

**MINUTES  
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE  
SUB-REGIONAL EUROPEAN ASTRONOMICAL COMMITTEE (SREAC)**

**Participants:**

- Members of SREAC: V. Ivanova, K. Panov (Bulgaria), H. Rovithis-Livaniou (Greece), G. Apostolovska (R. Macedonia), V. Mioc, M. Stavinschi (Romania), O. Demircan, M.E. Özel (Turkey), D. Lupishko, G. Pinigin (Ukraine);
- Special guests: A. Boksenberg, H. Moore, I. Nechifor (UNESCO-ROSTE);
- Invited participants: K. Tsvetkova, M. Tsvetkov (Bulgaria), M. Birlan, M. Blanc (France), A. Dumitrescu, P. Popescu (Romania), Z. Aslan (Turkey), S. Bolotin, A. Kazantsev (Ukraine).

The members of SREAC from Serbia and Montenegro (G. Djurasevic and Z. Knezevic) were absent.

**First part** (23 October 2004; Chair A. Boksenberg)

M. Stavinschi presents the report on the SREAC activity since its first meeting (7–8 May 2004), as well as the purposes and objectives of the 2nd meeting.

The background of the activities of UNESCO and the main mission of UNESCO-ROSTE (fasten cooperation in CEE) are presented by H. Moore. The main goals (capacity building in basic and engineering sciences, and science policy and management), as well as the concrete priority actions (communications, access to databases, upgrading medium/large facilities), are emphasized.

The programme “Enhancing Astronomical Research and Observation in South-Eastern Europe and Ukraine” supported by UNESCO-ROSTE, is presented by I. Nechifor. Then the projects proposed to UNESCO-ROSTE for financial support and positively evaluated were presented as follows:

K. Panov: *State-of-the-art of the project: The Rozhen Astronomical Observatory – Major Facility for SEE and Proposals for the future activity of the Committee;*

G. Pinigin: *Resolution Adopted at the Conference “Research of Artificial and Natural NEOs and Other Solar System Bodies with CCD Ground-Based Telescopes” (Nikolaev, Ukraine, 17-20 May 2004) and Proposals for the future activity of the Committee;*

A. Kazantsev: *State-of-the-art of the project “The System of Three Small Telescopes for Synchronized Positional and Photometric BVR Observations of NEAs (Near Earth Asteroids) and Unusual Asteroids” and Proposals for the future activity of the Committee;*

S. Bolotin: *Major facilities of the Main Astronomical Observatory of Kiev, realized in the framework of the UNESCO-ROSTE project for SEE and Ukraine*

The discussion was very lively (interventions from A.Boksenberg, H. Moore, M. E. Özel, M. Stavinschi, K. Panov, O. Demircan, D. Lupishko, M. Birlan). Many aspects were tackled, as, for instance:

- 👉 cooperation in astronomy as an example for other sciences;
- 👉 broadening experience in astronomy;
- 👉 education and training in astronomy;
- 👉 state-of-art of the ground-based astrometry;
- 👉 access to medium/large facilities;
- 👉 involvement of engineering in astronomical research;
- 👉 role of the small telescopes;

The climax of the discussion is the intervention of H. Moore, concerning the intention of the setup of a basic sciences programme, based on networking with the existing centres, with a special accent on sub-regional cooperation.

**Second part** (24 October 2004; chair H. Moore)

### **1. Discussion on the Statutes of SREAC**

There were many participants, many interventions, and many modifications of the draft. Almost all participants suggested changes intended to clarify the draft and to specify the role of SREAC and of its members.

Most interventions dealt with the representatives and their substitutes. The nomination was left to the National Astronomical Societies or to the National Astronomical Committees.

### **2. Discussion of the Strategic Plan for further cooperation**

- 👉 K. Panov insists for the realistic project: “The Rozhen Astronomical Observatory – Major Facility for SEE”;
- 👉 G. Pinigin insists for the Russia-Turkey-Ukraine “GAIA Follow-Up” programme;
- 👉 M. E. Özel insists for the inclusion of the meteoritics in the Strategic Plan;
- 👉 M. Stavinschi presents the Romanian proposal: “Small Bodies of the Solar System” (SBSS), and asks for an opportunity to submit one large project offer or two smaller project offers (one of them being funded from other sources);
- 👉 All participants agree that an international training event in 2005 is necessary. This remains at the latitude of SREAC. A summer school will be organized in 2005 in Turkey or Bulgaria. The topic of the school will be decided by SREAC. Every member of the SREAC will search for national financing in the corresponding country.
- 👉 As M. Stavinschi proposed, the joint project will have a web portal.

### **3. Election of the new Chair and Secretary of SREAC**

By consensus, the results of elections were:

- 👉 Chair: M. Stavinschi;
- 👉 Secretary: G. Pinigin.

They will act until 31 December 2005, and can be re-elected only after rotating all countries and their representatives.