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EDITORIAL

Science in Europe

Two great issues confront science in Europe today: the gradual evolution of science policy within the European Community and the gradual disintegration of the science base in central and eastern Europe. In this issue, we overview the current state of these affairs and other frontiers of science in Europe. These are matters that have aroused much curiosity and concern, both inside and outside Europe, and *Science* will continue to monitor and report on them.

Recently, there have been two significant developments in the internationalization of this journal, developments that will allow *Science* to describe and comment on science in Europe with a new authority. First, the Europe Office opened earlier this year, and second, the Board of Reviewing Editors was expanded, with 14 of the 15 new editors coming from Europe. It might be asked why now, with international telecommunications technology developing rapidly and becoming cheaper, has *Science* decided to open an office in Europe, and what services can subscribers and contributors expect the office to provide?

European scientists are preeminent in many areas of science and scientists in all countries are increasingly engaged in international collaborations at all levels. Furthermore, *Science* has always had contributions from outside the United States. The number of manuscripts submitted from European laboratories is steadily increasing, and we hope and expect it to increase even more. These factors make an office in Europe desirable, if not mandatory. For authors, there is the obvious advantage of an office keeping European hours, where inquiries regarding the progress of a manuscript can be handled by in-house editors in a timely manner. The presence of editorial staff who are aware of, and sympathetic to, scientists communicating their work in a foreign language is another important feature. And the presence of Europe-based editors will inevitably lead to increases in the number of European scientists involved in the peer-review process. It must be emphasized, however, that our aim is internationalization, not Europeanization. A parallel review system in Europe is not being developed. Rather, procedures for handling manuscripts are truly integrated, so that authors can send manuscripts to either the U.S. or Europe Office. All manuscripts are sent to the most appropriate reviewing editor, whether in Europe, the United States, Asia, or elsewhere, and here modern telecommunications do come into their own. Similarly, manuscripts will be sent to the most appropriate referees for in-depth review, regardless of the nationality of the authors or reviewers.

The functions of the Board of Reviewing Editors have been described in a previous editorial [*Science* 227, 249 (1985)]. The addition of European scientists to the board adds complexity to our in-house procedures but the motive—a quick review by recognized experts to evaluate on the probability of acceptance, followed by an in-depth peer review if the first appraisal is positive—remains the same. The advantage to the author is that he or she gets the manuscript back quickly for submission elsewhere if the likelihood of acceptance is low, and he or she knows that it has a 50 percent probability of being published if the manuscript is sent out for in-depth review.

The Europe Office also expands *Science's* news coverage. The existing reporting team has been joined by a News Editor who is setting up a network of contributors across the continent to provide an unrivaled coverage of science news. As with the peer-reviewed research pages, additional news pages have been allocated so that the new material will not require a decrease in coverage of science in the United States.

Scientific exploration has always been an international pursuit, with friendships, collaborations, and rivalries being generated by scientists pursuing a common goal. The intellectual frontiers are continuously expanding, require no territorial conquest, and gain greatly from international cooperation. With the opening of the Europe Office, we apply the same logic to science publishing: The increased involvement of leading European scientists can only enhance our peer review, news gathering, and article solicitation activities, to the benefit of scientists everywhere. Opening an office in Europe is a major step, but by no means a final one, in the internationalization of *Science*. For the same reasons—scientific preeminence, expanding global scientific exchange, global coverage of science, and service to authors—we have made the opening of an editorial office in Asia a priority.

Richard B. Gallagher