

On the way to a Federation of (regional) European Simulation Societies

The prehistory of EUROSIM (1979 – 1989)

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Abstract

On EUROSIM's website I found a link to a paper, entitled "A brief history of EUROSIM", written by Richard Zobel; the paper was presented during the opening session at the 6th EUROSIM congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 10, 2007. In the abstract we read: "..... the first stirrings of interest in promoting collaboration between European Simulation Societies probably occurred at the Summer Computer Simulation Conference, SCSC 1986 in Reno, Nevada". This is not correct. The efforts to promote and strengthen the collaboration between the at that moment existing (Western) European Simulation Societies were then already going on for 7 to 8 years. The current paper is meant to be a supplement of Zobel's paper. We survey chronologically what has happened in the 10 years before the actual establishment of EUROSIM in 1989. The paper thus concerns the prehistory of EUROSIM in the time period from 1979 to 1989. The paper will be accompanied by separate documents, containing scans of original letters, meeting minutes and reports from my archive as secretary of the Dutch Benelux Simulation Society (DBSS).

Keywords: Simulation history, EUROSIM, European Simulation Societies, European Simulation Congresses

1. Introduction

The annual "European Conference on Modelling and Simulation" (ECMS), organised under the patronage of the "European Council for Modelling and Simulation" (also abbreviated to ECMS, and originated from the previous SCS European Simulation Council), has recently been held in Regensburg (Germany), May 31st – June 3rd, 2016. This ECMS 2016 was the 30th conference in the ECMS series. Marking this jubilee conference, Springer published a book "Seminal Contributions to Modelling and Simulation", edited by Khalid Al-Begain and Andrzej Bargiela. The broad-ranging volume presents contributions from a varied selection of distinguished experts chosen from high-impact keynote speakers and best paper award winners from ECMS conferences, including a Nobel Prize recipient.

Chapter 1 of the book contains a historical contribution of the author, entitled “ECMS: Its Position in the European Simulation History”. While writing this chapter, I realised that especially in the time period between 1985 (establishment of the SCS European Office at the University of Ghent, Belgium) and 1989 (establishment of EUROSIM) the history of SCS Europe and the prehistory of EUROSIM were highly intertwined. After 1989 we see SCS Europe and EUROSIM diverge and go their own separate way. EUROSIM started its 1st triennial EUROSIM conference in 1992, and SCS Europe continued its annual ESM (European Simulation Muliconference, which from 2005 on became the above-mentioned ECMS conference series) and ESS (European Simulation Symposium).

In what follows, we survey the 10 years lasting way leading to the establishment of EUROSIM in 1989, starting in the year 1979, thus many years before the foundation of the SCS European Office in 1985 in Ghent. In 1979 we see already the earliest versions of approach between the then existing (Western) European Simulation Societies.

2. The time period 1979 – 1980

2.1 DBSS, SIMS, UKSC / IMACS, SCS

The original ideas to have Europe-wide „common language based“ (regional) European Simulation Societies, which in the future together possibly could form a kind of federation, have been born in the bosom of the founding and first steering committee of the Dutch Benelux Simulation Society (DBSS). The DBSS was established in the very beginning of 1979. Its founders were: Len Dekker (initiator and chair, Delft, the Netherlands), Eugene Kerckhoffs (secretary, Delft, the Netherlands), Ghislain Vansteenkiste (vice-chair, Ghent, Belgium) and Jan Zuidervaart (treasurer, Delft, the Netherlands). Actually, the aforementioned ideas were a dream of the DBSS founders, which they hoped to realize in the not too far future with the aid of their European colleagues. At that time not having the slightest idea that it would be a long lasting difficult journey to realise these ideas.



Fig. 1: DBSS Founding and first Steering Committee (from left to right: Vansteenkiste, Zuidervaart, Kerckhoffs, Dekker)

Restricting ourselves to Western Europe, only two “common language based” regional European Simulation Societies already existed in that time: SIMS (originally in 1959 established as Scandinavian Analogue Computer Society and in 1968 renamed SIMS, the Scandinavian Simulation Society; thus so to say based on a “group of common languages”: the Scandinavian languages) and UKSC (UK Simulation Council, English speaking, actually a Council

of the Society of Computer Simulation SCS, established in 1969 and in 1991 renamed UKSIM as an independent society). Relevant for us simulationists, two international organisations existed in that time: IMACS (International Association for Mathematics and Computers in Simulation), established as AICA in 1956 in Brussels and in 1976 renamed IMACS, and SCS (the Society for Computer Simulation), an originally American society, founded in 1954 in San Diego, and having a Council in the UK (the afore-mentioned UKSC).

Already in a letter of February 19, 1979, DBSS chairman Len Dekker informed the Board of Directors of SCS and IMACS (with copies to other institutions, such as SIMS and UKSC) about the establishment of DBSS, its steering committee and its ideas of having more regional, common language based, European Simulation Societies.

Legally speaking, the establishment of the DBSS in the very beginning of 1979 was informal. Because of various problems (a.o. problems with the Section Simulation of the Dutch Society for Informatics, chaired by Maurice Elzas, and problems of legal nature), it lasted until July 14, 1986 that the DBSS was founded officially with a Dutch notary. For convenience, here we do however not distinguish between “DBSS in formation” and the formal DBSS; we simply speak of the DBSS. It was surely also, and maybe especially, in its informal phase that DBSS has taken the initiatives (see Sect. 2.2 and 3.2) that became crucial for the later establishment of EUROSIM.

2.2 An early DBSS initiative

An early DBSS initiative was a spontaneous informal meeting of European key simulationists during the 9th IMACS World Congress in Sorrento (Italy), September 24-28, 1979. (The Italian key people of this IMACS congress were Giorgio Savastano and Franco Maceri, who both would later play a relevant role in EUROSIM). In this meeting we discussed the possibilities to establish „common language based” regional European Simulation Societies (united in a federation, in that time provisionally called „European Simulation



Fig. 2: Relaxation during the 9th IMACS Congress in Sorrento. From left to right: Jan Zuidervaart, Marja Dekker, Len Dekker, Robert Vichnevetsky (IMACS President), Els Kerckhoffs, Eugene Kerckhoffs, Nico Zimmerman (senior researcher at TU-Delft)

Society”), having possibly once in several years their own common European Simulation Conference, apart from IMACS. (When informed, IMACS President Robert Vichnevetsky was not amused.)

In the discussions it was agreed that DBSS should prepare a written proposal, to be sent to the UKSC and SIMS Boards for further comments. On November 14, 1979, this proposal has been sent to Bjorn Wahlström (chairman SIMS) and Roy Crosbie (chairman UKSC). It included the ideas of a “European Simulation Society” as federation of regional “common language based” Simulation Societies; further, ideas of having regional scientific events and once in several years a common congress; finally, ideas of having a “News Letter” like the in that time existing IMACS News Letter, edited by Ghislain Vansteenkiste and Jan Zuidervaart. After a reminder of DBSS secretary Kerckhoffs to Wahlström and Crosbie on January 10, 1980, positive responses and constructive comments from SIMS and UKSC have been obtained.

On the initiative of Giorgio Savastano and Len Dekker, a few months after the 9th IMACS Congress the local organizing people of both the 8th and 9th IMACS Congresses (with Granino and Theresa Korn as honourable guests) were offered a few days “thank you holidays” (including meetings and workshop) on the island of Capri (nearby Sorrento). Why to mention this in this prehistory of EUROSIM? The reason is the amazing fact, that 13 years after the very first broader discussions about a possible Federation of European regional Simulation Societies (during a congress nearby Capri with Franco Maceri as one of the Italian key people), the very first Congress of this at that time proposed and discussed Federation (EUROSIM!) has been held on ... Capri(!) under the presidency of ... Franco Maceri(!).

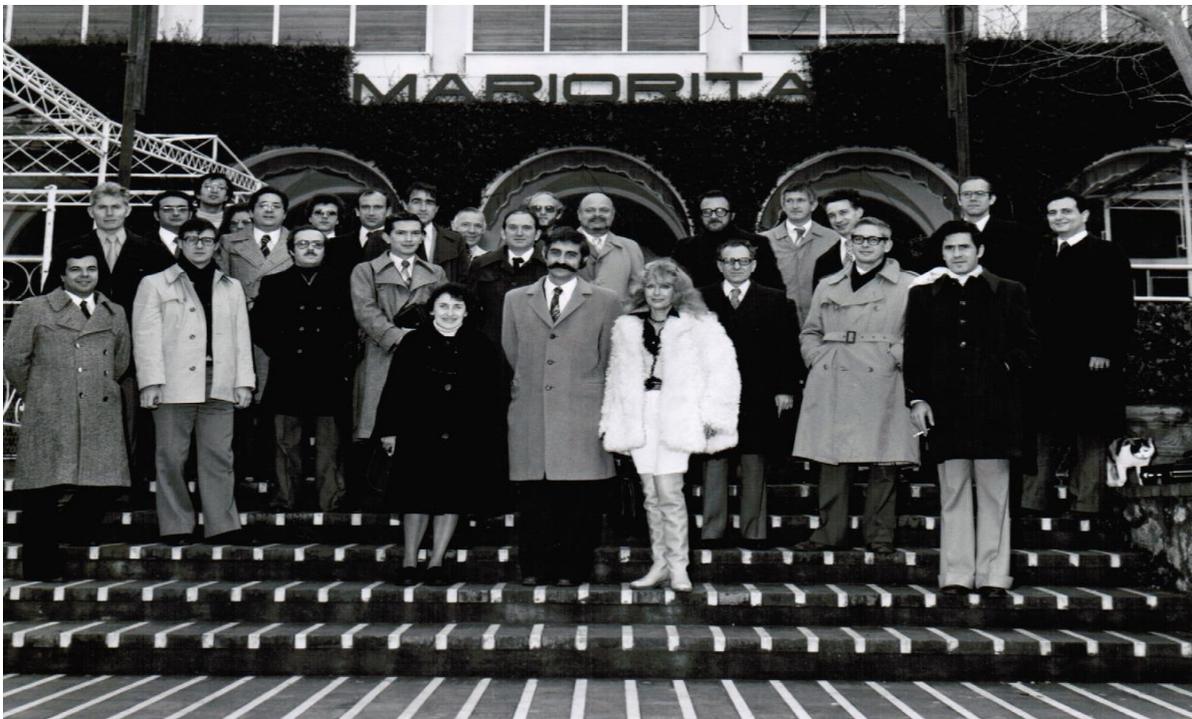


Fig. 3: A few days "thank you holidays" (including workshop) on Capri. In the upper row from right to left: Franco Maceri, Eugene Kerckhoffs, Ghislain Vansteenkiste, Len Dekker, ?, Granino Korn, Jan Zuidervaart. Standing before Vansteenkiste: Maurice Elzas. In front, the lady in black coat: Theresa Korn. Giorgio Savastano is missing in the picture.



Fig.4: On the island of Capri. From left to right: Franco Maceri, Theresa Korn, Granino Korn, Eugene Kerckhoffs, Els Kerckhoffs

3. The year 1981

3.1 Affiliation agreement between DBSS and SCS

On June 3, 1981, DBSS and SCS signed an affiliation agreement. (For both organisations this was the first signed affiliation agreement.) It was felt that such an affiliation should establish mutually agreeable exchange of membership privileges and should oblige each affiliate to publicize the activities of the other and should facilitate distribution of the publications to interested individual members.

3.2 A first step towards the formation of a German speaking Simulation Society

Another highly important DBSS initiative was the organization of a meeting of the DBSS steering committee with representatives of UKSC and the German simulation community, on June 26, 1981 in Brussels. Present were the entire DBSS steering committee (Dekker, Kerckhoffs, Vansteenkiste, Zuidervaart), Walter Ameling (Aachen, Germany, in that time FRG), Francois Cellier (Zürich, Switzerland), Roy Crosbie (Salford, England), O. Lange (Aachen, FRG), and M. Thoma (Munich, FRG, president IFAC).

It was agreed that a German speaking Simulation Society will be formed, covering Germany (in that time FRG), Austria and the German speaking part of Switzerland. Walter Ameling (Aachen) will take the necessary initiatives on a forthcoming meeting in Frankfurt, July 13, 1981. The "Simulation News Europe" (SNE), meanwhile initiated by Ghislain Vansteenkiste, will then also be distributed among the members of this new society. Further, with the name „European Simulation Congress“ (ESC), a conference will be organized in Aachen in probably August 1983. This conference is meant to be the first triennial European congress on simulation sponsored by UKSC, DBSS and the new German society. Unfortunately, SIMS was not represented in this meeting (but was, of course, later also a sponsoring society).

4. The year 1982

4.1 The establishment of ASIM

On August 18, 1982, I got as DBSS secretary a letter from Bernd Schmidt (Erlangen/Nurnberg), informing me that the German speaking Simulation Society (ASIM, Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Simulation) was founded in April 1982 and will closely cooperate with UKSC, DBSS, and SIMS. Copies of Simulation News Europe were ordered for distribution among the ASIM members.

4.2 ASIM starts preparing the 1st European Simulation Congress ESC'83

The new society ASIM starts the preparatory work for the 1st European Simulation Congress ESC'83. The first organizing meeting of the congress has been held on September 27, 1982 in Aachen. Present were: Walter Ameling (chairman, Aachen), Francois Cellier (Zürich), Dietmar Möller (Bonn), Bernd Keitemeier (Aachen) and Lothar Krings (Aachen); all on behalf of ASIM. Illustrative for the growing cooperation, also two DBSS representatives were involved: Eugene Kerckhoffs (Delft) and Dirk Kettenis (Wageningen, the Netherlands).

Discussed were the International Program Committee, the scientific topics, the timing, the preliminary design of the Call for Papers, the registration fee and the venue. All societies (ASIM, DBSS, SIMS, UKSC) have then been invited to give their comment on the results of this meeting. The collaboration between the four societies was unmistakably in progress!

5. The year 1983

5.1 Affiliation agreements with SCS and IMACS

In former discussions it has been found important that each of the European Simulation Societies should have separately affiliation agreements with both SCS and IMACS. In April 1983, DBSS signed an affiliation agreement with IMACS after a rather long period of negotiation with P. van Remoortere, IMACS Secretary General. Herewith DBSS was the first European Simulation Society having affiliation agreements with both SCS and IMACS. In this, ASIM followed soon; GI (the German Society for Informatics), of which ASIM is a Special Interest Group, signed an affiliation with IMACS on June 21, 1983. Of course, as a Council of SCS the UKSC had formal ties with SCS since its establishment in 1969. SIMS had already an agreement with AICA/IMACS, signed on August 13, 1976 by Martin Larsen (Secretary General of SIMS) and Vincent Rideout (Secretary General of AICA/IMACS).

5.2 The 1st European Simulation Congress ESC'83

As agreed in the afore-mentioned meeting on June 26, 1981 in Brussels (see Sect. 3.2), the (first) European Simulation Congress ESC'83 has been held in Aachen (September 12–16, 1983). The congress was organized by ASIM in cooperation with DBSS, SIMS and UKSC, and supported by the international organizations SCS and IMACS. Congress Chairman was Walter Ameling from the Technical University of Aachen. As previously agreed in the context of the mutual collaboration, DBSS, SIMS and UKSC had been invited by ASIM to have each two representatives in the International Program Committee (IPC) of the Congress.

During the congress, on 15th September 1983, a joint meeting of ASIM, DBSS, SIMS and UKSC has been held. Present were: from ASIM: Walter Ameling, Ingrid Bausch-Gall, Francois Cellier, Wolfgang Kleinert, Dietmar Möller, Bernd Schmidt; from DBSS: Len Dekker, Eugene Kerckhoffs, Ghislain Vansteenkiste; from SIMS: Rolf Henriksen; from UKSC: David Murray-Smith. Discussed were the affiliation between the societies mutually and with the international organizations SCS and IMACS, as well as the promotion of the establishment of more regional European Simulation Societies based on a common language. Further, we agreed that the next European Simulation Congress ESC'86 will be organized by DBSS.

SNE (Simulation News Europe) editor-in-chief Vansteenkiste and co-editor Kerckhoffs will be assisted by three associate editors (one from ASIM, one from SIMS, and one from UKSC), who will collect and transfer information from their own society. (As to these associate editors we were later informed as follows: Kaj Juslin (SIMS), Hans Fuss (ASIM), and Paul Luker (UKSC).)

6. The time period 1984 - 1985

6.1 DBSS involvement in SCS Summer Computer Simulation Conference SCSC'84 in Boston, Massachusetts

As a result of an letter of SCS Executive Director Charles Pratt to DBSS, saying that since signing the affiliation agreement with SCS in June 1981 much time has passed but not much has happened, DBSS decided a.o. to organize two sessions in the SCS Summer Computer Simulation Conference SCSC'84 in Boston (July 23-25, 1984). Here also the DPP (Delft Parallel Processor), developed in the research group of Len Dekker at Delft University of Technology, has been demonstrated; for this purpose the machine has been shipped to the USA.

Unfortunately, lack of time and circumstances beyond its control forced DBSS to abandon its original intention to involve also ASIM, SIMS and UKSC in this activity. Written apologies have been sent to these societies with the proposal to repeat this kind of activities in the future, but then as a common activity of the European Simulation Societies together. (This has for instance been realized for SCSC'86 in Reno, Nevada; see Sect. 7.1.)

Nevertheless, besides the DBSS people Len Dekker, Eugene Kerckhoffs and Ghislain Vansteenkiste, also Paul Luker (UKSC) and Ingrid Bausch-Gall (ASIM) were present in Boston. We all had a meeting with the SCS Executive Committee and discussed a.o. an SCS involvement in the forthcoming 2nd European Simulation Congress (ESC'86) and further contacts between SCS and the European Simulation Societies.

6.2 DBSS / UKSC meeting in Bath (England)

Eugene Kerckhoffs represented DBSS during the UKSC conference in September 1984, held in Bath (England) and chaired by David Murray-Smith, and had a meeting with the UKSC Board. It was agreed that UKSC will organize a session on real-time simulation in the forthcoming 2nd European Simulation Congress (ESC'86). Following the success of European sessions in SCSC'84 in Boston (Sect. 6.1), common European contributions will be made to the forthcoming SCSC'86 in Reno (Sect. 7.1); UKSC will assist in the organization!

6.3 The establishment of the Italian speaking Simulation Society (ICSC)

Based on good personal contacts related to a.o. the 9th IMACS Congress 1979 in Sorrento (Giorgio Savastano, Ghislain Vansteenkiste and Len Dekker were together the editors of the Congress Proceedings; Franco Maceri and Eugene Kerckhoffs were together the secretary of the congress), the Italian friends were requested to use their influence in taking initiatives to establish an Italian Simulation Society. On November 19, 1984 Ghislain Vansteenkiste (DBSS) got a letter from Giuseppe Iazeolla, informing him on the establishment of the Italian Society for Computer Simulation (ISCS). The first meeting will be held in Roma University, Tor Vergata, on March 26, 1985. Giuseppe Iazeolla became the first chairman of ISCS.

6.4 Preparing the 2nd European Simulation Congress (ESC'86)

DBSS started mid 1985 the proper preparatory work for the 2nd European Simulation Congress ESC'86. Contrary to the original intention to hold ESC'86 both in Delft (the Netherlands) and in Ghent (Belgium), in an internal meeting of the DBSS steering committee on May 7, 1985 it was decided to organize ESC'86 in Antwerp (Belgium). This decision implies that the practical organization is mainly in the hands of Ghislain Vansteenkiste, herewith obviously supported by the, a few months later established, SCS European Office in Ghent; see Sect. 6.5. The support also includes the production of the Congress Proceedings. The editing of the Proceedings was agreed to be performed by the entire DBSS steering committee (Vansteenkiste, Kerckhoffs, Dekker, Zuidervaart). The congress should have as subtitle "Advanced Information Processing in Simulation" (AIPS), where Vansteenkiste/Kerckhoffs are scientifically responsible for the "knowledge processing" aspects and Dekker/Zuidervaart for the "parallel processing" aspects.

Approximately two weeks later, by letters of May 24 1985, DBSS invited its sister societies ASIM, ISCS, SIMS and UKSC to assign each two members in the IPC (International Program Committee) of the congress. Responses: for ASIM: Walter Ameling and Wolfgang Kleinert; for ISCS: Giuseppe Iazeolla and S. Tucci; for SIMS: Kay Juslin and Rolf Henriksen; for UKSC: David Murray-Smith and John Stephenson. Also SCS, IMACS and the Japan Society for Simulation (JSST) were invited to assign members for the Congress IPC.

6.5 Establishment of the SCS European Office in Ghent, Belgium

The existence of this office is the result of Ghislain Vansteenkiste's (at that time SCS Vice-President for Europe) request for assistance in producing the Simulation News Europe (SNE). This request was made during the meeting of the SCS Executive Committee meeting at the Scottsdale Conference in April 1985. In July 1985 began the advertising for a Managing Editor of this publication, and on August 1 suitable candidates were interviewed by a committee consisting of Charles Pratt (SCS Executive Director), Ghislain Vansteenkiste, Mrs. Lieve Vansteenkiste and Eugene Kerckhoffs. Philippe Geril was offered the job of Managing Editor and began work in September 1985. (Although originally only in charge of the production of the Simulation News Europe, from 1987 on the Office was also involved in the

organization of SCS conferences in Europe; the first one was ESM'87 in Vienna, 7th - 10th July 1987.)

6.6 Lunch meeting during the 11th IMACS Congress (Oslo, 1985)

On the author's request, a small meeting of members of the Steering Committees of ASIM, DBSS, ISCS, SIMS and UKSC has been held during the 11th IMACS World Congress on Simulation and Scientific Computation in Oslo (Norway), August 5-9, 1985. It was a lunch meeting, held on August 7, 1985. Present were: Ingrid Bausch-Gall (ASIM), Eugene Kerckhoffs (DBSS), Rolf Henriksen and Kay Juslin (both SIMS) and David Murray-Smith (UKSC). Important topics were discussed, such as topics concerned with the forthcoming 2nd European Simulation Congress ECS'86, where to hold the 3rd European Simulation Congress ESC'89, Simulation News Europe, active collaboration with SCS; all topics to be further discussed in the separate Steering Committees.

7. The year 1986

7.1 European involvement in the SCS Summer Computer Simulation Conference SCSC'86 in Reno, Nevada

It was for the SCSC'86 (held in July 1986 in Reno, Nevada, and chaired by Roy Crosbie) that the European Simulation Societies –now really in joint collaboration- organized two sessions of papers. It concerned Group XVIII, entitled “Advanced Information Processing and Simulation (European Simulation Research)”. Group chair was Eugene Kerckhoffs (DBSS). The group consisted of two sessions of respectively 3 and 4 papers: Session 1 “Parallel methods and tools in Simulation”, chaired by Jürgen Halin (ASIM), and Session 2 “Simulation and Parallel Processing / Artificial Intelligence”, chaired by John Stephenson (UKSC).

The last session contained a paper authored by Richard Zobel and D. Adib. It was this Summer Computer Simulation Conference SCSC'86 that Richard Zobel meant in the beginning of his paper “A Brief History of EUROSIM”. The author still remembers very well that he met Richard in the courtesy bus from the airport to the congress hotel, and told him what was going on in (continental) Europe. The assumption in Zobel's paper “the first stirrings of interest in promoting collaboration between European Simulation Societies probably occurred at the Summer Computer Simulation Conference, SCSC'86 in Reno” is, as the foregoing clearly shows, not true. The collaboration between the existing European Simulation Societies was then already going on for 7 to 8 years! The European involvement in SCSC'86 even was the result of this!

7.2 The 2nd European Simulation Congress ESC'86

The 2nd European Simulation Congress ESC'86 has taken place in the Parkhotel in Antwerp (Belgium), September 9-12, 1986. It was organized by the DBSS, in cooperation with ASIM, ISCS, SIMS and UKSC, and supported by IMACS, JSST (the Japanese Simulation Society) and SCS. As said in Sect. 6.4, in the organisation we had the strong help of the SCS European Office in Ghent.

During the congress there has been a meeting of representatives of ASIM, DBSS, ICSC, SIMS and UKSC. In my archive I can however not find minutes of this meeting; only the meeting's agenda is present. The agenda shows that major discussion points were the relations between the Simulation Societies mutually as well as the relations with SCS and IMACS, the Simulation News Europe (SNE) and the future 3rd European Simulation Congress ESC'89. Moreover, the SCS European Office was introduced to the participants of the meeting (including its manager Philippe Geril) and the possible service, the Office could offer to the European Simulation Societies, was presented.

In a separate part of the meeting with guests, possible new European Simulation Societies have been considered (France, Spain); also the relation to East European Simulation Groups was a topic of discussion (especially the plans of V. Hamata (Prague) to hold a European Congress on Simulation in 1987 in Prague).

8. The time period 1987-1988

8.1 Joint meeting of European Simulation Societies and SCS in Brussels

On the initiative of the SCS European Office, on July 7 1987 a joint meeting of the European Simulation Societies and SCS has been held in Brussels. Present were: Len Dekker (DBSS), Hans Fuss (ASIM), Philippe Geril (SCS), Jürgen Halin (ASIM), Kay Juslin (SIMS), Eugene Kerckhoffs (DBSS, SCS), Ghislain Vansteenkiste (DBSS, SCS) and Richard Zobel (UKSC); excused: Giuseppe Iazeolla (SCS). Results: An "Umbrella" organization will be established as a first step towards a "united European Simulation Society". A business plan has been presented. Comments from the European Simulation Societies on the business plan will be bundled and discussed during the forthcoming ESM'88 (the European Simulation Multiconference, June 1-3, 1988, in Nice) and ESM'89 (June 7-9, 1989 in Rome). This all as preparation for the crucial and decisive meetings during the 3rd European Simulation Congress ESC'89, September 1989 in Edinburgh (see Sect. 9.2).

9. The time period 1989 - 1990

9.1 ASIM proposals

All simulation societies were expected to formulate their ideas and proposals with respect to an actual formation of a Federation as umbrella organization for the European Simulation Societies. These should be discussed during the forthcoming 3rd European Simulation Congress ESC'89 in Edinburgh in order to hopefully come to a definite decision. On March 21, 1989, the author obtained a letter of Felix Breitenacker with included the ASIM proposals (entitled: "Statement by ASIM in favour of a United European Simulation Society"). Worthwhile and relevant, since in the meantime ASIM had become the largest and very well-organized society, and therefore was influential in the European simulation community. ASIM says to support the idea of "Europeization" of simulation activities, but finds that the best way to this would be a way of small steps, starting with a loosely coupled United Society. ASIM proposes the administrative activities to be done in a rotating manner by the individual societies; ASIM is willing as first society to take over the administration and organization of the European activities (including the Simulation News Europe!). ASIM views a reasonable performance of such an organization only on condition of full independence of SCS!!

9.2 The 3rd European Simulation Congress ESC'89 / the establishment of EUROSIM

The third European Simulation Congress (ESC'89) has been held in Edinburgh, Scotland, September 5-8, 1989. The congress was organized by the UKSC, in cooperation with ASIM, DBSS, ISCS and SIMS, and supported by IMACS. The congress has taken place under the financial sponsorship of SCS through its European Office at the University of Ghent. (The congress was surely not an SCS congress, as suggested by Richard Zobel in his paper "A brief history of EUROSIM", Ref. 7!) Chairman of ESC'89 was David Murray-Smith from UKSC. Again, as usual and agreed, from each of the European Simulation Societies two representatives have been invited by UKSC to take part in the International Program Committee (IPC) of the Congress.

Following on earlier meetings (see Ref. 7), a.o. a meeting on June 7th 1989 in Rome (during ESM'89, see Sect. 8.1), immediately prior and during the congress two meetings have been organized with representatives of ASIM, DBSS, ICSC and UKSC in order to finally come to a definite decision about the establishment of a "Federation of European Societies"; SIMS had sent a fax with apologies for absence. All meetings have been chaired by Len Dekker from DBSS. Some points discussed during these sometimes very lively meetings were: -- bylaws (two concepts to be sent for comments to the separate Simulation Societies; concepts and comments to be merged in later November meeting, Sect.9.3), -- organisation (the Federation should be a loosely coupled organisation, in which each society keeps its full identity), -- establishment of the Federation (all societies agreed with the establishment of the Federation and the Federation's name "EUROSIM" has been selected and approved!), -- the Simulation News Europe (EUROSIM wants to have its own News Journal), -- publicity (press release, official announcement of the establishment of EUROSIM during the congress dinner on September 7th 1989), -- the next European Simulation Congress in 1992 (ISCS will consider being the organizing society).

The social events at the congress included a reception in the Old College of Edinburgh University and a Congress Dinner in the beautiful Signet Library. The dinner was of particular note in that it provided the opportunity for the first public announcement of the formation of EUROSIM. This official announcement has been done by Richard Zobel from UKSC. An "after dinner speech" has been held by Eugene Kerckhoffs from DBSS (by chance exactly on his 47th birthday; EUROSIM and he appear to share the same birthday of September 7).

9.3 EUROSIM meetings in Brussels (November 1989)

During an ESPRIT event in Brussels (November 1989), where EUROSIM organized a workshop under the chairmanship of David Murray-Smith, two EUROSIM (preliminary Board) Meetings have been held, both chaired by Richard Zobel from UKSC. Representatives of ASIM, DBSS, ISCS, SIMS and UKSC were present; guests were F. Lorenz (SFS, Société Francophone de Simulation, in formation) and J. Giron Sierra from Spain. The bylaws have been approved by the attendants, and will be sent to all member societies for official and final approval. It was agreed that the 4th European Simulation Congress ESC'92 will take place in

September/October 1992 in Sorrento (Italy), and organized by ISCS with as chairman Giorgio Savastano.

As EUROSIM Board members were appointed: Giorgio Savastano (ISCS, President), Walter Ameling (ASIM), Len Dekker (DBSS), Giuseppe Iazeolla (ISCS), Richard Zobel (UKSC) and Kay Juslin (SIMS). All these Board members were at the time chairman of the Simulation Society concerned, except for Giorgio Savastano (who as chairman of the next triennial congress by agreement became automatically EUROSIM President) and Richard Zobel (international liaison of UKSC).

In the meeting ASIM offered to publish and edit in the future an EUROSIM periodical (formerly the "Simulation News Europe"). This offer could be done, since Felix Breitenacker was able to raise a yearly grant from the „Niederösterreichische Landesregierung“ to support the publication of an EUROSIM periodical. In a next EUROSIM Board meeting this has been approved.

9.4 Special issue of the Simulation News Europe

At the occasion of the establishment of EUROSIM a special issue of the Simulation News Europe has appeared in January 1990, edited and published by DBSS (with many thanks to Mrs. Marja Dekker, who did a lot of work). On the cover page we see a picture showing ESC'89 chair David Murray-Smith with the original EUROSIM umbrella, having the signatures of the EUROSIM founders. (The author was surprised to discover his own signature, i.e. the first part of it, right in the middle of the upper white part of the umbrella.)



Fig. 5: On the cover of the Special Issue of SNE (January 1990): David Murray-Smith with the original EUROSIM umbrella. He produced this magnificent EUROSIM umbrella as a symbol of the EUROSIM umbrella organization of European Simulation Societies. Some founders' signatures are, although not very clear, visible.

In this special issue we find an extensive information bulletin of the foundation of EUROSIM (in five different languages: English, French, German, Italian, Spanish). In addition to the original societies ASIM, DBSS, ISCS, SIMS and UKSC, we encounter in the information bulletin SFS, the French speaking Simulation Society in formation, covering France and the French speaking part of Belgium. Further, we see a photograph of Giorgio Savastano, mentioned here as EUROSIM President and Chairman ESC'92. (Apparently, at this time there still was talk of ESC'92, the fourth congress in the ESC series. Later the name of the congress became "the 1st EUROSIM Congress", and, after prof. Savastano sadly passed away, Franco Maceri became the chairman of the congress and therefore EUROSIM President.)



Fig.6: Photograph of Giorgio Savastano, as it appeared in the special issue of SNE (January 1990)

Further we find in the special issue the author's "after dinner speech" (entitled: The Train), a report of ESC'89 by its chairman David Murray-Smith, a report on the two in Sect. 9.2 mentioned meetings, notes on the preliminary Board of Directors meeting two months later in November 1989 in Brussels, and corners of ASIM, DBSS, ISCS, SFS (in formation), SIMS and UKSC; moreover the announcement that the Spanish Simulation Society is on the way to be created. The society corners also show who are at the time on the steering committees:

- ASIM: W. Ameling (speaker), I. Bausch-Gall (vice-speaker, finances), F. Breitenecker (membership, secretary), H. Fuss, J. Halin, K.H. Heyl, G. Kampe, J. Krauth, A. Kuhn, D. Möller
- DBSS: L. Dekker (chairman), G.C. Vansteenkiste (vice-chairman), E.J.H. Kerckhoffs (secretary), J.C. Zuidervaart (treasurer)
- ISCS: G. Iazeolla (chair), F. Maceri (vice-chairman), S. Tucci (treasurer), B. Buttarazzi (secretary)
- SFS (in formation, later renamed FRANCOSIM): contact persons: A. Pavé (for France), F. Lorenz (for Belgium)
- SIMS: only the contact person is mentioned: K. Juslin
- UKSC: D.J. Murray-Smith (chairman), A. Foss (vice-chairman), D. Langlois (secretary), K.G. Nock (treasurer), E. Rimmington (membership secretary), R.N. Zobel (international liaison), J. Stephenson (past chairman)

The Spanish Simulation Society (in formation): contact person J.M. Giron Sierra

9.5 In the end ...!

Finally, the original dream of the four DBSS founders of having regional “common language based” European Simulation Societies, forming together a kind of federation, was realised, 10 years after they founded in 1979 the DBSS and started contacting the then already existing societies SIMS and UKSC! The way was long and full of problems and hitches. As Richard Zobel rightly remarked (ref. 7), the way to the formation of EUROSIM has been a journey of excitement, difficulties, promises, misunderstandings, challenges, and ultimately the success of creating EUROSIM. This all thanks to all the colleagues from the early member societies, who have really and actually participated in this European adventure.

9.6 Establishment of the SCS European Simulation Council / UKSC becomes UKSIM

In July 1990 the author got his proposal to establish an SCS “Continental Europe Simulation Council” (CESC) approved by the SCS Board of Directors (in its annual meeting of July 18, 1990 in Calgary, Canada). Already one year later, in 1991, CESC became ESC (the European Simulation Council), covering all SCS members in Europe. UKSC then became in the same year 1991 an independent Simulation Society, originally using the acronym UKSS, but later UKSIM and as such known as member society of EUROSIM.

Very regrettably, the author had to cancel an invitation to present a lecture during the UKSC Conference at the University of Sussex (September 5-7, 1990), where he also should have a meeting with the UKSC Board and comment the formation of CESC as second SCS European Council beside UKSC.

10. Final remarks

10.1 SCS Europe and EUROSIM going their own separate way

After the 3rd European Simulation Congress ESC’89 we see SCS Europe and EUROSIM diverge and go their own way.

SCS Europe continued its annual ESM (European Simulation Multiconference) and ESS (European Simulation Symposium), both under the patronage of the in Sect. 9.6 mentioned ESC (European Simulation Council). From 2005 on, only the yearly ESM was continued, but renamed ECMS (European Conference on Modelling and Simulation) and held under the auspices of the independent “European Council for Modelling and Simulation” (also abbreviated ECMS and successor of the European Simulation Council ESC). Some prominent EUROSIM

Fig.7: From left to right: Richard Zobel, Martina-Maria Seidel (already for more than 10 years the excellent manager of the ECMS Office), Eugene Kerckhoffs during ESM’03 in Nottingham (England)



people were not only regular participants of the ECMS conferences, but have also held leading positions in these conferences; for instance, Richard Zobel was General Program Chair and Proceedings Co-Editor for ECMS'05 in Riga (Latvia)

From the original DBSS steering committee, Ghislain Vansteenkiste and the author felt more attracted to SCS Europe and have since then spent their further efforts and activities mainly to this organisation. I saw in my archive that I wrote my last announcement as DBSS secretary to the DBSS membership on May 28, 1991. Being already from 1990 on the first President of the SCS European Simulation Council (ESC), a little later in 1991 I resigned as DBSS secretary, after 12 years of service.

EUROSIM continued the concept of triennial European Simulation Congresses, organized by one of its member societies. However now with the name EUROSIM Congress, without any further SCS impact, having the 1st EUROSIM Congress planned in September 1992 on the island of Capri (Italy). As already said in Sect. 9.4, congress chairman, and therefore the 1st EUROSIM President, was Giorgio Savastano. Sadly, on the way to this event EUROSIM President Giorgio Savastano passed away; Franco Maceri became the new chair of the 1st EUROSIM Congress and as such EUROSIM President. Up to now (2016) EUROSIM organized 9 triennial congresses.

EUROSIM eventually came to fruition in Edinburgh in 1989 and has not only continued but has blossomed since then. Subsequently, other European Simulation Societies joined EUROSIM, especially east European ones: CSSS (Czech and Slovak Simulation Society), CROSSIM (Croatian Simulation Society), HSS (Hungarian Simulation Society), SLOSIM (Slovenian Simulation Society), ROMSIM (Romanian Simulation Society), PSCS (Polish Simulation Society).

In this respect should be remarked, that also in earlier times there were a lot of contacts with our east European colleagues, who also have organized important simulation conferences and meetings in their country. The author had regular contacts with, for instance, various colleagues in Prague: V. Hamata (who organized a European Congress on Simulation in 1987 in Prague), Mirko Novak (who has organized several conferences on Neural Networks and Simulation in Prague), Milan Kotva (the former chairman of the Czech and Slovak Simulation Society (CSSS); he was the original chair of the SCS ESM'95, but had to be succeeded by Miroslav Snorek after his sudden decease in the course of the preparation of this event), and Miroslav Snorek (who was the general chair of the SCS ESM'01 conference in Prague and currently the chairman of the EUROSIM member society CSSS). Further I would like to mention: Achim Sydov (Berlin, in that time GDR), Willy Krug (Dresden, in that time GDR), and Youri Merkuryev (Riga, Latvia).

10.2 SNE and SIMPRA

The original "Simulation News Europe" (SNE) was published by SCS Europe through its European Office in Ghent. However, after the formation of EUROSIM it was agreed that this should become a EUROSIM publication (see next paragraph), and this was taken on board by Felix Breitenecker. Similarly, Len Dekker established the Journal of Simulation Practice and

Theory (SIMPRA). Both have remained strong publications, well supported by all of the European Simulation Societies.

Currently, the journal “Simulation Notes Europe” (also abbreviated SNE!) publishes information related to modelling and simulation. SNE is the official membership news journal of EUROSIM. It publishes peer reviewed scientific contributions; moreover, in a News Section, basic information and reports from the EUROSIM member societies and other simulation societies, book and journal reviews, and introductions of simulation centres and simulation specialists. Felix Breitenecker is the Editor-in-Chief of SNE, and performs with the Journal a really excellent job. (He has also organized a successful ASIM Conference in 1984 in Vienna, and chaired the 2nd EUROSIM Congress in 1995 in Vienna, and therefore was the 2nd EUROSIM President (1992-1995). I know him since 1977 because of a few months sabbatical at the Technical University of Vienna; he took me regularly on Friday late afternoon, after the working week, to his favourite pub to have a couple of beers with his friends, which was very much appreciated!)

10.3 Respect

Finally, I wish to express my appreciation for my co-founders and co-members of the first steering committee of DBSS: Len Dekker, Ghislain Vansteenkiste and Jan Zuidervaart, who regrettably all have passed away (see also the impressive “In Memoriam Len Dekker”, Ref. 8). Especially, I would like to express my respect to Len Dekker (my former boss) and Ghislain Vansteenkiste (my former academic promotor). They both were influential and instrumental within the European Simulation community, and were excellent scientists. Thank you Len and Ghi; you were great! We will not forget you!

Further, the name of Walter Ameling (deceased in 2010) should be mentioned here. His name is unjustly missing in Zobel’s paper on EUROSIM’s history, although he has played a very relevant role on the way to EUROSIM’s establishment. He initiated the foundation of ASIM, he has organized and chaired the 1st European Simulation Congress ESC’83, was the chairman (Sprecher) of ASIM at the time of EUROSIM’s establishment (see Sect. 9.4), and has been a member of the Board of EUROSIM (see Sect. 9.3).

For the further history of EUROSIM, after its formation in 1989, I refer to EUROSIM’s website (Ref. 5), especially the minutes of the Board of Directors and the Executive Board (Ref. 10, 11), and the paper of Richard Zobel (Ref. 7). To cite Zobel, the rest, as they say, is history!

11. References and Citations

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7. Richard Zobel, "A brief history of EUROSIM", paper presented during the opening session at the 6th EUROSIM Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia, September 10, 2007; EUROSIM Website.
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11. Minutes of the EUROSIM Executive Committee meetings. EUROSIM Website.

Presenting the author's biography

Eugene Kerckhoffs studied physical engineering at Delft University of Technology (the Netherlands), and obtained a PhD in computer science (summa cum laude) at the University of Ghent (Belgium). He was an associate professor at Delft University of Technology and part-time professor at the University of Ghent, where he was a chair holder of the SCS European Chair on Simulation Sciences.

He is a co-founder of the Dutch Benelux Simulation Society (DBSS) and for 12 years its first secretary (1979 – 1991). In this period of time, he was instrumental in the collaboration between (regional) European Simulation Societies, which finally in 1989 has led to the birth of EUROSIM, the Federation of European Simulation Societies.

In 1990 he was the initiator of the "SCS Continental Europe Simulation Council" (one year later becoming the "SCS European Simulation Council" (ESC), covering all European SCS members), and for 7 years its first President. He has been numerous times General Chair, Program Chair, Honorary Chair, Track Chair, Session Chair, and Chair of the Best Paper Award Committee for a.o. conferences organized under the patronage of ESC, which in 2004 transferred into the independent "European Council for Modelling and Simulation" (ECMS).

Eugene Kerckhoffs was for many years on the SCS Board of Directors and for 2 years on the SCS Executive Committee, serving as the last SCS Vice-President for Europe (1992-1994). He was a Fellow of SCS and obtained Distinguished Service Awards from both SCS and ECMS. He was listed for many years (since 1996) in the Marquis "Who is Who in the World" and the Marquis "Who is Who in Science and Engineering".

Having started in August 1976 as secretary of the 8th AICA/IMACS World Congress in Delft (the Netherlands) and in 1979 also secretary (together with Franco Maceri) of the 9th IMACS World Congress in Sorrento (Italy), at the moment of writing this biography he is exactly 40 years active for international Simulation Societies and international Simulation Conferences (currently serving on the ECMS Board as Historian).

Retired since 2004, in his period of active scientist he has been the (co-)author of over 200 papers/articles in Conference Proceedings and scientific Journals, as well as (co-)editor of 14 Conference Proceedings. Moreover, associate editor of a number of scientific journals. He was involved in several EU-funded research projects, and was the vice-chair of the EU-sponsored Esprit Basic Research Working Group SiE (Simulation in Europe, 1993-1996), chaired by Ghislain Vansteenkiste. He has introduced in 1995 at Delft University of Technology its very first supercomputer (an NCUBE supercomputer with 64 processors).

Fig. 8: TU-Delft's very first "massively parallel processing" machine, an NCUBE supercomputer.

