSR, due to other pressing work. Prof. Matjaz Mulej will intensely cooperate with the IFSR on issues of the IASCYS.

# 11 Election of IFSR Officers

Robert Trappl takes temporarily the chair of the Board Meeting. He thanks the Executive Committee of the IFSR for all the good work they have performed in the last 2 years.

## 11.1 Number of vice-presidents

<GC> informs the Board that the outgoing EC suggests that for the next period of the EC should consist of three vice presidents in order to include direct representation of the Journal of Research and Behavioural Science in the EC and thus establish a close cooperation, especially with respect to information exchange.

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves unanimously, upon the suggestion of the outgoing EC, that there will be THREE Vice Presidents for the next Period

## 11.2 Proposals for the next Executive Committee

HANDOUT: Proposal for Officers of the IFSR for 2008-2010 ()

The <EC> presents the following slate for the officers of the IFSR for the next period.

**President** : Dr. Gary Metcalf, USA (Int. Society for the Systems Sciences)

**Vice-President** : Prof. Dr. Kyoichi Jim Kijima, Japan (International Society for Knowledge and Systems Sciences)

**Vice-President** : Dr. Amanda J. Gregory, United Kingdom (Journal of Systems Research and Behavioral Science)

**Vice-President** : Dr. Leonie Solomons, Australia

**Secretary-Treasurer (=Secretary General)** Prof. Dr. Gerhard Chroust, Austria (Austrian Society for Cybernetic Studies)

A CV of Jim Kijima and Leonie Solomons was tabled, also a statement of intent by Leonie Solomons. Dr. Norisama Kobayashi read a statement of intent on behalf of Jim Kijima a statement of intent.

## 11.3 Formal Election

Robert Trappl asked the meeting

1. If there are other nominations - No further nominations
2. If secret ballot was desired

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : no secret ballot is desired

3. If en-bloc voting is acceptable

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : en-bloc voting is accepted

Robert Trappl calls for a vote on the proposed candidates

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves unanimously the proposed Executive Committee for the Period 2010-2012

All member of the EC accept their nomination.

## 11.4 Auditors

The constitution of the IFSR requires also an Auditor for checking the correctness of the financial transaction of the IFSR. The EC suggests Prof. R. Trappl and Prof. Wolfgang Hofkirchner as Auditors.

DECISION: 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves unanimously the two Auditors, Prof. R. Trappl and Prof. W. Hofkirchner

## 12 Honoring Past EC-members <GM>

The Board and the EC expressed their sincere thanks to former IFSR officers by giving plaques of honor:

- The International Federation for Systems Research is proud to present an outstanding contribution award to Jifa Gu for leadership and service as president and vice president of the IFSR during the years 2002 - 2006
- The International Federation for Systems Research is proud to present an outstanding contribution award to Matjaz Mulej for leadership and service as president and vice president of the IFSR during the years 2002 - 2008
- The International Federation for Systems Research is proud to present an outstanding contribution award to Yoshiteru Nakamori for leadership and service as vice president of the IFSR during the years 2008 to 2010

## **13 IFSR Committees**

### **13.1 Fuschl/Pernegg Committee**

<GC> stresses the need for a small committee to help Fuschl Conversations and to provide continuity beyond the individual Fuschl Organizers. The EC will try to set up such a committee.

ACTION: 2010-10-01 <GC> : select a Fuschl committee
---

### **13.2 Web Committee**

<GC> stresses the need for a small committee to help organize the Web-site, both with respect to quality issues and to new ideas with respect to usage.

ACTION: 2010-10-01 <GC> : select a Web Committee
--

### **13.3 ISSS 2010**

The EC will meet in Toronto at the ISSS Conference (July 16- 23, 2010). The EC-Meeting will not be funded by the IFSR.

### **13.4 IFSR day at EMCSR 2012**

At the moment the future of the IFSR is not clear. So no plan could be made for 2012.

### **13.5 Other events**

no other events

## **14 Other Business**

no other business

## **15 Closing <GM>**

### **15.1 Dates of next Meetings**

- next EC-Meeting : July 2010 at ISSS 2010 in Canada - with no cost to IFSR!

## 16 ACTIONS (IFSR-20080326)

=== p20100407===

ACTIONS: p20100407, 12. Juni 2010

- act ==> Sept 2010 <GC> : <GC> will get into contact with Saur Publishers again
- act ==> summer 2010 <all> : access the IFSR Web site
- act ==> 2nd half of 2010 <EC> : Make suggestions how IFSR could help publicize these publications
- act ==> 2010-10-01 <GC> : select a Fuschl committee
- act ==> 2010-10-01 <GC> : select a Web Committee

## 17 DECISION(IFSR-20080326)

DECISIONS : p20100407, 12. Juni 2010

- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The minutes of the Board Meeting of March 26, 2008 were accepted as a true and accurate record
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board, unanimously> : The Membership fee is to be same as in the previous years
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board thanked Prof. M. C. Jackson and Amanda Gregory for their initiative and efforts
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board thanks Allena Leonard and Markus Schwaninger for the professional and goal-oriented moderation of the IFSR Strategy Meeting 2010 in Vienna
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The EC is charged with preparing a decision with respect to the continuation of the Conversations
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves the essence of the constitution of the IASCYS and charges the officers of the IASCYS to finalize the constitution in cooperation with the EC of the IFSR
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approved accepting the candidates above as members of the IASCYS
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approved the interim officers of the IASCYS
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board releases the complete Executive Committee unanimously from its obligations
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves unanimously, upon the suggestion of the outgoing EC, that there will be THREE Vice Presidents for the next Period
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : no secret ballot is desired
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : en-bloc voting is accepted
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves unanimously the proposed Executive Committee for the Period 2010-2012
- dec ==> 2010-04-07 <Board> : The Board approves unanimously the two Auditors, Prof. R. Trappl and Prof. W. Hofkirchner