

WELCOME ADDRESS AND PERSONAL COMMENTS

from Franco Bradamante

Dear participants,

thanks for coming to this special edition of the ECSAC Conferences, on the occasion of the centennial of the birth of Paolo Budinich. It is dedicated to SESAME (the Synchrotron-light for Experimental Science and Application in the Middle East), which is under construction in Allan, Jordan, and is about to start operating. In line with the ideals which led to the creation of the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) in Trieste, namely promoting basic science in the developing countries, the establishment of an international laboratory based on a synchrotron light source in the Middle East was proposed by Abdus Salam already in the 90's and well supported by the international community.

The scope of the Conference is therefore three-fold: to remind and honor Paolo Budinich, to review the scientific Institutions in Trieste which owe to him their existence and to assess the status of SESAME and its integration in the network of similar facilities .

We hoped to have with us Mrs Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, the President of the Republic of Croatia, but on Saturday we were informed she had to be elsewhere to-day. She is not the only one who could not come. Many colleagues had agreed to come, but eventually did not make it. In particular I'd like to mention Mrs. Irina Bokova, the General Director of UNESCO, Manuel Braico, Stefano Casaleggi, Mohamed Hassan, Hafeez Hoorani, Serena Mizzan, Vito Mocella, Giusto Sciarabba and Hermann Winick. Also, three of the organizers, Gian Carlo Ghirardi, Joe Niemela and Claudio Tuniz could not come.

Let me tell you two words on the ECSAC initiative and why we are here, and on my personal involvement with Paolo Budinich.

In 2001 Paolo was 85. Still working as hard as always. It was so long after his retirement we in Trieste did not even remember well what we had done to honor him on that occasion! For this reason G. Furlan and myself decided to have a nice Conference on all the subjects he loved, in his honor.

You all know G. Furlan. And you all probably know that he passed away last month, after a long and terrible illness. G. Furlan was his best student. Strictly speaking, I was not a student of Paolo's, since I did not do PhD work under his guidance, but I admired him very much. He taught the course of theoretical physics for senior students of physics at the University of Trieste. I took the course in the academic year 1962-1963. He was not the best teacher you can possibly dream of, clearly he had other things in mind when he was lecturing. Remember that the idea of ICTP was born in 1960 and the Center was founded in 1964, thus in the winter of '63 Paolo was just in the middle of the process of making a dream become a reality. But I enjoyed the subject (Quantum Mechanics) and wanted to ask him for a thesis. In the spring of 1963 however I happened to meet another physicist, who was playing a different music. He talked to me about a new laboratory, he told me about new particles,

about proton-synchrotrons, about CERN-BNL competition....and I ended up spending all my life at CERN as an experimentalist.

Always keeping good relationships with Paolo. In particular later on, as Director of the Physics Dept., or as Director of the Physics Consortium, I tried to do at least a few of the many things he would ask me.

Anyway, whatever the reason, it was Pino Furlan and me, on behalf of the Physics Consortium, to propose to Paolo an international Conference in his honour.

He did not want. Eventually he accepted on the ground that

- it would have taken place in Losinj, his native place
- it would have been the seed to the creation of a center, a European Center for Science, Art and Culture: ECSAC

Since 2001 the Physics consortium has kept on organizing high level conferences in Losinj. In 2007 ECSAC was formally established and has continued the series, although the Center is not yet on the real axis, mainly because a clear and strong wish to have it is still missing from our colleagues from Croatia and from the municipality of Losinj.

More on ECSAC will be communicated on Friday morning by Silvio Pallua, and a discussion will follow to evaluate which future actions to take.

Two words on the program:

Allocated times always include the discussion time: 50' means 40' + 10' for questions and comments. Chairpersons are obviously invited to force speakers to stay within their allocated time.

The visit to the Apoxyomenos in Malj Losinj is offered by the Losinj municipality, and we want to thank the mayor for that

The excursion on the boat has a question mark due to possible non-availability of the boat. Stay tuned, and, most important,

ENJOY THE CONFERENCE