

**23-31 August 2005**

Firenze, November 12<sup>th</sup> 2003

To the Members of the Scientific Program Committee  
of the XX IUCr (Florence 2005)

Dear colleague,

Let me thank you first for accepting to prepare with me the program of the next IUCr Congress. Here, I wish you to outline some of the work that we shall do together in the next months.

My task is that of collecting all of your suggestions relative to the scientific topics of the congress, the keynote lectures and the micro-symposia. Some suggestions, which we shall also consider, may come from the National Committees. By the summer 2004, we must plan a 3-days get-together meeting to collect all the ideas and finalize the actual program.

Since I participated, in the summer of 2001, to the final SPC meeting for the previous IUCr Congress (Geneva, 2002), I learned something about the procedures. Most important to get good results is to rely on a friendly and constructive atmosphere. I am sure that this will be greatly favoured by the venue I am going to suggest. Professor Paola Spadon, a member of this committee and one of the main organizers of the crystallographic schools in Erice (Sicily), offers hospitality to all of us in Sicily during the school dedicated to Polymorphism and Electron Crystallography (see the web site [www.crystalalice.org](http://www.crystalalice.org)). If we all agree, we will exploit the excellent facilities of the Majorana Center. Not only the place is beautiful and stimulating but we will have also the opportunity to meet with many colleague crystallographers. Moreover, the choice will allow us to cut off the lodging expenses. For travelling costs, the IUCr Executive Committee provides \$ 25.000, a sum that should be adequate to the purpose. The proposed dates are June 16-20, 2004. *i.e.* there will be three full working days (17-19). It would be advisable to present the consented program to the IUCr Executive Committee for their approval at the ECA Congress in Budapest (Aug. 26-31, 2004). Please let me know your opinion about the proposed timetable, at your earliest convenience.

Concerning the preparative work before our final meeting, I send you two documents (attached). In the first one, I report all the indications that I received from the various IUCr commissions when they proposed also your names for the SPC. The second document has been prepared by me and my collaborators to summarize all the topics that were presented in the previous three IUCr Congresses (Seattle 1996, Glasgow 1999, Geneva 2002). These data

*Chairperson of the  
Scientific Program Committee*  
**Carlo Mealli**  
ICCOM-CNR  
E-mail: [mealli@iucr2005.it](mailto:mealli@iucr2005.it)

*Chairperson of the  
Local Organizing Committee*  
**Paola Paoli**  
Department of  
Energy Engineering "Sergio Secco"  
E-mail: [paoli@iucr2005.it](mailto:paoli@iucr2005.it)

*Scientific Secretariat*  
**Andrea Ienco**  
ICCOM-CNR

**Patrizia Rossi**  
Department of  
Energy Engineering "Sergio Secco"

Via S.Marta, 3  
50139 Firenze - Italy  
Phone: +39 055 4796240  
Fax: +39 055 4796342  
E-mail: [iucr@iucr2005.it](mailto:iucr@iucr2005.it)

*Organizing Secretariat*  
**Newtours SpA**  
Via Augusto Righi, 8  
50019 Osmarinoro, Sesto F.no  
(Florence) - Italy  
Phone: +39 055 3361.1  
Fax: +39 055 3361.350  
E-mail: [newtours@iucr2005.it](mailto:newtours@iucr2005.it)

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are precious to start with. The contents are subdivided in the fields of interest for the various commissions. Also, topics of shared interest between two or more commissions are indicated. The reported percentages give an idea of the relative weights attributed to each field in the previous congresses. Accordingly, I recommend that each SPC member should make a number of proposals that does not exceed those previously allotted to his own discipline. There may be unwanted mistakes in the document. Please, report to me anyone that you may find.

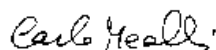
As a general rule, we should avoid unnecessary repetitions of the arguments that have been recently tackled. Also, the speakers should be renovated unless they have very important messages to deliver. Interdisciplinary arguments, that may be of interest to different commissions, should be strongly encouraged also to have more people at the lectures and to remark the wider role of crystallography.

Your suggestions should be finalized by the end of April 2004, so that I can properly catalogue and present them for the open discussion at our meeting in June. At that time, we shall agree to balance properly the weights of the different areas and to select the actual contents of the congress. I remind you that in Florence there will be a total of 98 symposia (the congress lasts 7 working days and the microsymbposia, in seven parallel sessions, are 14 per day). Also, there will be 28 keynote lectures (two each morning and each afternoon). If you agree, I would like to reserve two or three MS to special topics of wider interest such as, for instance, "Crystallography and forensic medicine" or "Crystallographic and art".

I hope that I have been sufficiently clear in outlining my intentions and asking your fruitful collaboration. If not, please do not hesitate to contact me. I recommend that, from now on, we keep in constant touch with each other in order to find together the best solutions for the success of the event. To this purpose, I open a mailing list so that any message sent to the address [spc\\_iucr2005@iccom.cnr.it](mailto:spc_iucr2005@iccom.cnr.it) will reach any SPC member for the open discussion.

I thank you in advance for your precious cooperation.

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Carlo Mealli

Scientific Chairperson of the XX<sup>th</sup> IUCr

*Chairperson of the  
Scientific Program Committee*  
**Carlo Mealli**  
ICCOM-CNR  
E-mail: [mealli@iucr2005.it](mailto:mealli@iucr2005.it)

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Local Organizing Committee*  
**Paola Paoli**  
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Phone: +39 055 4796240  
Fax: +39 055 4796342  
E-mail: [iucr@iucr2005.it](mailto:iucr@iucr2005.it)

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Fax: +39 055 3361.350  
E-mail: [newtours@iucr2005.it](mailto:newtours@iucr2005.it)