



## European Mineralogical Union



P. Ulmer, President

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, PAST PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY

It is with great pleasure that we accept the invitation of the scientific editors and of the Executive Committee of *Elements* for EMU to become one of the societies involved in this exciting new publication. This magazine is already having considerable impact on the Earth and environmental sciences, particularly in highlighting the central role that mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology play in the development of those broader disciplines.

As further explained below, the European Mineralogical Union (EMU) is an agglomeration of European mineralogical societies, which through its Council and Executive Committee can speak for a large constituency made up of national mineral sciences communities ranging from relatively big to very small. The EMU is also active in promoting the science through its involvement in the organisation of conferences, short courses (or "schools") and related publications, and through journal publication. Our involvement in *Elements* is a great opportunity for us to increase the awareness of the international scientific community in the activities of EMU, and to ensure that our member societies can play a role in this exciting new venture. We are sure that *Elements* will go from strength to strength and look forward to participating in its future.

Peter Ulmer, President  
David Vaughan, Past President  
Herta Effenberger, Secretary

### THE EUROPEAN MINERALOGICAL UNION

The European Mineralogical Union (EMU) was founded in 1987. Its objective is to further European cooperation in the mineralogical sciences (mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry, and their applications). The members of EMU are the national scientific (mineralogical) societies representing mineral scientists from most European countries. At present there are 24 countries represented by their national societies.

#### IMA: MOVING FORWARD (cont'd from p. 242)

Previously formed working groups, with a structure broadly similar to that of commissions, comprise delegates proposed by the national mineralogical societies and who may not be deeply involved with the scientific development of the working group to which they belong. As an indication of the past low rate of evolution of the IMA structure, none of the IMA working groups was ever transformed into a commission, a process that should normally occur after a few years in the case of an active working group. Some working groups are twenty years old! The efficiency of the two working

group structures will be compared during the next general meeting in Kobe. On the other hand, the Constitution sometimes fails to accommodate some desirable changes. For example, the CNMMN and the CCM (Commission on Classification of Minerals) have planned to merge and have voted to do so, but nothing in the Constitution covers the merging of two commissions. A solution will nevertheless be found and proposed in Kobe. One of them could involve the dissolution of CCM and a corresponding modification of the CNMMN.

The basic principles formulated in the fifties for the creation of the IMA are still valid.

Since that time there have been revolutions in the Earth sciences, with the appearance of new disciplines that contribute greatly to the understanding of our planetary system. However, there is no doubt regarding mineralogy's future, considering its impact on so many aspects of society. To face the future with confidence, a strategic vision plan has to be defined for the IMA. The next general meeting in Kobe (July 23–28) will be the right place to formulate new directions and goals and to provide road maps for the different commissions and working groups.

Maryse Ohnenstetter  
Secretary of IMA

### Member Countries of the EMU (2005)

Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain and Ireland, Greece, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Ukraine.

There is no individual membership but individual sponsors are welcome.

### Structure and Organisation of EMU

The executive body of EMU is the **Council**, which meets at least once per year. The Council consists of delegates from the member societies. The number of delegates from each society reflects its size. Between Council meetings, the **Executive Committee**, elected for four years, coordinates the work. EMU's main income is from the annual membership fees paid by the national member societies, and these fees are related to the size of the societies.

### The Executive Committee of EMU (2004–2008)

PETER ULMER, Zurich (President)

DAVID J. VAUGHAN, Manchester (Past President)

CHRISTIAN CHOPIN, Paris and PURIFICACIÓN FENOLL HACH-ALI, Granada (Vice Presidents)

MARIA FRANCA BRIGATTI, Modena (Treasurer)

HERTA EFFENBERGER, Vienna (Secretary; herta.silvia.effenberger@univie.ac.at)

### Main activities of EMU

u The EMU is involved in the organisation and sponsorship of certain European scientific conferences, in particular the biennial series of meetings entitled "Experimental Mineralogy, Petrology and Geochemistry" (EMPG).

u The organisation of short courses ("schools") is a major EMU activity and review volumes that accompany these courses are known as the "EMU Notes in Mineralogy."

u The EMU is involved in the publication of the *European Journal of Mineralogy* (EJM). It helps in the appointment of editors and in the monitoring of the journal's performance.

u A medal for "research excellence" aimed at younger European scientists is awarded annually by the Union.

u An online *Directory of European Institutions* active in research in mineralogy, petrology, and geochemistry is maintained by the EMU.

u The EMU also assists libraries in relevant institutions in central and eastern European countries facing financial difficulties by offering free subscription to the EJM.

u Since 1998, the EMU has been affiliated to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) and is thus provided with official status as an international scientific organisation.

Further details of EMU activities will be provided in future issues of *Elements*. Background information is available online at [www.univie.ac.at/Mineralogie/EMU](http://www.univie.ac.at/Mineralogie/EMU)