

Marie Curie Fellows Association



Letter to Members

September-October 2008

Dear MCFA Member,

Welcome to a new issue of the Letter to members with news concerning our Association!

The MCFA board

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Life of the Association

General Assembly in Potsdam!

The annual General Assembly of MCFA will be held in Potsdam on **15 November**, from 10:00 to 16:00.

The programme and more details will be available soon. Please check this webpage and the dedicated thread in our Discussion Forum: <http://www.mariecurie.org/cgi-bin/discus/show.cgi?58/62628> (available only for

MCFA members).

All MCFA members are welcome to this meeting! Your presence will allow you to meet us and learn more about the functioning of our Association, will help meet the quorum, and will maybe give you ideas about how to get involved!

If you have any questions about the General Assembly, please write to office@mariecurie.org.

Changes to the statutes

At the General Assembly, there will be a vote on changes to the statutes proposed by the Board. Please have a look at them in the appendix of this Letter! The first proposed change is made necessary by the evolution of the EU research funding schemes. The second (independent) proposal is to include represented members in the ordinary General Assembly quorum (currently 50 members or 50% of members, whichever is lower, should be physically present; this quorum is rarely met in practice).

Eric Buchlin

Become part of the MCFA administrative board!

MCFA has gathered an enthusiastic and active team, but it is obvious that we need more “hands” to have the association running smoothly and to realize more interesting projects. Every Full Member of the MCFA is encouraged to file their candidacy for the Board. If you are able to devote 3-4 hours a week to MCFA, it is a great opportunity for you to get involved in administration, science policy, gain invaluable experience in management and organizational activities at the international level.

To suggest your candidacy please write a short note about yourself in this dedicated area of our Discussion Forum: <http://www.mariecurie.org/cgi-bin/discuss/show.cgi?58/62628>. Alternatively, you can send a short note to office@mariecurie.org. You can also use this e-mail address for any questions you may have about the work in the Administrative Board. The deadline for applications is 1st November 2008.

MCFA in Nature

Last month, I was interviewed as MCFA Secretary General for an article about postdoctoral organizations in Europe that appeared in the recent issue of Nature: “Strength in bonding”, Nature, vol. 455, No. 7211, p. 426-428, <http://www.nature.com/naturejobs/2008/080918/full/nj7211-426a.html>.

This publication will give us some additional exposure as it briefly describes some of our activities. It is also very important that Nature mentioned the problems with the taxation of the supplementary allowances! Hopefully, it will attract more attention to this problem in the Member States.

I would like to note that MCFA has an ongoing collaboration with NatureJobs, a division of Nature that deals with researchers’ careers, jobs, life-work balance, personal development, etc. This means that NatureJobs can occasionally accept short stories from MCFA for publication in print or online, provided that the topic is fresh and interesting enough (not repeating their older publications), in particular, about mobility, career development, etc. (i.e. from our area of expertise and activities). Therefore, full members of the MCFA can send their suggested stories to office@mariecurie.org. The stories will be reviewed by the Administrative Board and selected contributions will be forwarded to NatureJobs editor.

Yegor Domanov

Fellows' paths

Sylvie Blangy: A Professional "Tourist" experiences Aboriginal Canada

In 2004, when I first heard about the Marie Curie Action program, I was an independent researcher and consultant with nearly a decade of experience in rural tourism and ecotourism. Various ecotourism assignments around the world had brought me into contact with aboriginal communities and the tourism activities in these communities. My interest in learning whether and how these activities contribute to the well being of the communities, assist in preserving their cultures and sustain their natural resources was generated. I became especially interested in identifying models and indicators of successful aboriginal tourism and in the challenges associated with the development of aboriginal tourism opportunities, particularly in remote areas. The Marie Curie program provided me with the hope that I would have an opportunity to pursue these interests on a full time basis, to strengthen my research experience, to develop the necessary international collaborations and to transform my career. I was thus very excited when my application to implement a program of study and research on aboriginal tourism and tourist opportunities in Inuit and Indian communities in Northern Canada, from a base in Ottawa, Canada, was approved.

Well hosted

After a one-week journey by container ship from Rotterdam to Montreal, my husband (Jean-Louis), daughter (Soline) and I arrived in Ottawa in July 2006, and quickly found convenient accommodation. I settled into the Visiting Fellows' office in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, which I shared with Professor Emeritus Ken Torrance, a physical geographer. My scientific advisor, Nancy Doubleday, with her background of many years of experience in scientific, social, political, cultural and development issues in Northern Canada and the broader circumpolar North, provided me with a very stimulating environment. She has worked on health and sustainability is-

ues, and on the consequences of economic, social and environmental changes in Arctic Canada. When I arrived, she was interested in adding an ecotourism component to her International Polar Year research program. Canada, in general, and Northern Canada, in particular, provides a living laboratory for the development and study of aboriginal tourism.

I was warmly welcomed by the Department members: a team of talented academics with strong expertise in participatory research, mapping, collaborative enquiry, GIS, geomatics, qualitative and quantitative aspects of human and physical geography, and with a strong focus on Northern Canada. Like Carleton University as a whole, the Department puts a strong emphasis on international collaborations and research programs. The Department is a research-intensive unit that promotes the coupling of social and environmental research at a variety of scales.

Serendipity helps!

During the first year, I benefited from the stimulating environment provided by the university campus. I improved my knowledge and developed new technical and research skills by attending courses on geographic information systems, statistics, and participatory research methodologies. I attended off-campus workshops on social analysis systems (SAS², <http://www.sas2.net/>) and participated in several conferences. I developed fruitful relationship with academic colleagues, including graduate students from the departments of my host Institution and other universities. I was fortunate to benefit from several serendipitous events. For example, during a family camping trip to Bear Island in Northern Ontario, just eight months after our arrival, we unexpectedly met an aboriginal tourist operator. In the process of introducing ourselves, we learned that she was the President of the Aboriginal Tourism Association of Ontario. The outcome was that she invited me to give a talk at the Annual Conference of Aboriginal Tourism in Ontario on the next weekend. From contacts made at this conference, I have developed a research project at Moose Factory located on the Ontario shores of James Bay. Serendipity was similarly an important aspect of the development of research

projects with Cree communities on the eastern shores of James Bay in Quebec, and with the Inuit of Baker Lake in Nunavut. Along with these close ties and formal agreements with communities, I also am working with the Ontario and Québec aboriginal tourism associations.

Working in partnership

Research on aboriginal issues has been performed in Canada for several decades. It began with research being generated and done by outsiders without any formal control, and then proceeded through stages of control, first from outside and then by the northern governing bodies to the present situation of local community involvement. As communities have realized that they are facing major environmental, economic and social challenges and changes, they have become interested in ways of engaging communities in project development. Collaborative research methodologies that facilitate enquiry and explore scenarios of change are needed. The Carleton connection came through again as a colleague in Anthropology at Carleton, Jacques Chevalier, had already compiled concepts and tools for collaborative enquiry and social engagement into an approach named Social Analysis Systems (SAS). Our interests meshed because Jacques was interested in testing and adapting the SAS tools to Aboriginal contexts and I was looking at ways to develop tool kits for community members.

Research adapted to the needs

The energy and time which are necessary to build trust and collaborative agreements with individual aboriginal communities initially surprised me. Why this is so became clear when I learned that some communities have been over-researched through the years and have not received the tangible benefits that they should legitimately expect. Ownership of the research projects is now requested by the communities and their members. I have tried my best when approaching the communities and tourism associations to assure them that my expertise in ecotourism will be shared in exchange for being able to undertake research on the communities in cooperation with the communities. Moreover, I have stressed that my research is mainly focus-

ing on exploration of the processes of engaging people in community development. To ensure that both parties are benefiting from the collaboration, the research explores new ways of doing research together, through learning how to collect, analyze and interpret data, co-author papers, and design research projects on issues that are meaningful and useful to them. The revitalization of their languages and cultures, the definition of scenarios of change, the monitoring of environmental impacts, are all at the forefront of the search for a form of tourism based on culture and biodiversity.

Collaborative research on line and web based technologies

Thanks to collaboration with Olivier Pessin, a computer scientist based in Paris, I have been able to expand the scope of my research program beyond what was initially planned. The idea was to use the 183 case studies from a guide book on Indigenous tourism I had produced before my departure to Canada and to explore the possibilities of promoting collaborative research among the communities on line and at a larger scale. "Le Guide" combines classical information about booking accommodation and making travel arrangements with narratives from each of the ecotourism communities and cultural descriptions suitable for both researchers and tourists alike. In order to connect the communities represented in the guidebook so that they could exchange information and lessons that have been learned and to facilitate their promotion as tourist destinations, the website <http://www.aboriginal-ecotourism.org/> was created. It is based on a Content Management Systems such as SPIP (<http://www.spip.net/>) as the core engine. A range of integrated technologies have been implemented which include: a Google Maps™, a web-based survey and an integrated forum for discussions. These produce a dynamic statistical database that can be used to assess trends amongst communities. The research is collaborative because once the individual community authors of the case studies have filled in their survey, they are able to access the results and they are encouraged to comment on the research findings as they become available on line. The local community operators are acting as collaborative researchers and collectively form a re-

search unit. The contributions they have written in a narrative format provide qualitative information which is analyzed through Atlas.ti software. Other Web 2.0 functionalities are being explored for expanding the potential of conducting participatory research on line.

Search for research funds; building a network of aboriginal and academic researchers

It rapidly became obvious that the available Marie Curie research budget (9000 Euros per year) was insufficient to cover the costs of undertaking research in Northern Canada. The cost of traveling to and within the North and living in Northern remote places are very high and do discourage many researchers. In order to continue the research partnerships I had initiated, I had to spend a considerable amount of time and effort writing funding proposals. Though I have not been able to rise as much funding as hoped, submitting proposals have been very beneficial to me. It is part of the research process and learning experience and it is a way to built partnerships and initiate a network of aboriginal and academic researchers in Canada. The initial outcome of this collaboration is the invitation to be the co-editor of a special issue on Aboriginal Tourism of the Journal of Ecotourism, in collaboration with Raynald Lemelin from Lakehead University. Besides, I was granted funds from the French Polar Research Institute, IPEV (<http://www.institut-polaire.fr>) to dedicate to a comparative analysis between Sami and Inuit communities. This grant will enable further collaboration with my counterpart Nancy Doubleday and the continuation of other collaborations in Canada.

Researchers in North America rely essentially on national research councils, such as SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, <http://sshrcc.ca/>) and NSF (National Science Foundation: <http://www.nsf.gov/>), to support their research projects. Competition is very tough and it is necessary to learn how to tap into other sources of funding including Government Departments (national and provincial level) and to obtain support from business and commercial sources.

A family project

An extended period of time abroad may negatively impact the career of the partner and the family as a whole. In most countries, spouses of Fellows are not allowed to work. I had been in such a situation in the USA during the 1990-92 period when my husband was awarded a 2 year fellowship from NSF and the Chapman Foundation at the AMNH (American Museum of Natural History).

Fortunately, this time, we could carefully prepare this venture as a family project. We all entered Canada with a working or studying visa and a personal interest in spending time here. Jean-Louis, my husband is a CNRS researcher in ecology and he had developed collaborations for over 18 years in Canada; this was an excellent opportunity for him to strengthen and expand relationship with several agencies and laboratories in Ottawa and Québec. My daughter Soline, 15 after spending her youth in an Occitan immersion school, was excited about the idea of becoming fluent in English and experiencing the Canadian school system. She is now thriving as a Grade 10 student and has developed new talents including skills brought by the outdoor education club.

A welcoming country

Canada has been a very welcoming country for the whole family. It is an excellent place to do research. Most of the Universities have excellent research records and academics are encouraged to expand their research career into cutting-edge fields. I have found all my Canadian research colleagues incredibly productive and stimulating. With a status of visiting scientists, Jean-Louis and I were both issued visas rapidly and Soline enrolled in a public school without paying any fees.

Canada has a lot to offer in terms of wilderness and outdoor activities. In Ottawa, the Rideau Canal becomes the world's largest skating rink every winter. The Gatineau Park, located 20 mn north of Ottawa, provides the largest groomed ski trail network in Canada. Once the snow has gone, rivers, lakes and canals become the playground for canoeist and kayakers. Purchasing a Canadian canoe was our first investment upon our arrival, even before a car.

Back to Europe; the future career

My reintegration phase will begin in August 2008 and will include the search for a suitable academic/research position. Unlike most Marie Curie Fellows who have a permanent position at a university or in a research institution to return to, I have the task of finding a new position in order to integrate myself into the academic and research system. One year as a Marie Curie Fellow may be adequate for established researchers who return to a permanent position pursuing their long term research interests; it is too short for a researcher who is initiating a new research focus or (as in my personal case) is coming from the private sector. From the perspective of 18 months as a Fellow, two years in the host country is probably the minimum amount of time which is required for acquiring the necessary skills, initiating partnerships, initiating and implementing a research project, improving skills related to new technologies (the Web), new tools (SAS) and disseminating findings in academic journals.

I have hugely benefited from the collabora-

tions developed in Canada and from the many academic and non-academic experiences. This stay will have a huge impact on my future scientific career. Several collaborations are already well established and others will be strengthened through on-going research projects. Several manuscripts are being submitted for publication. The IPEV funded research project will help in connecting Sami and Inuit communities through scenarios of changes and issues of sustainability. Funding initiatives from IPY and SSHRC Canada are expected to encourage more scientific collaborations between Northern Canada and Northern Europe. Personally, I will return to my home country, France, with new ideas, tools, and technologies that I will share with my French colleagues and teach to students. Academic exchange programs for professors and students are being explored between Carleton and Montpellier University through a Canada/Europe education program.

*Sylvie Blangy and Ken Torrance,
Carleton University, Department of
Geography and Environmental Studies*

News in Brief

From Science Careers

Please read these articles and others at <http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/> or click on the titles below (if you are reading the electronic version of this Letter to Members):

A European Career Tour, From Research to Research Management

Former MCFA Chair Antonella di Trapani tells about her work as a scientist and then as a research manager at ESF.

Mind Matters: Getting Out of a Rut

Even those who embark on their careers with passion, creativity, and idealism get into a rhythm that soon becomes routine.

Transferring Skills to Tech Transfer

Science Ph.D.s who go into technology transfer need a serious grounding in both bench science and business development. They also need to be able to communicate successfully with both communities, which have very different priorities.

Funding and networking opportunities

Marie Curie actions calendar for 2008–2009

- 2008 October 9th: call for the Reintegration Grants — both European and International, opens
- 2008 October 14th: call for the 2009 NIGHT, opens
- 2008 November 19th: call for COFUND of regional, national and international fellowship programmes, opens
- 2008 November 25th: call for IRSES, the exchange of research staff scheme, opens
- 2009 January 14th: the 2009 NIGHT call closes
- 2009 January 22nd: EURAXESS Service network call, opens
- 2009 February 19th: COFUND call closes
- 2009 March 18th: the call for the individual fellowships opens — for the International Incoming, the Intra-European and the International Outgoing schemes, all three simultaneously.
- 2009 March 27: The IRSES call closes
- 2009 April 2nd: The Re-integration grants schemes have their first cut-off date for evaluations
- 2009 April 22nd: the Euraxess network call closes
- 2009 April 24th: the Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathway (IAPP) call opens
- 2009 July 27th: the IAPP call closes
- 2009 August 18th: The three schemes of the Individual fellowship actions close — the International Incoming, the Intra-European and the International Outgoing schemes — all three simultaneously.
- 2009 October 9th: the second cut off date for both of the Re-integration schemes, for evaluation of proposals submitted since the previous cut off date.

Past meetings with MCFA participation

Researchers' night in Catania

On the 26th of September the European Researchers' Night took place in several European countries. This event has been launched since 2005 under the "Researchers in Europe" initiative in order to bring scientific researchers closer to the public.

The underlying idea is to give the public the opportunity to meet researchers and discover their "magic world" within the context of festive and fun activities and to highlight the appeal of pursuing a research career.

I could follow the event in Catania (Italy). As in the other cities involved in the initiative, plenty of activities were planned to let people get in contact with different areas of scientific research. They ranged from "Science and art" to "Human Brain and Artificial Intelligence" to "Be

a scientist tonight"! Among others, it was possible to learn how the seismic phenomena are studied as well as to take part in workgroups designing the city seaport. Young people were also involved in a funny treasure hunt and in a couple of competitions: "Draw a researcher at work" and "Take a photo of a researcher". I can tell you that the majority of children drew a researcher as an anaemic, sad individual wearing thick glasses!!!

During the event, I was interviewed as MCFA Vice-Chair. I could spend some words on my experience as a mobile researcher and on the Association activity. A MCFA poster has been exposed close to "EU corner" during the night. I hope this could help in increasing the visibility of the MCFA and in promoting the value of mobility... which in Italy is still a controversial issue.

Maria Antonietta Buccheri

Upcoming Events

Intellectual Property workshop, Munich, Germany, 17-18 November

Dear Marie Curie Fellow,

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of an important workshop on Intellectual Property Rights and Patenting, which has been designed by the European Patent Academy (an arm of the European Patent Office) in conjunction with the European Commission specifically for researchers who are, or have been, involved in the Marie Curie Actions

The 2-day workshop will be aimed at researchers in European research centres and laboratories, have a practical perspective and aims to be useful to the broadest scientific base.

The workshop will take place on 17-18 November in Munich, Germany. To cover the costs we would like to advise you that a participation fee of about EUR 300 per person will have to be paid to the organisers. The number of places will be strictly limited to 20 and so it is important to register your interests as early as possible.

These costs, plus the cost of travel and accommodation, would be allowable costs under your Marie Curie fellowship scheme if you are a current fellowship holder. You should seek the agree-

ment of your supervisor if you decide to attend of course.

A preliminary programme and some background for the event will be available from the MCFA website, and in case you are interested please send an e-mail to mike.rogers@ec.europa.eu, with the subject line "Seminar AS64-2008 Marie Curie IPR".

Reminder: Marie Curie Networking Event in Dresden, 23 October 2008

As announced in the last Letter to Members, there will be a Marie Curie Networking Event, scheduled for Thursday, 23 October, 18.00 - 20.00, at the IEEE NSS/MIC/RTSD conference in Dresden, 19-25 October 2008. This "Special Event" will be open to all registered participants to the IEEE conference, and all attending Marie Curie Fellows along with a number of senior scientists will be invited. This will also be a good occasion to converse with representatives from the European Commission.

More info: <http://www.nss-mic.org/2008/Public/Events.html>

General programme of the IEEE NSS/MIC/RTSD conference: <http://www.nss-mic.org/2008/>

Please feel free to forward this Letter to Members to your colleagues and friends, even if they are not Marie Curie Fellows!

The MCFA Board

Appendix: Proposed changes to the MCFA statutes

Here are changes to the MCFA statutes, proposed by the Board for voting at the next General Assembly, in Potsdam. Each proposal is independent from the others and will be voted separately. The votes will be valid only if the quorum (50 members or 50% of members, whichever is less, are physically present, and 2/3 of members are present or represented) is met. The issue of the vote will be positive only if 2/3 of the votes are positive.

The official version of the Statutes is French, as the MCFA is legally registered as an international non-profit association in Belgium. We provide English translations in order to allow a better discussion, but they have no legal value. The left column is the current version and the right column is the proposed version. The full Statutes in French and English are available from <http://mcfa.eu/site/public/statutes.php>.

Proposal 1: Take into account evolution of EU funding schemes

Rationale

Marie Curie Fellowships have evolved into the Marie Curie Actions funding schemes of the Framework Programme for Research and Technology. In addition to individual fellowships and networks, other types of fellowships now exist in FP7 (and are likely to exist in future FPs), such as the ERC grants and COFUND schemes. We need to change the Statutes in order not to exclude recipients of fellowships from these schemes.

Proposed changes in French

Article 3: objet

L'Association qui est dénuée de tout esprit de lucre, a pour objet:

a) la contribution à l'avancement de la science et de la technologie en Europe;
b) la création d'une identité claire et visible des bourses Marie Curie;

c) la promotion et l'accroissement de la renommée des boursiers Marie Curie;

d) la promotion de la collaboration entre les membres de l'association pendant et après la période de leur bourse Marie Curie;

e) l'établissement d'une interface structurée entre l'ensemble des boursiers et le milieu de la recherche, y compris l'industrie;

f) le développement et la stimulation de la dimension internationale des bourses Marie Curie;

g) l'encouragement d'un sens d'identité européenne parmi ses membres;

h) l'accroissement de l'appréciation et la compréhension de la science par le public.

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a) la contribution à l'avancement de la science et de la technologie en Europe;
b) la création d'une identité claire et visible des bourses Marie Curie *et autres bourses européennes de recherche et de mobilité*;

c) la promotion et l'accroissement de la renommée des boursiers Marie Curie *et bénéficiaires d'autres bourses européennes de recherche et de mobilité*;

d) la promotion de la collaboration entre les membres de l'association pendant et après la période de leur bourse;

e) l'établissement d'une interface structurée entre l'ensemble des boursiers et le milieu de la recherche, y compris l'industrie;

f) le développement et la stimulation de la dimension internationale des bourses Marie Curie *et autres bourses européennes de recherche et de mobilité*;

g) l'encouragement d'un sens d'identité européenne parmi ses membres;

h) l'accroissement de l'appréciation et la compréhension de la science par le public.

Article 6: Conditions d'admission, droits, démission et exclusion des membres associés**A. Conditions d'admission des membres associés:**

Tout boursier belge ou étranger Marie Curie a le droit de demander de devenir membre associé de l'Association après avoir exprimé le souhait par écrit et après avoir signé la déclaration d'adhésion aux présents statuts. Il doit avoir payé préalablement le montant de la cotisation annuelle fixée par l'assemblée générale, sur proposition du conseil d'administration.

Toute *personne* belge ou étrangère, *qui est ou a été financée au moins à 40% par une bourse de recherche et de mobilité d'un programme-cadre européen pour la recherche et le développement technologique*, a le droit de demander de devenir membre associé de l'Association après avoir exprimé le souhait par écrit et après avoir signé la déclaration d'adhésion aux présents statuts. Elle doit avoir payé préalablement le montant de la cotisation annuelle fixée par l'assemblée générale, sur proposition du conseil d'administration. *La liste des bourses autorisées est décidée par le conseil d'administration.*

B. Droits des membres associés:

Les membres associés reçoivent toutes les informations concernant l'Association et sont invités à participer à ses réunions et activités selon les modalités fixées par le conseil d'administration.

Les membres associés dont la bourse Marie Curie est en cours participent de droit à l'Assemblée Générale, y ont le droit de vote et peuvent être élus comme administrateurs. Les membres associés ayant terminé leur bourse *Marie Curie* n'ont pas de droit de vote dans l'assemblée générale et ne peuvent être élus comme administrateurs.

Les membres associés reçoivent toutes les informations concernant l'Association et sont invités à participer à ses réunions et activités selon les modalités fixées par le conseil d'administration.

Les membres associés dont *la bourse leur ayant donné le droit de devenir membre associé* est en cours participent de droit à l'Assemblée Générale, y ont le droit de vote et peuvent être élus comme administrateurs. Les membres associés ayant terminé leur bourse n'ont pas de droit de vote dans l'assemblée générale et ne peuvent être élus comme administrateurs.

Article 7: Conditions d'admission, droits, démission et exclusion des membres à part entière

Le nombre de membres à part entière ne pourra jamais être inférieur à trois.

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A. Conditions d'admission des membres à part entière:

Tout membre associé ou toute autre personne peut devenir membre à part entière après en avoir exprimé le souhait par écrit et après avoir signé la déclaration d'adhésion aux présents statuts si cette personne:

a) a terminé une bourse Marie Curie d'au moins un an avec succès, ou

b) devient titulaire d'un doctorat suite à une bourse Marie Curie.

Une personne n'ayant pas complété sa bourse Marie Curie ou ayant eu une bourse Marie Curie de moins d'un an peut devenir membre à part entière sur décision du conseil d'administration.

Dans tous les cas, les membres doivent avoir payé préalablement le montant de la cotisation annuelle fixée par l'assemblée générale, sur proposition du conseil d'administration.

Tout membre associé ou toute autre personne peut devenir membre à part entière après en avoir exprimé le souhait par écrit et après avoir signé la déclaration d'adhésion aux présents statuts si cette personne:

a) *a été boursier Marie Curie, ou a été financé au moins à 40% par une bourse de recherche et de mobilité d'un programme-cadre européen pour la recherche et le développement technologique, pendant au moins un an, ou*

b) devient titulaire d'un doctorat *financé par une telle bourse.*

Une personne *qui ne vérifie pas ces conditions mais qui vérifie les conditions pour être membre associé* peut devenir membre à part entière sur décision du conseil d'administration.

Dans tous les cas, les membres doivent avoir payé préalablement le montant de la cotisation annuelle fixée par l'assemblée générale, sur proposition du conseil d'administration.

Proposed changes in English

Article 3: object

The Association, which is totally non-profit-making, sets out to:

- a) help advance science and technology in Europe;
- b) create a clear and visible identity for Marie Curie fellowships;
- c) promote and increase the reputation of Marie Curie fellows;
- d) promote collaboration between members of the Association during and after their fellowship period;
- e) establish a structured interface between fellows and the world of research, including industry;
- f) develop and foster the international dimension of Marie Curie fellowships;
- g) foster a sense of European identity among its members;
- h) increase the appreciation and understanding of science by the general public.

The Association, which is totally non-profit-making, sets out to:

- a) help advance science and technology in Europe;
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- d) promote collaboration between members of the Association during and after their fellowship period;
- e) establish a structured interface between fellows and the world of research, including industry;
- f) develop and foster the international dimension of Marie Curie fellowships *and other European research mobility fellowships*;
- g) foster a sense of European identity among its members;
- h) increase the appreciation and understanding of science by the general public.

Article 6: Conditions of admission, rights, resignation and exclusion of associate members

A. Conditions of admission of associate members:

Any current Belgian or foreign Marie Curie fellow may ask to become an associate member of the Association by so requesting in writing and signing the declaration of acceptance of these articles of association, having first paid the annual subscription set by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Administrative Board.

Any Belgian or foreign *person, being or having been funded at least at 40% by a research mobility fellowship from an European Framework Programme for Research and Technology* may ask to become an associate member of the Association by so requesting in writing and signing the declaration of acceptance of these articles of association, having first paid the annual subscription set by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Administrative Board. *The list of allowed fellowships is decided by the Administrative Board.*

B. Rights of associate members:

Associate members shall receive all information concerning the Association and shall be invited to participate in its meetings and activities in line with the rules laid down by the Administrative Board.

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Associate members who are current Marie Curie fellows can participate as of right in the General Assembly, have the right to vote and can be elected to the Administrative Board. Associate members who have finished their fellowship are not entitled to vote in the General Assembly and cannot be elected to the Board.

Associate members who are current fellows *(for a fellowship that makes them eligible to be an Associate Member)* can participate as of right in the General Assembly, have the right to vote and can be elected to the Administrative Board. Associate members who have finished their fellowship are not entitled to vote in the General Assembly and cannot be elected to the Board.

Article 7: Conditions of admission, rights, resignation and exclusion of full members

The number of full members may never be less than three.

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A. Conditions of admission of full members:

Any associate member or any other person can become a full member by so requesting in writing and signing the declaration of acceptance of these articles of association if this person:

Any associate member or any other person can become a full member by so requesting in writing and signing the declaration of acceptance of these articles of association if this person:

a) has successfully completed a Marie Curie fellowship of at least one year, or

a) *has been a Marie Curie Fellow or has been funded at least at 40% by a research mobility fellowship from the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Technology, for at least one year, or*

b) obtains a doctorate following a Marie Curie Fellowship.

b) obtains a doctorate *funded by such a fellowship.*

Any person not completing a Marie Curie fellowship or having held a Marie Curie fellowship for less than one year can become a full member at the discretion of the board.

Other persons not complying to these conditions but complying with the conditions for being an associate member can become a full member at the discretion of the board.

In all cases, members must have first paid the annual subscription set by the General Assembly on a proposal from the Administrative Board.

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Proposal 2: Include represented members in the quorum of the General Meeting

Rationale

It is unrealistic to expect 50% of MCFA members, who are spread geographically around the world, to be physically present at a General Assembly. This means that the quorum is almost never met in practice, and the association then needs every year to support the hassle and costs of the organization of a second meeting less than two months later. This has become a vicious circle, as members know before registering for the General Assembly that the quorum is likely not to be met.

The proposed change is in order to try to address this problem, without allowing too few people to take decisions for the whole association; one can argue that in this respect the current situation is worse, as it is in practice the second General Assembly, with no quorum, that takes the decisions.

Proposed changes in French**Article 12: Mode de décision**

Il ne peut être statué sur tout objet qui n'est pas porté à l'ordre du jour.

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Les décisions de l'assemblée générale sont prises à la majorité simple des membres ayant le droit de vote présents ou représentés. Dans le cas où le nombre des membres ayant le droit de vote est inférieur ou égal à cent, le nombre de présences doit être de 50 p.c. de la totalité des membres ayant le droit de vote pour que l'assemblée générale puisse statuer valablement. Dans le cas où le nombre des membres ayant

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le droit de vote est supérieur à cent, au moins 50 membres ayant le droit de vote doivent être présents pour que l'assemblée générale puisse statuer valablement. Dans le cas où l'assemblée générale ne réunit pas le quorum, dans les deux mois une nouvelle assemblée avec le même ordre jour sera convoquée dans les mêmes conditions selon les modalités ci-dessus qui statuera définitivement et valablement sur les points mis à l'ordre du jour quel que soit le nombre des membres présents ou valablement représentés.

Les participants à l'assemblée générale peuvent représenter un nombre limité de membres ayant le droit de vote par procuration spéciale. Le conseil d'administration déterminera les règles du vote par procuration.

(...)

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(...)

Proposed changes in English

Article 12: Decisions

Decisions can be given exclusively on items included on the agenda.

The decisions of the General Assembly are taken by a simple majority of the members entitled to vote present or represented. Where the number of members entitled to vote is 100 or less the number present must be 50% of all members entitled to vote for the General Assembly to take valid decisions. Where the number of members entitled to vote is higher than 100, at least 50 members must be present for the General Assembly to take valid decisions. Where the General Assembly does not achieve a quorum a new Assembly with the same agenda shall be convened within two months as above, which shall take definitive decisions on the items on the agenda regardless of the number of members present or represented.

Members present at the General Assembly can hold a limited number of proxies. Procedures, laid down by the Administrative Board, define and implement the details of proxy voting.

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