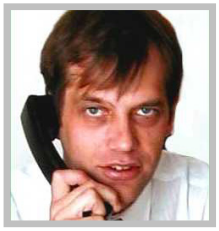
European Association for Potato Research
www.dpw.wageningen-ur.nl/eapr

Engineering & Utilisation Section

Update: Winter 2005/6

Welcome



My name is **Adrian Cunnington** and I am Operations Manager at the British Potato Council's Sutton Bridge Experimental Unit in the UK, specialising in storage. My attendance in the Engineering Section dates back to my first EAPR conference in Edinburgh in 1990 and I was elected Chair of the Engineering & Utilisation Section at the Triennial Conference in Bilbao in July 2005.

The new Section was formed at the Conference with the full approval of Council, from the Engineering Section, previously chaired by Michel Martin, and the Utilisation Section, which was without a chairperson following the resignation of Andy Cobb a few years ago. Both sections had suffered a little from low attendance, as a result of declining activity within these sectors of the potato industry across much of Europe, so a new impetus was needed to maintain momentum and support. We hope that this is something that we can help to provide through a revitalised Engineering & Utilisation Section!

In my role as Chair, I am being assisted by **Martin Keijbets,** Innovation & Product Development Manager at Aviko BV in the Netherlands (e-mail: m.keijbets@aviko.nl). Martin very kindly volunteered to take on the job of unofficial secretary for the Section to maintain a good utilisation input during this first period after transition to the new format.

Section Meeting: Triennial Conference, Bilbao

The Engineering and Utilisation Sections met together at Bilbao and Michel Martin, outgoing Chair of the Engineering Section, led the meeting. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to go ahead with merging the two Sections as proposed through Council.

Discussions were held on the name for the new Section but it was resolved to simply keep the old names rather than create a new, all-encompassing description. Some ideas on a format for the Section Meeting in 2007 were also discussed (see page 2).

There was also a commitment made at Bilbao to Christian Thill, representing the Potato Association of America, that we will reinforce links with the PAA through the various Sections of the EAPR, as well as Council, and extend invitations to PAA members to attend our Association's events and meetings. In turn, PAA will reciprocate this invitation to EAPR.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate my thanks on behalf of the membership to Michel for his input to the Engineering Section over the past four years. His efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Chair: **Adrian Cunnington**
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Section Meeting: 2007

The Section would normally run a Section Meeting about 12-18 months ahead of the next Triennial Conference in Romania in 2008. This was discussed at Bilbao and a few options were put forward for what will be the Association's 50th year. These have been progressed and the current proposal is to try to run a technical meeting on engineering, storage and processing, perhaps in the UK and in association with FNK (a European research group for potato food products), in the first half of 2007. Further details will be published on the EAPR website when they are known.

In line with requests made in Bilbao, there will need to be a commitment to offer low cost attendance to enable students to attend.

Potato Research

The new externally-managed format for *Potato Research* starts in January 2006 and the Council has given an undertaking to publish 4 editions per year.

I encourage as many Section members as possible to submit papers. See the EAPR website for more information at www.dpw.wageningen-ur.nl/eapr or, for any specific queries, please contact the editor, Professor Paul Struik (e-mail: paul.struik@wur.nl).

2006 events

Events which may be of interest to Section members in the next 12 months include:

28 February/1March: Crop Protection in Northern Britain, Dundee, UK. Technical conference. www.cpnb.org
27-29 June: 6th International Processing Convention / 2nd International Storage Convention, Warsaw, Poland www.potatoconvention.com
23-27 July: 90th Annual Meeting of the Potato Association of America. Madison, Wisconsin, USA. www.hort.wisc.edu/PAA-Solanaceae
13-19 August: 27th International Horticultural Congress, Seoul, Korea. www.ihc2006.org
20-26 August: 6th World Potato Congress, Boise, Idaho, USA. www.potatofoundation.com
6-7 September: *Potato Europe 2006*: near Hannover, Germany. Field event/exhibition/trials. www.dlg.org

Let us know what you think!

We invite you to submit your comments on the Section to keep us up to date with any developments or events and to offer your views or suggestions on any issues relevant to the Section.

We will do our best to take as many views into account in our decision-making and plan to issue a further Section update in the summer.

Finally, we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Adrian Cunnington & Martin Keijbets