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## EDITORIAL

# The Federation of European Protistological Societies

In an editorial published in a special issue of the European Journal of Protistology containing papers from the Fourth European Congress of Protistology in 2003 (vol. 39, p. 337), I reported on the agreement reached at the Congress that a Federation of European Societies of Protistology should be formed, largely to prepare for the next European Congress to be held in St. Petersburg in 2007. This Federation has now been established, as outlined in the Founding Constitution reproduced below. Groups from the following countries have indicated their intention to join the Federation: Czech Republic, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Russia, Scandinavia, Spain and the United Kingdom; others are known to be interested but have not yet formally responded. We wish the Federation every success in its efforts to further the development of Protistology in Europe. Readers of this Journal will recall that in my editorial in 2003 I reported on the support that could be available from this Journal. With the welcome given by many European Protistological groups to the establishment of the Federation, it is hoped that negotiations about the form of this support can be carried forward.

## Founding constitution

The Federation of European Protistological Societies (FEPS) is established as a non-profit association of national and cross-national European Societies of Protistology and less formal national groups of Protistology to promote research and education in the whole

field of protistology, to stimulate and expand collaborations between groups from different European countries and to support young protistologists. Special emphasis will be put upon the support of European Congresses of Protistology. Further, European conferences and workshops on special topics of protistology shall be supported. The FEPS has no property.

National protistological societies may declare membership to the FEPS by signature of their presidents on a separate document that is then added to this founding constitution. Declarations are accepted and kept by the Secretary General of the FEPS. The federation is open to the protistological societies of all European countries.

FEPS is governed by the FEPS council that is formed by delegates of the member societies. Delegates are the presidents of the national societies or their representatives. The FEPS council meets at the European Congresses of Protistology. A Secretary General is elected for the administration and coordinative work of the federation. The Secretary General is to be elected for 4 years at the European Congresses of Protistology by the FEPS council; re-election is possible.

Prof. Dr. Klaus Hausmann, FU-Berlin, shall act as the first Secretary General until the FEPS council meets at the European Congress of Protistology in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2007. At this congress the first election of a Secretary General shall take place.

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