



# A HISTORY OF ACADEMIA EUROPAEA



## 1987

After several years of informal meetings and soundings, based on an initiative taken by the Royal Society (UK), a group of European scientists and scholars (A. Burgen [UK], J. Canovas [Spain], H. Curien [France], M. Cappelletti [Italy], D. Magnusson [Sweden], B. Flowers [UK], K. Glamann [Denmark], T. Hagerstrand [Sweden], R. van Lieshout [Netherlands], R. Mayntz [Germany], E. Seibold [Germany] and J. Tits [France]) met in London in December and reached agreement on the general structure of a broadly-based European Academy, comprising both the sciences and the humanities. The group also agreed that the academy would be known as 'Academia Europaea' (AE).

## 1988

The above-mentioned group met again in March and decided who should be invited to be Foundation Members. They also made arrangements for a Foundation Meeting, which was held at Pembroke and Downing Colleges, Cambridge on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> September, attended by 52 Foundation Members. One of the important decisions, made at the Foundation Meeting, was that membership would not be restricted to countries of Western Europe, but that Europe would be regarded as the geographic entity, i.e. from the Atlantic to the Urals. The meeting elected the first officers of the Academia: Arnold Burgen became President and Ruud van Lieshout and David Magnusson Vice-Presidents. All this happened on 5<sup>th</sup> September 1988, which is therefore the formal date of the foundation of the Academy. On that same day, the meeting was addressed by Hubert Curien, the French Minister for Research and Technology, who provided his strong support for Academia Europaea. The Foundation Members dined in the Hall of Pembroke College and after dinner heard a recital of music by Ravel and Beethoven by Quatuor Parisii. Academia Europaea was established as a charitable trust in the UK, with its office in London. Dr Craig Sinclair became the first Executive Secretary.



Foundation Members in Cambridge on 5th September 1988. (Front row: Sir Arnold Burgen, 10th from right; Hubert Curien, 8th from right and Marie-Lise Chanin, 7th from right. Middle row: Ole Petersen far right)

# 30 YEARS

## 1989

The first Annual Meeting was held at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in London in June. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office gave a reception at Durbar House, where members were received by the Minister of State, Lord Glenarthur. At this time there were already more than 600 members.

## 1992

At the fourth Annual Meeting in Budapest, the first Erasmus Medal was awarded to János Kornai. Since then, the Erasmus Medal Lecture has been Academia Europaea's annual highlight. The basis of the award is 'lifetime scholarly excellence, achievement and impact'. Later recipients include the Nobel laureates Paul Crutzen (Gent 1997), Harold Kroto (Lisbon 2002), Bert Sakmann (Budapest 2006) and Lord Martin Rees (Cardiff 2016).



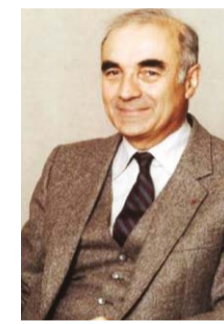
## 1993

The first issue of Academia Europaea's *European Review* was published in January (by Wiley and since 1998 by Cambridge University Press). The ER is an international quarterly, peer-reviewed journal. The first editors were Arnold Burgen and Henk Wesseling. The Academia organised a highly-valued Russian Prize scheme giving awards to young scientists and scholars from the republics of the former Soviet Union. The scheme has helped to promote further support of young scholars within these countries. Professor Vladimir Skulachev played a key role in organising this scheme.



## 1994

Hubert Curien, who was Minister of Research and Technology of France from 1984-1986 and from 1988-1993, became our second President (1994-1997).



## 1995

Mr Peter Colyer was appointed as the second Executive Secretary.

## 1997

The Academia's first three Gold Medals (awarded for the support of European science through inspiration, management expertise or financial means) were presented to the Royal Society, Professor Heinz Riesenhuber (German Science Minister in Helmut Kohl's government from 1982-1993) and Dr George Soros. Stig Strömholm, who was Rector Magnificus (President, Vice-Chancellor) of Uppsala University (the oldest University in the Nordic countries) from 1989-1997, became our third President (1997-2002).



## 1999

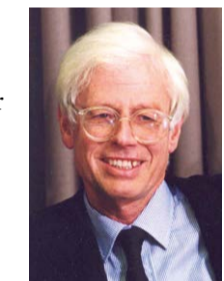
The Burgen Scholarships were established at the Copenhagen Annual Conference, in honour of our Founding President, Sir Arnold Burgen. The Burgen Scholarships provide recognition to younger European scholars, at post-doctoral level, who are emerging talents and possible potential future leaders in their fields.

## 2001

Dr David Coates was appointed as the third Executive Secretary.

## 2002

Professor Jürgen Mittelstraß (Member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences) became our fourth President (2002-2008).



## 2004

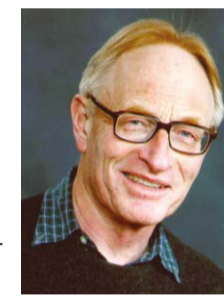
The Expert Group HERCULES (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society) was established. Its mission was to assist and advise the AE Council on issues relevant to research and policy in European institutions of higher education and learning.



President Stig Strömholm with the AE Council (2001). (Front row, left to right: Jerzy Haber, Marie-Lise Chanin, Stig Strömholm and Vice-President Ian Butterworth. Behind the President: Ole Petersen. Behind the Vice-President: Sir Arnold Burgen). Sierd Cloetingh was a member of Council, but not present at this meeting.

## 2008

Professor Lars Walloe (former President of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters) became our fifth President (2008-2014).



## 2010

The Graz Information Centre was founded. The establishment of the Centre was made possible by a joint agreement between Academia Europaea and Graz University of Technology. The AE was reconstituted as a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

## 2011

Academia Europaea opened its first regional knowledge hub in Wrocław, in co-operation with the City of Wrocław and its Mayor, Rafal Dutkiewicz.



## 2012

The Young Academy of Europe was established as an independent association of young scientists (initially, all ERC grant holders). The YAE is formally affiliated with the Academia Europaea, with mutual representations at Board meetings.



## 2013

The Barcelona Knowledge Hub was established through a joint agreement between the Academia Europaea and three partners in Catalonia: the Autonomous Government of Catalonia, Barcelona City Council, and the Fundació Interbancària "la Caixa". The Hub is located at the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC). Professor Andreu Mas-Colell MAE, who was Minister of Economy and Knowledge in the Catalan Government from 2010-2016 and gave the Erasmus Lecture at the 2017 Annual Meeting in Budapest, played a crucial role in the establishment of the Barcelona hub.



The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Meeting was held in Wrocław, with plenary lectures from the Nobel laureates Robert Huber and Bert Sakmann.



## 2014

Professor Sierd Cloetingh (at that time Vice-President of the European Research Council and later President of COST) became our sixth President. He announced in his 2014 Christmas newsletter to the membership that, following the recommendations from a Working Group he had appointed (Anne Buttmer, Donald Dingwell, Svend Erik Larsen, Ole Petersen [Chair] and Gispert Wüstholtz with David Coates as secretary), the Board had decided on a major restructuring of the Academy. Up to that point in time, AE had 20 sections covering the sciences and humanities. Each of the 20 sections made recommendations in their fields about elections to membership of the Academy, which went to the Nominations Committee. This committee then decided on and presented the final selection of candidates to Council for approval. The Working Group recommended abolishing the Nominations Committee and grouping the sections into 4 classes, Humanities and Arts, Social and Related Sciences, Exact Sciences and Life Sciences. Each Class would have a Class Committee, consisting of its Section Chairs and would be chaired by a Vice-President. The inaugural Class Chairs were Svend Erik Larsen, Anne Buttmer (1938-2017), Donald Dingwell and Ole Petersen. The decisions concerning election to membership were essentially devolved to the 4 classes, who would present their election lists to the Board and Council for approval. This remains the current structure of the Academia.

The Bergen Knowledge Hub was established through a joint agreement between the Academia Europaea and four regional partners: Hordaland County Council, City of Bergen, University of Bergen and the Norwegian School of Economics.

# 30 YEARS

## 2015

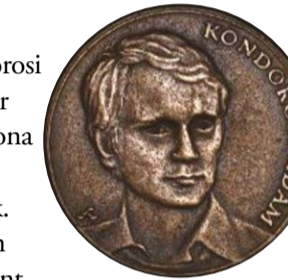
The Hubert Curien Fund was set up in honour of the second President of the Academia Europaea. It provides small grants to members for international, interdisciplinary and transboundary activities.

Our headquarters in London moved to its present location at the University of London's Senate House.



## 2016

The Adam Kondorosi Prize was awarded for the first time to Simona Radutoiu of Aarhus University, Denmark. The award, named in honour of the eminent plant scientist Adam Kondorosi, provides recognition to a young emerging scholar in the field of plant biology, especially nitrogen fixation biology and microbiology. In alternate years there is a senior prize, awarded to an outstanding, established researcher in plant molecular sciences.



Panel discussion at AE's 2016 Annual Meeting in Cardiff. (From left: Sierd Cloetingh, Colin Riordan, Sir John Skehel, Günter Stock and Sir Mark Walport)

Following a Collaboration Agreement between Academia Europaea and Cardiff University, signed by Sierd Cloetingh and Vice-Chancellor Colin Riordan in 2015, the Cardiff Knowledge Hub opened in Cardiff. The official launch took place during the 2016 Annual Meeting in Cardiff.

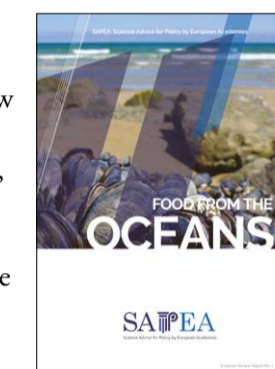
Academia Europaea became part of the SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) consortium, within the European Commission's Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM). The Cardiff Hub became the major organiser of the Academy's work for SAPEA.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 737432.



## 2017

The very first SAPEA Evidence Review Report, *Food from the Oceans*, which was led by Academia Europaea via the Cardiff Hub, was published at the end of the year. The substantial report (154 pages) was formally handed over to the European Commission, together with the Scientific Opinion produced, on the basis of the SAPEA report, by the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Ole Petersen represented SAPEA in the Commission's Co-ordination Group and Cardiff Hub Manager Louise Edwards chaired the SAPEA Staff Team. A number of public outreach events disseminating information about the report and allowing discussion of its content were held in a number of European locations, including Cardiff, Bergen, Hamburg and Sofia.



Handover of the *Food from the Oceans* report to Commissioners Vella and Moedas (Vella front row, 3rd from left; Moedas front row, second from right). The Chair of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, Rolf-Dieter Heuer MAE, is seen standing between the two Commissioners. The two SAPEA Working Group Chairs selected by AE were Dag Aksnes MAE (back row, second from left) and Poul Holm MAE (front row, far left). The SAPEA Board Chair, Günter Stock MAE, is far right. Sierd Cloetingh is in the back row (far right).



## 2018

Academia Europaea becomes the Lead Academy for the SAPEA project *Making sense of science under conditions of complexity and uncertainty*. Pearl Dykstra MAE is the lead for the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors and Ole Petersen is the lead for SAPEA and Academia Europaea. Louise Edwards is Chair of the SAPEA Staff Team. Professor Orrwin Renn is Chair of the Working Group. Working Group Meetings are held in Berlin in September, October and December. Academia Europaea celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at a special event held at the Royal Society in London in September and then again at its 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Barcelona in November. Two Gold Medals are presented: in London to Rober-Jan Smits (EC Open Access Envoy and former Director-General of the Research & Innovation Directorate) and in Barcelona to the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, represented by its President Jörg Hacker MAE. At the London meeting the first outreach activity takes place for the SAPEA project *Making sense of science*, with a panel including Orrwin Renn, Nicole Grobert MAE (Member of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors) and Johannes Klumpers (Head of the SAM Unit in Brussels), chaired by Sierd Cloetingh. Sierd Cloetingh becomes Chair of the SAPEA Board from 1<sup>st</sup> December.



Pearl Dykstra and Ole Petersen discussing SAPEA evidence review reports at an event in Sofia in 2018