

**Draft Minutes from the  
ECIU Executive Board meeting  
at TU Hamburg-Harburg, Germany**

**Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Participants**

Mercedes Unzeta López, Louis Lemkow and Marta Vilalta (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona); Isabel Martin (University of Aveiro); Hanne Kathrine Krogstrup, Peter Plenge and Lise Thorup-Pedersen (Aalborg University); Martin Morgeneyer (Université de Technologie de Compiègne); Ursula Gather, Barbara Schneider and Silke Viol (TU Dortmund University); Ulrich Killat and Randolph Galla (TUHH); Janerik Lundquist and Lars Holberg (Linköping University); Enrique Zepeda, Patricia Montano, Antonio Pita and Inés Sáenz (Tecnologico de Monterrey); Alla Batchenko (Southern Federal University); Andrew Hamnett and Martin Gregory (University of Strathclyde); Jeffrey Smart (Swinburne University of Technology); Anne Flierman, Pieter Binsbergen and Sander Lotze (University of Twente); Negesse Pina (University of Aveiro and Student Wing); Bettina Burger (ECIU Secretariat)

*Apologies:* Carlo Naldi (PdT); Ronan Stephan (UTC); and Mille Millnert (LU)

**0. Welcome by ECIU Speaker**

The ECIU Speaker welcomed participants to the meeting and extended a particular welcome to the colleagues that were new to this meeting.

**1. Minutes from ECIU Executive Board meeting at Swinburne University of Technology, 18 April 2008**

The ECIU Secretariat had received no comments since the circulation of the final minutes in May 2008.

Decision

The minutes of the ECIU Executive Board meeting at Swinburne University of Technology in April 2008 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Organisational issues:**

**2. Finances**

***2.1 Transfer of accounts***

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the drop of value of the pound towards the Euro. It was agreed that there is no reason to believe that the exchange rate situation will improve any time soon.

Decision

The ECIU Board agrees to the transfer of accounts from Strathclyde to Twente, thus realising the loss of approximately €13.000,00 due to the drop in the exchange rate.

***2.2 Interim accounts 2008***

The ECIU Secretary presented the interim accounts of 2008 and the ECIU Executive Board noted the interim balance of € 149.379,00 on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. Aalborg University announced that it is not intending to invoice any of the money that has been set aside for the ECIU agent in Brussels, due to the outcome of the activities. This reduces the costs that still are to be paid in 2008 to € 76.460,00. The revised balance therefore adds up to € 74.189,28. The ECIU Secretariat will provide the Board with the final accounts for 2008 at the beginning of the next year.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board noted the current budget situation.

### **2.3 Draft budget 2009**

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the proposed draft budget for 2009 and made some adjustments during the meeting. The new draft budget for 2009 reflects these changes:

### **DRAFT BUDGET 2009**

Capital asset: Surplus from 2008 (€) (1):

**? (74.189,28)**

#### Expected income

Membership fees 115.000,00

#### Expected expenditure

##### Fixed expenditure

ECIU management fee 55.000,00

##### Committed expenditure

ECIU PR & Marketing 17.000,00

ECIU Student Wing activities (2) **9.500,00**

European Commission meetings 2.000,00

Student Mobility Symposium 10.000,00

ECIU contingencies 5.000,00

##### Envisaged expenditure

EGS Graduate School (3) **29.200,00**

Income in total 115.000,00

Expenses in total **127.700,00**

**Income 115.000,00**

**Expenses 127.700,00**

**Balance -12.700,00**

**Reserve for investment -12.700,00**

**Reserve from 2007: 113.862,18**

**Reserve from 2008 (1): ? (74.189,28)**

**Budgeted costs from  
2008: 76.460,00**

**Total amount available  
(1) 24.702,18**

**+ 74.189,28**

**= 98.891,46**

#### **Additional potential expenditure**

Brussels Discourse 7.000,00

Brussels representation 15.000,00

ECIU Leadership Development (4) 20.000,00

## **Notes**

1. The surplus for 2008 in the draft 2009 budget is estimated on the basis of the interim accounts of September 1 2008. Changes are still possible. After the final accounts for 2008 have been prepared, the actual reserve from 2008 will be known. This final figure will impact the total amount available for 2009.
2. Referring to the report of the president of the ECIU Student Wing, the Board agreed to raise the contribution to Student Wing activities.
3. Referring to the report of the Steering Committee on the Graduate School, the Board agreed to follow the suggestion to raise the scholarships. Therefore, the asset for the ECIU Graduate School has been raised by €2.700,00.
4. The costs for the continuation of the ECIU Leadership Development Programme will depend on the success of the envisaged application for the Lifelong Learning Programme.

## **Decision**

The ECIU Executive Board agrees on the draft budget for 2009, including the following decisions taken throughout the meeting:

- The raise of contribution to Student Wing activities up to €9.500,00
- The raise of the contribution to the ECIU Graduate School by €2.700,00 and the merging of the two separate assets for scholarships and study trips into one asset for the Graduate School.

## **3 Handover of ECIU Secretariat**

The ECIU Executive Board noted the transfer of the secretariat from the University of Strathclyde to TU Dortmund University on August 1 2008.

## **4 Handover of the position of the Speaker**

The ECIU Executive Board noted the handover of the position of the speaker from Eberhard Becker to Anne Flierman on June 1 2008.

## **5 Registration of new Board members**

The ECIU Executive Board noted the new regulations.

## **Action**

The ECIU secretary to make the necessary arrangements for updating the information.

## **Up-date on ECIU Working Groups and Projects**

## **6 EU Funding Working Group / Brussels representation**

### **6.1 ECIU Agent in Brussels**

The ECIU Speaker and Martin Gregory gave an oral update on the recent developments. They emphasized that ECIU can indeed play a significant role in influencing the EU agenda. In order to do so, ECIU has to be present in Brussels, and it has to be able to respond to consultation processes by the EC. It has been suggested to set up a small working group to arrange for the necessary logistics within ECIU and to work with the secretariat and the Brussels representation.

In the following discussion, the Board confirmed that it is strategically the right decision for ECIU to engage in the field of EU politics. It was pointed out that now is the time for ECIU to get involved in EU politics and to position itself towards the Commission. Although it was noted that at the moment there is still a lack of clear focus in the EU-related activities of ECIU, it was agreed that moving ahead with a serious engagement will help developing our activities. The Board discussed once more the importance of the willingness of Board members to attend conferences, discussion forums and the like and represent ECIU from time to time in Brussels.

However, the Board pointed out that it will be important to monitor carefully the engagement with a representation in Brussels. It will be necessary to assess on a regular basis if the fields of activities ECIU is about to engage in help fulfilling the mission of ECIU, and if the progress made justifies the expenditures. Also, it is of utmost importance that the activities ECIU engages in will help in gaining visibility as an independent consortium, and not as an annex to e.g. Scotland Europa. It was concluded that a regular meeting of the ECIU Executive Board in Brussels will be helpful to promote the activities.

### Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to continue the EU activities as proposed.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to negotiate the Scotland Europa proposal for co-operation.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to set up a small working group on EU activities, chaired by Martin Gregory.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to pursue the idea of the Brussels discourse as one element of the ECIU EU strategy.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to commit members to face-to-face interaction on behalf of ECIU in Brussels, when needed.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to improve the networks of ECIU in Brussels through fostering contacts between regional offices, but also through making use of existing contacts to EU officials.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to evaluate the activities through an annual report and an evaluation of effectiveness after two years.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to invite a representative of Scotland Europa to the next meeting of the Board, assuming that the contract with Scotland Europa will be signed by then.

### Actions

- The ECIU Speaker, Secretary and Martin Gregory to negotiate with Scotland Europa on their proposal. Once it has been agreed on a paper, this will be circulated to the Board members for approval. The aim is to start the co-operation with Scotland Europa on January 1 2009.
- The ECIU Speaker, Secretary and Martin Gregory to identify a small working group on EU matters. Member institutions are welcome to nominate participants.

- The ECIU secretary to circulate an inventory on existing contacts to EU officials. The secretary will also collect information on topics ECIU Board members would feel comfortable in to represent ECIU in Brussels events, if asked to do so.

## **6.2 ECIU Brussels discourse**

The suggestion by Monica Schofield to organise a conference similar to the final DIFUSE conference was received positively by the Board. It was agreed that this would serve as an important element within the ECIU strategy on EU activities, and that it can help raising ECIU's profile in Brussels. However, other topics apart from the suggested "Battle for Brains" might as well be of interest for ECIU. "The future of Ph.D. education" also seems an important topic where ECIU can contribute to the European perspective.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed on taking the idea of a "Brussels discourse" further, and to set aside money in the 2009 budget. The decision on a topic will be taken later in the year, based on the developments of ECIU activities.

### Action

The EU working group to work with the Speaker and the Secretary to develop the topic and the contents of the event.

## **7 PTU-ECIU Project (Formal withdrawal)**

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the developments of the project during the last six months. Different views were mentioned regarding the question if the concerns of ECIU have been made clear to the Korean side, and the question to what extent an ECIU approach does actually offer added value, compared to an approach involving individual institutions. It was concluded that it is too early for a final judgement on the outcome of the progress of the co-operation with Pyongtaek University.

### Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to delay the formal withdrawal. At the moment, no additional resources will put into the project by ECIU.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to write a letter to Pyongtaek University to explicitly voice the concerns towards a consortium approach. This letter will mark the six-month notice time mentioned in the MoU.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to arrange for a meeting with representatives from Pyongtaek University to give them a chance to present their plans and expectations.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to come up with a written proposal on the project development at the next Board meeting in Strathclyde, June 2009.

### Actions

- Louis Lemkov and Pieter Binsbergen together with the Speaker and the Secretary to write a letter to Pyongtaek University to explain the situation clearly.

- Louis Lemkov and Pieter Binsbergen to arrange for a visit of a Korean representative to a Board meeting, if appropriate.
- The Secretary to approach Board members to explicitly state their expectations on the future development of this project. On the basis of this input it will be measured if progress has been made.

## **8 ECIU Marketing and Communication**

Lars Holberg, chair of the Marketing and Communications group, gave a report to the Board. Current activities of the Marketing and Communications group focus on the three areas “Webpage development”, “Promotion of student mobility” and “Internal Communication”. It was noted that the ECIU webpage is currently facing technical problems that are being sorted out by the colleagues at Aveiro.

The ECIU Executive Board discussed the issues raised on the presentation. It was agreed that internal communication is a major issue, and that considerable efforts have to be taken to improve the flow of information on ongoing ECIU activities. It was also suggested to include more interactive elements in the webpage to make it more attractive. With regard to promoting student mobility, closer co-operation between the Marketing and Communications group and the Student Mobility group was encouraged. Drawing on the experience of students who already were on an exchange was seen as one way of improving the promotional efforts.

### Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed that the tag line “Get the competitive edge” will be used to promote ECIU, e.g. on posters.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed that more information on ongoing ECIU activities within the member institutions is necessary to populate the webpage, and encouraged local coordinators and project managers to contribute short reports to be published on the webpage whenever appropriate.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed that internal communication is a major issue and necessary to get ECIU and its activities more widely known within the member institutions. Members are encouraged to organise regular meetings within their institutions between the local coordinator and the local PR official to ensure the flow of communication.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed that all member institutions should put the ECIU logo on their main webpage
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to efforts to be made to integrate the GS website with the ECIU main site.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed to set aside sufficient money for continued efforts in marketing and communications, including the updating of the ECIU brochure and the potential hiring of a part time editor.

### Actions

- The PR group and the ECIU Secretary to pursue the refocusing and further development of the ECIU webpage, including the possibility to include more interactive elements.
- The PR group to realise the posters to promote ECIU, together with the Student Wing and the Student Mobility Group.

- The PR group to produce an inventory on which ECIU members have the ECIU logo on their main webpage, contact those who do not have it on there yet.
- The PR group to get in touch with the GS Coordinator to start redesigning the GS webpage.
- The Board members to encourage their local coordinators and local PR officials to meet on a regular basis, to spread information on ECIU activities within their institutions and to contribute to the ECIU webpage.

## **9 Collaboration between Library Services**

The ECIU Executive Board noted the activities of the project group as an example on ongoing co-operation.

## **10 ESMU project bids**

The ECIU Executive Board noted the successful co-operation with ESMU.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to appoint Peter West as the ECIU representative for the MODERN project; the Secretary to support his function.

## **11 ECIU Membership**

### *11.1 Withdrawal of Warwick University*

The ECIU Speaker reported that he had received a phone call from the registrar of Warwick University, explaining the decision to withdraw from ECIU by the fact that Warwick University has decided to strictly concentrate on research networks. The speaker had expressed the deep regret of ECIU about losing one of its founding members.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board officially noted the decision of Warwick University to withdraw from ECIU.

## **12 Strategic discussion**

The ECIU Executive Board discussed extensively the issues raised by the letter the Speaker had sent to the Board members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that on the basis of this discussion, the Speaker and the Secretary will draft a strategic paper outlining the future development of ECIU. This will be circulated and all Board members will be expected to comment on it via email, phone calls, or through personal contacts whenever possible. The aim is to prepare a final version to be discussed and agreed upon at the next Board meeting in June 2009. The first draft will be circulated by mid-November.

### Action

The ECIU Speaker and Secretary to prepare and circulate a draft strategic paper, including the input from the discussion as well as from the suggestions for projects and activities brought forward for this meeting (i.e. the Swinburne model).

### Up-date on ECIU Core Areas

## **13 ECIU Core areas**

### *13.1 University Industry Interaction*

Since the Steering Committee is currently lacking an official chair, Andrew Hamnett has agreed to take up this post for the meeting. The Board will have to find a new chair during the course of the next months. Andrew Hamnett reported on the major findings of the Steering Committee.

#### *13.1.1 Completion of the DIFUSE project*

The final DIFUSE conference has been a big success with good responses from Commission participants. The format of short presentations and guided discussion proved attractive for both participants and audience, and provided an excellent networking event. ECIU has presented itself as a resource for exchanging experience, doing benchmarks and solving problems together. This existing network should lay the basis for future activities in new fields of interest, although, so far, no external funding is available.

The Steering Committee suggests that one objective will be to maintain and further strengthen the existing network of tec trans offices, and to promote activities through which knowledge and experience is spread, rather than descriptive studies. Topics to be addressed should be cutting-edge in the field of U – I interaction, e.g.:

- entrepreneurial education / leadership
- creative industries
- market intelligence / client satisfaction
- science to business marketing

A long-term goal could be to develop the network of tec trans offices into a one-stop-shop for industry.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed that the existing network of tec trans offices should be further developed through the activities proposed by the Steering Committee.

### Actions

- Members of the Steering Committee to contribute to organizing the Brussels event, following the model of the DIFUSE final conference, to attract more attention of EU officials
- Promote the idea to foster the existing network through regular meetings of tec trans office representatives, i.e. for conducting a best-practise on Science to business models
- Pursue the topic of creative industries through organizing a workshop
- Change format of the ECIU plenary session at the Triple-Helix Conference to a structured question – answer – session
- Encourage communication on ongoing activities within the network and within the member institutions (beyond the level of rectorates)

### ***13.1.2 Conference on technology park development and the region***

The conference on technology park development and the region, planned for early June 2009 in Twente, is seen as a promising approach to including local officials from the technology parks and regional economic agenda setters into the ECIU activities.

#### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to follow the suggestion of the Steering Committee.

#### Action

To promote the Science Park conference and Triple-Helix Conference together, and to invite local officials from technology parks and local governments.

## ***13.2 ECIU Graduate School***

### ***13.2.1 EGS Progress report***

Ulrich Killat as chair of the Steering Committee reported on the major findings of the meeting.

At the moment GIM, JEMES, EMMS, CIT, I&E, IDM are running fine and do not need constant assistance by the GS anymore. In contrast,

- Industrial Production Engineering (LiU, TUHH)
- European Studies (LiU, UT, AAU)
- Energy and Sustainable Development (UA, UT, LiU, UoS)
- Engineering Life Sciences (LiU, TUHH, UA, UT)

all still need assistance and, in general, stronger steering.

All colleagues in the SC consented that the GS shall continue to assist setting up joint Master and future joint Ph.D. programmes. It was suggested while going on to support joint Master programmes to gradually shift the GS focus from MSc to Ph.D.. ECIU should be in an excellent position to deliver strong applications under ERASMUS Mundus II. Co-operation in joint Ph.D. programmes will strengthen joint ECIU research activities.

So far, ECIU has not seen a lot of use of the mobility grants for Europeans in Joint Master programmes. The SC proposed to make the „JMP Mobility Grants“ more attractive, to raise the amount to 3600 € (double) and thus to reserve 14.400 € per annum in ECIU budget (4 semester grants á 600 € per month). Part of the money should be allowed to be spent on student group visits in emerging joint Master programmes, thus merging the assets for mobility grants and study trips into one item in the budget.

It was further suggested to re-apply under the ICI-ECP mobility scheme with a new Australian-European application, concentrating on emerging JMPs, linking projects more strongly, and including more Australian partners.

With regard to the master programmes that need continued attention, it has been agreed to set milestones and deadlines for progress, and to withdraw the GS support if they are not met with very good reasons. Lead academics of each emerging programme (ELS, ESD, ES, IPE)

will be named to be responsible for the progress and to write a short evaluation of prospects before Christmas.

The Steering Committee proposed to start preparing the applications to Erasmus Mundus 2 for joint Ph.D. programmes now. In fact, two groups are already preparing themselves to get involved. Although at the moment many difficulties can be expected due to the fact that the local / national rules for Ph.D. education differ a lot, it is very likely that these problems will be sorted out during the process. A similar process had taken place with the joint master programmes in the past. A first step will be to make overviews of the rules for Ph.D. education in the existing two projects, and to present these and the problems they face at the next Board meeting. Based on this, key questions and guidelines will be developed.

With regard to the development of joint Ph.D. programmes, it is important to note that it will be essential to allow non-ECIU partners to participate. Research networks can not be organized top-down, so we have to respect and make use of the existing networks of our researchers.

#### Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed on the revised allocation of "mobility grants" and "group visits" and the raise by € 2.700,00 as suggested.
- The ECIU Executive Board agreed on the continued activities as suggested.

#### Actions

- The GS Coordinator to continue discussion with the Australian partners on a re-application of the ICI-ECP proposal.
- The project champions of the emerging JMPs to provide a report by Christmas.
- The GS Coordinator to make overviews of the local rules for Ph.D. education.
- The GS Coordinator to provide the Board with numbers on students in the successful JMPs.
- To put information on how to apply for grants on the webpage.

### ***13.2.2 GS success story - discussion of future structure and funding***

The ECIU Graduate School is approaching a turning point, and its future is still unclear. TUHH confirmed that it is willing to go on with management of the GS for another half year, but that it, as of today, would not be able to guarantee for a continuation beyond that. TUHH will send a note to the Board in early 2009 latest. ECIU partners should in parallel screen for candidate(s) to take over the task. Before the next Board meeting in June 2009, a decision has to be taken on structure, location, and funding of the Graduate School.

#### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board noted the situation and agreed to look for solutions.

#### Action

The Board members to screen for candidates to take over the post of the GS Coordinator.

### ***13.3 Improved Staff and Student Mobility***

Anne Flierman, to date chair of the Steering Committee on Improved Staff and Student Mobility, announced that he has stepped down from this post, since he is now the Speaker of ECIU. He suggested Martin Morgeneyer as the new chair, who has agreed to take up the post. Martin Morgeneyer presented the findings of the Steering Committee.

#### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed on Martin Morgeneyer as the new chair of the Steering Committee.

### ***13.3.1 ECIU Leadership Development Programme***

The ECIU Executive Board noted the ongoing success of the Leadership Development Programme.

#### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed on the writing of a proposal to fund the LDP through the Lifelong Learning Programme as one of the first tasks of the EU working group.

#### Action

The ECIU Secretary together with the EU working group to get in touch with Henk Brower and the colleagues from the Leadership Development Programme to work on the proposal.

### ***13.3.2 ECIU Admin Staff Development***

The ECIU Executive Board noted the positive experiences of staff mobility. Additional activities to further develop staff mobility beyond the leadership development programme are under way.

#### Action

Lise Thorup-Pedersen to establish an overview to structure the exchange and create a database of mobile staff members, but also to develop new instruments to enlarge the audience that gets involved with ECIU (e.g. annual exchanges of international coordinators at faculty level, registrars, PR officials, etc.)

### ***13.3.3 ECIU Student Mobility Group***

The Student Mobility Group is currently suffering from a massive lack of commitment, which can most likely be contributed to a lack of topics and of objectives. It was suggested that the SMG could continue meeting on a pragmatic basis, e.g. in the framework of EAIE- and NAFSA-meetings, in order to keep ECIU present in minds. With regard to their focus of activities, the Steering Committee sees future focus areas in:

- promoting ECIU exchanges as exchanges with preferred partners
- the integration of industry internships to student mobility activities
- the exploitation of synergy effects by coupling twin programmes and joined programmes
- the definition of premium, visible ECIU exchange activities, based on core strengths of ECIU members
- the gathering of information on existing exchange

## Decisions

- The ECIU Executive Board agreed on the suggested activities by the Steering Committee for Improved Staff and Student Mobility.

## Actions

- The Student Mobility Group to meet at EIAE; the ECIU Board members to encourage participation of their student mobility representatives, exchange advisors etc.
- The Student Mobility Group to build up an inventory on Twin Programme initiatives and their status of realization, as well as on existing and possible exchange between ECIU members (M. Morgeneyer will circulate matrix).
- The Student Mobility Group to work with the Student Wing and the Marketing and Communications group to improve communication and to consider new ways of adding value to an ECIU exchange, based on the strengths of ECIU members (internships, mobility package)

### ***13.3.4 ECIU Student Wing***

The President of the Student Wing reported on the Student Wing meeting that took place earlier that week in Dortmund. He pointed out that at the moment too few student representations are involved in the activities of the Student Wing, and that there is a lack of communication between the Student Wing and the Board, the Student Mobility Group and the Marketing and Communication Group. As a consequence, the following objectives were outlined as the focus of activity for the next year:

- Getting more student representations involved in the Student Wing (with the help of the Board)
- Improving communication through an internal webpage, google group, skype, links etc.
- Meeting regularly with local coordinators, PR officials, international office representatives to share information
- Working with Marketing and Communication group to improve communication materials and make them more appealing to students
- Developing a concept for a Student Wing event (contest or championship)

The Student Wing President pointed out that the money that has currently been set aside for Student Wing activities is not sufficient, especially not when more student representatives eventually get involved.

In the following discussion the Board emphasized the fact that it enhances and supports the activities of the Student Wing. However, these activities have to concentrate on the assets that ECIU offers to students preferably in organised programmes (Joint Master Programmes, Twin Programmes).

The Student Wing was encouraged by the Board to work more closely with the Secretary and the Student Mobility Group and the Marketing and Communication Group.

## Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to raise the budget for Student Wing activities to €9.500,00.

### Action

The Board members to encourage their local coordinators, Student Mobility Group members and PR officials to work with the Student Wing.

## **14 Miscellaneous**

### ***14.1 General Meeting at Strathclyde***

The next ECIU General and Executive Board meeting will take place on June 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. In conjunction with the ECIU meeting, the Triple Helix Conference will take place at UoS at the same time.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to re-arrange the suggested ECIU plenary discussion at the Triple Helix Conference to a question – answer – session with four to five ECIU representatives and a moderator.

### ***14.2 Host for Executive Board meeting, November 2009***

Enrique Zepeda invited ECIU to visit Tec de Monterrey in November 2009 for the Executive Board meeting. The Speaker thanked him for his kind offer to host the meeting.

### Decision

The ECIU Executive Board agreed to hold the November 2009 Board meeting at Tec de Monterrey in Mexico. The exact dates for the meeting will be circulated later this year.

The ECIU Speaker again thanked Ulrich Killat, Randolph Galla and their colleagues for being wonderful hosts to the meeting and for having organised everything perfectly well.

*Bettina Burger, October 16 2008*