EUROSPEECH'97

TECHNICAL PROGRAMME

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE	PROGRAM AT A GLANCE	TRAVEL INFORMATION
REGISTRATION INFORMATION	CONFERENCE INFORMATION	OLYMPICS	EXHIBITION
USEFUL INFORMATION	ABOUT RHODES	SATELLITE EVENTS

ESCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great relief and pride that I welcome at this 5th European Conference on Speech Communication and Technology, for short EUROSPEECH '97, so many new and old colleagues and friends from all over the world. Once the late registration is closed, it may well be that we will go beyond the number of 1,000 participants. This growth from some 840 participants in Berlin for Eurospeech '93 and in Madrid for Eurospeech '95 to the present figure is impressive. The growth is even more impressive if we take into account the number of abstracts being submitted. This grew from 666 in Berlin, to 807 in Madrid and some 1070 this time. Also in terms of number of papers accepted, this will be by far the biggest Eurospeech conference, and for that matter also bigger than any International Conference on Spoken Language Processing (ICSLP) or International Congress of Phonetic Sciences so far.

The Eurospeech International Scientific Committee, that gathered in Athens on March 21 and 22, ultimately accepted 726 papers. With only very few withdrawals and some minor changes, the number of papers that actually will be presented at the conference, and that will be included in the proceedings, is 717. This implies a reject rate of about 30% which, as always, is a compromise between keeping up high standards and the desire to accommodate as many participants as possible, given the fact that many administrations only permit conference participation with an accepted paper. It is also a compromise between what the conference site can practically accommodate, which is quite a lot at the Convention Centre of Rodos Palace Hotel, and what participants can actually absorb. People also become more and more reluctant to carry around with them several kilos of proceedings books. Also for that reason I am very pleased that now also this Eurospeech Proceedings will be available on CD-ROM. We just have to wait for the time that hand-held and intelligent CD-ROM-readers will become available. Another compromise is that between plenary keynote presentations and parallel oral and poster sessions. Upon studying the advance program in the call for participation or the more detailed information on the web-site, you will have seen that there will be 4 oral and 2 poster sessions in parallel each day. This makes the program still rather surveyable. The break on Wednesday afternoon with a fine excursion and the banquet later that evening, will hopefully also recharge your batteries for the final meeting day of the conference.

I hope and expect that everybody will find enough of his/her flavor in the scientific program. The diversity may also appeal to you to consume some of the less well known. I also strongly advice you to join the plenary keynote lectures, this will be excellent presentation on carefully selected themes.

Such a major event takes a long time for preparation. More than three years ago ESCA already started collecting bids for this year's event, and in the future we may even have to start this process earlier. The ESCA Board finally chose for Greece for the Eurospeech conference in 1997. Originally the meeting place was announced to be Patras, but for various reasons Professor George Kokkinakis and his organizing committee changed that to Rhodes. The beauty and glamour of this holiday island will certainly have brought some extra participants to this event. This necessary change in meeting place is just one example of the many circumstances that Eurospeech organizers have to face and that sometimes makes the ESCA Board and its president nervous. However, George Kokkinakis as the general chairman, George Carayannis as the vice-chairman, Nikos Fakotakis as the secretary

Sony v. Jawbone
U.S. Patent No. 8,467,543
Sony Ex. 1027

and the whole local organizing committee have done a marvelous job with great efficiency and they deserve our great gratitude.

ESCA is a European-based international membership organization that welcomes everybody active in the broad field of Speech Communication. Similarly the biennial Eurospeech conference and its satellite events intend to be international events with a European flavour. World-wide participation to Eurospeech is evident although certain countries, like from Central and Eastern Europe, are definitely underrepresented. Whenever this is related to the unavoidable high costs of registration and/or living, the conference organizers and ESCA try to find a solution for that. This year's registration form gave the opportunity to apply for a grant. Over 65 people made use of that possibility, and our resources allowed us to (partially) approve some 35 of these requests.

Next to the biennial Eurospeech conference every odd year, ESCA by now is also quite well-known for its workshops (ESCA Tutorial and Research Workshops, ETRWs) on specialized topics, of which some 2 to 4 take place every year. This year two of them are satellite events of Eurospeech '97. One on "Intonation: Theory, Models and Applications", that will take place in Athens (Sept. 18-20), the other on "Audio-visual speech processing", that will take place in Rhodes (Sept. 27-28). It also became a tradition that the EU Speech Projects Day precedes the main conference on Monday morning (Sept. 22), whereas Cocosda will meet after the main event, most probably in conjunction with a COST workshop. Earlier this year two more, highly successful, ETRWs took place, one on "Robust speech recognition for unknown communication channels" in Pont-a-Mousson (April 17-18), the other in Marseille on "Larynx" (June 18-20). Each time Proceedings are available at the start of the workshop and additional copies can be ordered from the ESCA secretariat as long as the stock lasts. Also for 1998 several workshops are being planned. For more information see our NESCA newsletter, the esca-list, the ESCA web-site, or the announcements in the international journal Speech Communication.

After the regular all-day Eurospeech sessions on Tuesday Sept. 23, the ESCA General Assembly will take place. On that occasion the newly elected Board members will be installed and we will say farewell to some long-standing Board members that served our association for the maximum period of 8 years. First and foremost this will be our past president Joseph Mariani, who served ESCA and the speech community so eminently, as well as Jens Blauert, who always acted as our financial conscience, and Bjorn Granstöm, who made the ESCA workshops to such a great success. I will also myself resign from the Board and gladfully hand over the presidency to one of the new team. Elections took place this spring on the basis of a list of candidates proposed by the present Board. Regular ESCA members had a chance to propose additional candidates, although nobody made use of that possibility. This implies that (in alphabetic order) Gerrit Bloothooft, Rolf Carlsson, Wolfgang Hess, and George Kokkinakis will complete the Board, next to the sitting members Christian Benoit, Roberto Billi, Paul Dalsgaard, Roger Moore, and Isabel Trancoso. Maria Gosy, furthermore, will act as a non-European-Union observer in the Board.

Although the news has been announced already in NESCA 18 at the end of 1996, many of you may not yet know where Eurospeech in the year 1999 will take place. It is with great pleasure that I can express here again that Hungary has accepted our invitation and that Eurospeech '99 will most probably take place from Sept. 6 to 9, 1999 in the Congress Centre Liget in Budapest. The General Chairman of the Organizing Committee will be Professor Geza Gordos, with Professor Maria Gosy as the vice-chairman and Dr. Geza Nemeth as the secretary.

Traditionally I have one last pleasant announcement to make and this concerns the ESCA medal. Since 1989 this has been offered to Gunnar Fant, Jim Flanagan, Adrian Fourcin, and Ken Stevens, respectively. This time the distinguished Professor Mario Rossi from the Institute of Phonetics in Aix-en-Provence will receive this medal.

I wish you all a successful conference and a wonderful stay in a sunny Rhodes.

Professor Dr. Louis C. W. Pols
ESCA President

GENERAL CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of Eurospeech '97, I am glad to welcome you to this biennial event of the European Speech Communication Association (ESCA) and to the beautiful Greek island of Rhodes.

Ancient Greeks used to challenge everybody who boasted to be able to perform an exceptional achievement by saying "Éäïý ç Ñüäïò, éäïý êáé ôï ðÞäçìá", which means literally "Here is Rhodes, here you jump", or metaphorically "Prove right now what you pretend to be". This utterance which apparently originated when a boaster claimed that if he were in Rhodes he could make an enormous jump, acquires a special meaning for our conference. As scientists and engineers working in one of the most challenging areas of research and technology, that of man-machine communication by voice, we have to prove that we are able to carry out this endeavour successfully. Eurospeech on the other hand has to prove that it makes substantial progress from event to event so that it is able to efficiently promote the work of its audience in a steadily improving way.

Well, established in 1989 in Paris, Eurospeech enjoyed a spectacular increase in submitted papers and attendees at the events that followed in Genoa (1991), Berlin (1993) and Madrid (1995). This year the number of proposed papers surpassed every expectation jumping from 807 in Madrid to 1,076 and that of papers accommodated in the program from 535 to 717. The number of participants is expected to approach 1,100 from 840, an impressive "jump" indeed. I would like to thank all the researchers around the world who submitted their contribution to Eurospeech '97 and the members of the international scientific committee who performed the enormous task of reviewing them in a very short time.

The technical program includes a large spectrum of novel contributions by authors from 49 countries, arranged in 44 oral and 22 poster sessions. Four oral and two poster sessions will run in parallel. Included in the above are two special sessions: One on "Education for Language and Speech Communication" organized by Gerrit Bloothooft and another on "Robust Speech Recognition: Review and Perspectives" organized by Jean-Claude Junqua. In addition, there will be five plenary sessions in which seven distinguished scientists will give keynote speeches: On Monday afternoon, just after the opening ceremony, Mario Rossi will speak on "Is Syntactic Structure Prosodically Recoverable?". On Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Victor Zue and Jan van Santen will speak on "Conversational Interfaces: Advances and Challenges" and "Prosodic Modelling in Text-to-Speech Synthesis", correspondingly. On Thursday morning in a plenary session on: "Robust Speech Recognition: Review and Perspectives", Jean-Claude Junqua will speak on "Impact of the Unknown Communication Channel on Automatic Speech Recognition: A Review", Jerome Bellegarda on "Statistical Techniques for Robust ASR: Review and Perspectives" and Richard Lippmann on "Using Missing Feature Theory to Actively Select Features for Robust Speech Recognition with Interruptions, Filtering and Noise". Finally, at the closing ceremony on Thursday afternoon, Wolfgang Hess will give a review speech entitled: "Perspectives of Speech Technology Research Highlighted in Eurospeech '97".

As in previous Eurospeech conferences an accompanying industrial and scientific exhibition of products, books, services and scientific results shown by known firms and institutes, will run from Monday afternoon to Thursday afternoon. A novelty this year is the group presentation of EU-supported projects organized by the EU-project LINGLINK: Promotion and Support for the Application of Language Engineering in Europe. Last but not least, six workshops just before and after the conference including the traditional EU speech projects day, will provide valuable information on recent developments in specific areas.

We are proud that Eurospeech '97 features a series of innovations and additional offerings to the delegates included in the registration fees which have been kept to similar levels to those in the recent past:

- CD-ROM proceedings including the papers and audio files in addition to the usual hard copies which have increased to five volumes.
- Mailing of the hard-copy proceedings well before the conference.
- A hard-copy program including the paper abstracts in addition to the pocket program.
- A bus service from Rhodes Airport to the venue and back to the airport on the day before and after the conference.
- A half-day excursion to the famous archeological site and the village of Lindos.
- Three lunches at Rodos Palace Hotel.
- An ESCA membership of one year for non-ESCA members.

- Twenty grants to students and young scientists in addition to those offered by ESCA.
- A contest for the best student papers and a competition between man-machine dialogue systems over the telephone network named "Olympics" and organized by ELSNET/ELRA.

Apart from the already mentioned excursion to Lindos, other outstanding events of the conference are the opening ceremony, the welcome reception, the banquet and the closing ceremony. In the opening ceremony the Minister of Development Mrs Vasso Papandreou and the Minister of the Aegean, Mrs Elizabeth Papazoi, who have taken Eurospeech '97 under the auspices of their ministries, and the Mayor of Rhodes Mr George Giannopoulos have been invited to give addresses. Furthermore, a multivision show: "The Dodecanese: A journey in space and time" will be presented by the author Mr Nikos Kasseris and the ESCA medal will be awarded to Mario Rossi by the ESCA president Louis Pols.

The welcome reception will be held by the Mayor of Rhodes at the magnificent Palace of the Grand Masters, the residence of the supreme commanders of the Knights of Saint John's order, who ruled in Rhodes from 1309 to 1522 AD.

The banquet will take place in the Gardens of the Rodos Palace Hotel by the swimming pool organized as a Greek night and will include Greek specialities and wine, barbecue and an orchestra that will play modern and folk music. The highlight of the night will be the ballet performance by the "Nafsika Dance Theatre" consisting of dance pieces from the well known films "Zorba the Greek" and "Never on a Sunday" choreographed by Sofia Smailou.

In the closing ceremony, apart from Wolfgang Hess's review speech and the usual farewell addresses, the awards will be handed to the winners of the ELSNET/ELRA Olympics.

I would like to thank all the members of the organizing committee, especially the secretary Nikos Fakotakis and Evangelos Dermatas, the personnel and the graduate students of WCL, especially Kyriakos Sgarbas, Dimitris Galanis, Despina Krana, Panagiota Bobolas, Sofia Antonakopoulou and Jeanette Smith, the commercial organizer CPR and its director Loukia Simonoviki, the ESCA board and especially its president Louis Pols, who has assisted us in every step, for their tireless efforts to bring this conference to a successful end. Without them, Eurospeech '97 would not have materialized. Furthermore, I would like to extend my best thanks to the many sponsors and supporters of Eurospeech '97:

- The University of Patras and WCL in particular.
- The European Commission.
- ESCA.
- The Ministries of Development, Culture, Education and the Aegean.
- The City of Rodos.
- The Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE).
- The firms ERICSSON SA, INTRAKOM SA, SIEMENS SA, STAT SA, ANKO SA

We feel that Eurospeech '97 in Rhodes will be a memorable event and we look forward to sharing it with you.

Professor George Kokkinakis
General Chairman

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I. Trancoso, INESC, Lisboa, Portugal

SPONSORSHIP

EUROSPEECH '97 has been sponsored and supported by the following companies and authorities:

Sponsors

The University of Patras, Greece
The European Commission
The Hellenic Telecommunications Organization (OTE), Greece
The Ministry of Education, Greece
The Ministry of the Aegean, Greece
The City of Rodos, Greece
ERICSSON SA, Greece
INTRAKOM SA, Greece

Supporters

The Ministry of Culture, Greece
The Ministry of Development, Greece (The General Secretariat of Science & Technology)
ESCA
SIEMENS SA, Greece
STAT SA, Greece
ANKO SA, Greece

Outstanding Events

Opening Ceremony

Monday 22, 14:30
Plenary event at Rodos Palace Jupiter Hall with welcome addresses, ESCA medal Award, Invited speech, Mutlivision Show.

Welcome Reception

Monday 22, 19:30
Drinks and hors d'oeuvres, offered by the Mayor of Rodos at the Grand Masters Palace

Banquet

Wednesday 24, 21:00
Greek Night at Rodos Palace Gardens with Greek specialities, wine barbecue, orchestra, ballet performance

Lunches

Tues. 22, Wed. 23, Thurs. 24, 13:30-15:00
Regular participant and student menus offered at the "AMBROSIA" and "CASTELLANIA" Restaurants of Rodos Palace, correspondingly

Excursion to Lindos

Wednesday 24, 15:00
Guided tour to the archeological site and the village of Lindos

Closing ceremony

Thursday 25, 18:45
Plenary event at Rodos Palace Jupiter Hall with Farewell addresses, "Olympics Contests" Awards, Eurospeech '97 Review Speech

Sessions

Plenary keynote sessions: 5
Oral sessions: (including 2 Special Sessions): 44
Poster sessions: 22 Total: 71

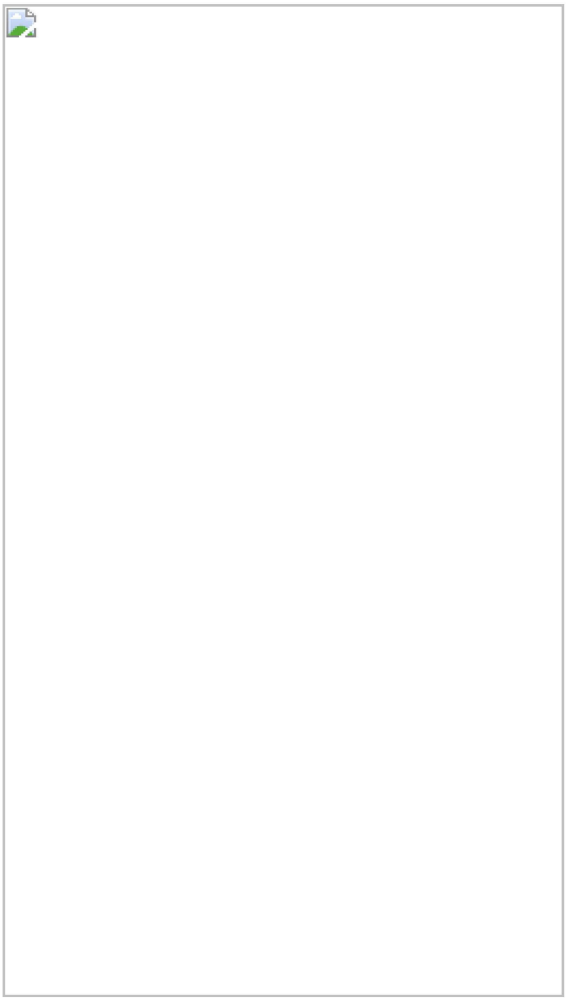
Papers

Keynote papers: 7
Oral session papers: 264
Poster session papers: 453
Total: 724

Programs - Proceedings

Pocket program: One booklet, 175 pages
Abstracts program: One volume, approx. 180 pages (in preparation)
Hard-copy proceedings: Five volumes, 3,256 pages
CD-ROM proceedings: One CD

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE



VENUE

EUROSPEECH '97 will be held at the International Convention Centre of Rodos Palace Hotel, the largest and best equipped conference venue in Greece. Rodos Palace is a 5-star hotel complex by the sea, 12 km from the international airport and near the city of Rodos. Set on a 30-acre site, it includes an elegant tower building, vast gardens and excellent sport facilities. The tower building includes deluxe rooms and suites offering an unparalleled panoramic view of the island and the blue Aegean. Situated within the Hotel's picturesque gardens lie spacious apartments and bungalows for those seeking a touch of privacy and relaxation. Adjacent to the tower stands the new 7-storey executive wing, fully designed for the demanding needs of today's executive travelers and conference delegates. All 780 rooms of the complex offer private balcony or patio, private bath, colour TV with satellite programs, 5 channel music, air conditioning and direct dial telephones.

The address of the Rodos Palace Hotel is :

Rodos Palace
Trianton Ave. , Ixia
851 00 Rodos, Greece
Tel : +30 241 / 25 222 or 26 222
Telex : 29222-213
Fax : + 30 241 / 25350

RHODES

Rodos (Rhodes), the Isle of the Roses, is the largest of the Dodecanese complex and the third largest of the Greek islands. Situated in the South Aegean in the Mediterranean, at the cross-roads of two continents, Rodos combines the worldliness of Europe and the mystery of the Orient in an atmosphere that is truly fascinating.

Discovering Rodos you discover Greece. Ancient cities, a medieval town with its own castle, small villages, sun-drenched beaches are all found on Rodos. But Rodos is more than that. It is one of the most developed islands in the Mediterranean and it provides its visitors with every holiday amenity including large and modern hotels of international standards, yachting harbour, entertaining night life, casino, sports facilities and duty-free shopping.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

You can reach Rodos by plane, by daily boat services from Piraeus and by hydrofoil service from other islands.

There are daily jet services directly to Rodos from Athens and most major European cities. There may be a direct flight from your country/city to Rodos. Olympic Airways (tel. : +30 1 9666 66 66) links Rodos with Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion, Karpathos, Kassos, Kos, Megisti, Mykonos and Santorini.

If you will fly to Rhodes via Athens, book your flight as early as possible, September is still high season in Rhodes and demand almost always exceeds supply. The Athens Hellinikon International Airport consists of the West Airport Terminal, used exclusively for domestic or international Olympic Airways flights, and the East Airport Terminal, used by all other international airlines. In case you reach Athens by an international flight to the East Terminal, you need to take the airport bus or a taxi to the West Terminal for your domestic flight to Rodos via Olympic Airways. Taxi rates are approx. DRA 1,800 (USD 6.5).

Rodos Airport is 12 km from the Rodos Palace Hotel. A bus service for the transportation of the participants from the airport to the venue and back to the airport will be established, the day before and after the conference. Another possibility is to hire a taxi just at the airport exit. The fare to the Rodos Palace Hotel is approx. DRA 2,200 (USD 8).

There are also Olympic Airways buses and public buses that run between airport and Rodos with a stop in front of Rodos Palace. The waiting time depends on the hour of the day.

There are daily car ferries between Rodos and Piraeus. Either way the departure is at 17:00 and arrival is at 06:00 the next morning. First class tickets are about DRA 34,000 (USD 120), round trip. For information on ship routes to and from Piraeus contact the Piraeus harbour master (tel. : +30 1 422 6000).

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is offered in the Rodos Palace Hotel and in other hotels of various categories at special rates. All hotels are situated along the sea shore and in a distance up to 1km from Rodos Palace. Please book your hotel room with the enclosed registration form as early as possible in order to secure a room at Rodos Palace Hotel or in nearby hotels. Should you have any questions concerning the hotel reservations please contact the Conference Secretariat.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration Fees Full and limited registration options for ESCA members, non-ESCA members and students are offered. These registration options include the following services as packages, and are fully covered by the corresponding fees.

REGISTRATION	Non student Full	Student Limited	Non student Full	Student Limited

Admission to the scientific programme and exhibition	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Transportation(1)	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Hard-copy Proceedings	*Yes*	-	*Yes*	-
CD-ROM Proceedings	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Welcome Reception	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Three Lunches	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes(2)*	*Yes(2)*
Banquet	*Yes*	-	*Yes*	-
Coffee and refreshments	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*	*Yes*
Half day excursion to Lindos	*Yes*	-	*Yes*	-

(1) Bus service between Airport and Conference Venue (Sept 21 and Sept 26).
(2) Student lunches.

In addition, the fee for Non-ESCA members includes an ESCA membership for one year (1997). The Special Package includes an ESCA membership for two years (1997, 1998).

Advance Registration

Attendants should fill in the attached Registration form and mail it with included payment (credit card or bank transfer) to the Conference Secretariat (CPR). Please take care to bring to the conference your confirmation of registration or a bank transfer receipt for payment of the conference fee.

On-Site Registration

Registration at the Conference will take place on Sunday, 21 September from 16:00 to 20:00 and on Monday, 22 September from 8:30 to 18:00. The Registration and Information Desk will also be open on Tuesday, 23 September, Wednesday, 24 September and Thursday, 25 September from 8:30 to 13:30 and from 14:30 to 19:00.

At the Registration Desk, only DRA, Visa, Mastercard or American Express cards can be accepted to pay for registration fees.

A name badge will be included in the conference bag handed over at the registration desk. Please always wear your badge while in the Conference Centre.

Cancellation of Participation

Cancellation of participation must be made in writing to the Conference Secretariat (CPR). For cancellations received by August 15, 1997 80% of the total amount will be reimbursed. After that date, no refund can be made, but the Conference Proceedings will be sent.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Language

The official language of EUROSPEECH'97 is English.

Opening Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony will take place on Monday 22, Rodos Palace Hotel, 14:30.

The Minister of Development Mrs.Vasso Papandreou, the Minister of the Aegean Mrs. Elisabeth Papajoi and the Mayor of Rhodes Mr. George Giannopoulos have been invited to give addresses. Furthermore, a multivision

show: "The Dodecanese: A journey in space and time" will be presented and the ESCA medal will be awarded to Prof. Mario Rossi, by the ESCA President Prof. Louis Pols.

Welcome Reception

On Monday September 22, attendants will be offered a Welcome Reception by the Mayor of Rodos Mr George Giannopoulos from 19:30 to 21:30 at the Palace of the Grand Masters. It is the most impressive building of the Knights of St John built around 1350.

Banquet

The official Dinner of the Conference will take place on Wednesday September 24, 21:00 in the Gardens of the Rodos Palace Hotel by the swimming pool organized as a Greek night. It will include Greek specialities and wine, barbecue and an orchestra that will play modern and folk music. The highlight of the night will be the ballet performance by the "Nafsika Dance Theatre" consisting of dance pieces from the well known films "Zorba the Greek" and "Never on a Sunday" choreographed by Sofia Smailou.

Lunches - Dinners

Lunches included in the fees will be offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday between 13:30 and 15:00 at the Rodos Palace Hotel. Additional tickets are offered for accompanying persons at reduced prices.

For dining, the «taverna», the classic Greek eating-place is the most appropriate choice. The cuisine is Greek with emphasis on grilled meat and fish. The old city is full of picturesque tavernas. Of course, there are also restaurants offering international cuisine in addition to Greek specialities and restaurants of various nationalities including Chinese, Lebanese and Cypriot.

Half Day Excursion to Lindos - Wednesday 24, 15:00

Lindos is the most beautiful spot on the island. The shimmering crystal blue bay is surrounded by dazzling white-washed houses and perched high above the village is the Acropolis with its Temple of Athena. Continuing up to the Acropolis, you can view the Castle of the Knights, the restored Temple of the Lindian Athena and look on to St Paul's bay with its tiny chapel.

Proceedings

The hardcopy proceedings of the conference (five volumes) are already available and can be shipped on demand to interested participants. Otherwise they will be handed out at the conference, together with the CD-ROM proceedings, the program with the abstracts of the presentations and the present pocket program. Receiving the proceedings in advance is the best way to get informed in time and avoid the trouble of carrying the heavy volumes or shipping it from Rhodes.

Plenary sessions

There will be five plenary sessions in which seven distinguished scientists will give keynote speeches: On Monday afternoon, just after the opening ceremony, Mario Rossi will speak on "Is Syntactic Structure Prosodically Recoverable?". On Tuesday and Wednesday morning, Victor Zue and Jan van Santen will speak on "Conversational Interfaces: Advances and Challenges" and "Prosodic Modelling in Text-to-Speech Synthesis", correspondingly. On Thursday morning in a plenary session on: "Robust Speech Recognition: Review and Perspectives", Jean-Claude Junqua will speak on "Impact of the Unknown Communication Channel on Automatic Speech Recognition: A Review", Jerome Bellegarda on "Statistical Techniques for Robust ASR: Review and Perspectives" and Richard Lippmann on "Using Missing Feature Theory to Actively Select Features for Robust Speech Recognition with Interruptions, Filtering and Noise".

Oral and Poster Sessions

The Technical Program is organized into 44 Oral Sessions consisting of 264 presentations and 22 Poster Sessions with 453 posters. Four oral sessions with 6 papers each and 90' duration and two poster sessions with approximately 20 papers each will run in parallel. Each poster will be displayed for 180' (the whole morning or afternoon) but the author will stand by the poster for 90', (the part of the session the poster belongs to) in order to present the paper.

Special Sessions

The Technical Program also includes two special sessions: One on "Education for Language and Speech Communication" (Th1D) organized by Gerrit Bloothooft and another on "Towards Robust ASR for Car and Telephone Applications" (Th3C), organized by Jean-Claude Junqua.

Session Identifiers

Each session identifier indicates the day, the time and the identity of the session. There are oral and poster session identifiers.

The day is indicated by the following letters both for the oral and poster sessions:

- M for Monday
- T for Tuesday
- W for Wednesday
- Th for Thursday

The time is indicated for the oral sessions by the figures 1 to 4 corresponding to the time slots:

- 10:00-11:30 (1)
- 12:00-13:30 (2)
- 15:00-16:30 (3)
- 17:00-18:30 (4)

For the poster sessions the letter M indicates the morning session (10:00-13:30), the letter A the afternoon session (15:00-18:30).

The sessions of a specific time slot are distinguished between each other by the identity letters A, B, C and D both for oral and poster sessions. For the latter, the letters A, B correspond to the first part of the morning or afternoon session, the letters C, D to the second part.

An identifier with both letters and a figure indicates an oral session, an identifier with only letters indicates a poster session.

Examples:

The identifier T3C indicates an oral session, taking place on Tuesday (T), in the third time slot (15:00-16:30) and having the identity C.

The identifier ThMD indicates a poster session taking place on Thursday (Th) in the morning (M) and having the identity letter D which belongs to the second part of the morning session. This means that the posters of this session will be displayed the whole morning (from 10:00 to 13:30) but the authors will stand by their posters in the second part of the session (12:00 - 13:30).

INTERNET ACCESS

Eurospeech '97 will provide several terminals for conference participants to access the Internet and electronic email. Access to the terminals will be possible during conference hours.

OLYMPICS

ELSNET/ELRA have organized a contest for the best student papers and a competition between man-machine dialogue systems over the telephone named "Olympics". Prizes for the best student paper at Eurospeech '97 and the best student paper with focus on language resources at Eurospeech '97, will be awarded to the winners by ELSNET and ELRA correspondingly at the closing ceremony.

The competition between man-machine dialogue systems will be carried out during the conference as follows:

Testing Spoken Dialogue Information Systems Over the Telephone

ELSNET offers Eurospeech97 participants the opportunity to test spoken dialogue information systems over the telephone world-wide. Anytime during the conference, telephone lines will be available for delegates to test participating dialogue systems for free in the ALPHA room. Available systems use one of the following languages: English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Slovenian. After each call the user is invited to fill in a short questionnaire to quantify the experiences with the system.

At the closing ceremony (Thursday, 25 September, 18:45h) the organizers will comment on the results and will award a prize for the system which is judged to have achieved the highest approval ratings.

Action steering committee:
Norman Fraser University of Surrey, UK
Els den Os KPN, The Netherlands

EXHIBITION

A scientific and industrial exhibition will be held during Eurospeech'97. Companies, Publishers, Research Institutes, Universities and Consortia of EU-supported projects will have the opportunity to show their products and research results either with attended stands or with unattended posters.

The Exhibition will take place in the "Salon des Roses" in the heart of the Convention Centre from Monday, September 22, to Thursday, September 25. The stands will be staffed as follows:

Monday, September 22: 16:30 - 18:30
Tuesday, September 23: 09:00 - 18:30
Wednesday, September 24: 09:00 - 13:30
Thursday, September 25: 09:00 - 17:00

Exhibiting companies and research institutes which confirmed their participation at press time include:

ANKO SA
CARSTENS MEDIZIN- ELEKTRONIK GmbH
CPK
CSELT
THE DRAGON SYSTEMS INC.
ELSEVIER SCIENCE
THE ENTROPIC GROUP
ILSP
INTRAKOM SA
KAYELEMETRICS
KNOWLEDGE SA
LINGLINK, ANITE SYSTEMS
S. KARGER AG
STAT SA

WALTER DE GRUYTER & CO
WCL

The following EU projects will be exhibited at the stands of LINGLINK-ANITE SYSTEMS:

ACCeSS: Automated Call Center Through Speech Understanding System
ARISE: Automatic Railway Information Systems for Europe
CAVE: Caller Verification in Banking and Telecommunications
ELRA: European Language Resources Association
SPEECHDAT: Speech Databases for Creation of Voice Driven Teleservices
SPEEDATA: Speech Recognition for Data-entry Applications
VODIS: Advanced Speech Technologies for Voice Operated Driver Information Systems
SPRACH: Speech Recognition Algorithms for Connectionist Hybrids (ESPRIT Long Term Research)
THISL: Thematic Indexing of Spoken Language (ESPRIT Long Term Research)

USEFUL INFORMATION

Passport and Visa

A valid passport is required for entry into Greece. An identity card is sufficient for citizens of the EU member countries. No visas are required for visitors from West European countries, USA, Japan, many South American countries and the British Commonwealth. For all other countries, visas are issued on a reciprocal basis. Please consult the Greek Consulate nearest to you for more details.

Car Rental - International Driver's Licence

Rodos is a wonderful place for exploring by car. Rent-a-car is not expensive. Furthermore, Hertz offers a 20% discount for Eurospeech ’97 attendees. For reservations call +30 241 21 819 or check the desk at Rodos Palace.

If you wish to drive a car while in Greece, you must obtain a European or an international driver's license in your home country.

Currency exchange

The Greek currency unit is the drachma (DRA). 1 US dollar is about 280 DRA at the time of printing. Foreign currency can be exchanged at the airport and at most banks. Banking hours for the public are daily from 7:30 to 13:30 except weekends. Centrally located banks also provide «Exchange Service» from Monday to Friday afternoon (5:00 pm to 7:30 pm) and on Saturday mornings. They also offer ATM service. Banks at Rodos Airport provide services throughout the day as well as a night service for most flights. There is also a bank located inside Rodos Palace Hotel.

Insurance

All kinds of insurance, including medical coverage, is left to your responsibility. We recommend that you discuss insurance coverage with your travel agent.

Electricity

Three-pin flat electric (220 V, 50 Hz) outlets are provided.

Credit Cards

Most shops, hotels and restaurants accept VISA, Diners Club and American Express credit cards as well as Eurochecks and Eurocards.

Shopping

Shops are open from 8:00 to 13:00 and from 17:00 to 20:30 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 8:00 to 13:30 on Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Large stores including supermarkets are open from 8:30 to 21:00.

Climate-Clothing

Greece enjoys a Mediterranean climate, especially the regions which are close to the sea. During September the temperature is around 22o Celsius, (72o Fahrenheit). Being in one of the most beautiful Mediterranean islands during this period of the year, we suggest you bring summer clothes, cameras, and of course, bathing suits to enjoy swimming in an extraordinary blue sea. Include something more substantial for the evenings.

Transport within the town: Bus-Taxi

There are 7 public bus lines serving the town, the terminal of which is in the new market at Mandraki. The west coast where Rodos Palace is situated, is served by buses leaving every 10 to 15 minutes. The fare is DRA 300. Taxi is perhaps the best way to move in town. The fare between Rodos Palace and Downtown Rodos is approx. DRA 800. It is easy to get a taxi all day except in the rush hours in the morning and in the evening .

Tips

In restaurants , tips are included in the bill but if you are very satisfied with the service you may give a tip of 5 to 10% on the bill. In taxis you may round up the fare.

Telephones

Telephone calls from the hotel are more expensive than public telephones, as usual. Public telephones accept mostly cards which can be bought for 1,500 DRA (USD 5) at kiosks, supermarkets and corner stores. In Rodos Palace they are available at the drugstore.

Useful Phone Numbers

Country code (Greece): 30
Area code (Rodos): (0) 241
Olympic Airways: 24 571 - 5
Rodos Airport: 92 839
Rodos Port Authority: 28 888, 27 695
Tourist Police: 27 423
Tourist Organization: 23 255, 23 655
Taxi: 27 666
First Aid: 22 222
Rodos Palace Hotel: 25 222

Eurospeech '97 Secretariat:

> Before the conference: + 30 61 270 388, 223 335
> During the conference: + 30 241 25 222 + 30 241 73 317 (fax)

WELCOME TO RHODES

Rhodes is the largest of a complex of more than 200 islands known as the Dodecanese. The name means "twelve islands", and refers to the principal inhabited islands, which in fact are thirteen. Rhodes has an area of 1,400 sq. km and a population of 90,000. Its climate is mild with 300 days of sunshine a year on average.

History

Strategically placed, the island has had a tumultuous past linked with the sea. Rhodes was already inhabited in prehistoric times. The island gradually expanded its influence and became the main commercial link in the Mediterranean.

In 408 BC, the island's three important Doric cities Ialissos, Lindos and Kamiros united to found the city of Rhodes on the island's northeastern edge. This marked a new era in the history of the island. The sun-worshipping city of Rhodes (Rodos) became an important political, commercial and religious centre. Its golden era lasted from the 5th to the 3rd century BC.

Rhodes extended its rule, minted its own coin, introduced the first maritime law rules, advanced the arts, theater and sports. Its school of Rhetoric became famous and attracted many well-known Romans and Greeks. In the 2nd century BC, Rhodes became an ally of Rome: this led to a gradual weakening of the island, which from the 1th century AD became a roman prefecture. St. Paul visited the island and recruited the first Christians 57 AD; when in 395 AD the Roman Empire split, Rhodes and the other islands of «Provincia insularum» were included in the Byzantine Empire.

New seafarers attacked and often looted the city in the following centuries.

The Knights of the Order of Saint John were established in Rhodes in 1309 AD. Their stay has endowed the city with a series of majestic buildings protected by a fortified wall.

From 1522 onwards the Dodecanese islands form part of the Ottoman Empire until 1912 AD, when they came under Italian rule. In 1948 the islands were united with Greece.

The City

Present-day Rhodes is a medieval/modern amalgam which impresses and fascinates visitors. Its medieval aspect, fortified behind an impressive wall, merges harmoniously with the refined, cosmopolitan air of a modern resort with luxurious hotels, broad tree-lined avenues, and rich commercial stores.

Sightseeing in the old town

It is fascinating to walk in the medieval town, full of impressive 15th century buildings, stone-paved lanes with arches and vaults, rows of little shops, a modern touch to the medieval picture, offering a surprising variety of commodities.

Perhaps the best starting point for a journey through medieval Rhodes is the wall (14th century; 5km long). As we cross one of the most famous gates, Pili Elefterias (Freedom gate) we encounter traces of the Temple of Venus (3rd century BC), also the Inn of Auvergne Knights, the Arsenal, the Museum of Decorative Arts (folklore exhibits from the Dodecanese Islands), the Byzantine Museum (in a 13th century church), the majestic Harbour Gate.

The Archaeological Museum (tel. 0241 27 674), housed in the 15th century building of the Knights' Hospital, includes collections of coins, pots and sculptures from the Mycenean up to the Roman era. We note the kneeling Venus of Rhodes (1st century AD) and the sepulchral column of Tymarista and Crito.

The Knights' Road, the official street of the medieval city, follows the ancient road to the Palace of the Grand Masters. Along the road lie the Inns of the Knights of Seven Languages, of which four still remain.

The Palace of the Grand Masters or Knights' Palace (14th century) is a palace and fortress that dominates the old town. It was destroyed in 1856 and rebuilt in 1940. Floors are covered with ancient mosaics of the island of Cos. There is an interesting collection of 16th and 17th century Western furniture, and an impressive arcade used as a place for meetings. The Palace has been renovated and is used to house important international functions. Other remarkable sights of the old town are the Mosque of Sulleiman, an old church with a beautiful Italian door, the Castellania (a 16th century building now housing the Library) with its beautiful fountain, St. Catherine's'

Hospital, the Admiralty Palace to its right, finally the Folk Dance Theater that presents traditional music, dances and costumes in their purest form.

The new town

On entering Mandraki (yacht harbour), the most picturesque of the three ports of the city, we are welcomed by two deer in bronze. Erected, probably where the famous Colossus of Rhodes used to stand, they have become the modern emblem of the town. Nearby on the wharf stands the lighthouse tower of St. Nicholas and the three old colourful windmills. Numerous monumental buildings surround Mandraki and add to its majestic air - among others the New Market (Nea Agora), a polygonal building with courtyard, the Archbishop's Palace, the Evangelismos (Annunciation) Church, the Central Post Office, the Town Hall, the Theater and the Government House - all four impressive buildings along the pier. Next to the Theater one admires Murad Reis Mosque and its graceful minaret. At the north end of the town stands the Institute of Marine Biology (Aquarium).

The Ancient City

Although Rhodes was a large city, relatively few ruins have been found. The ancient Acropolis stood on the eastern city of the Monte Smith hill, overlooking the city. Further on one sees the Stadium (3rd century BC) and the curiously square sized Odeum (both rebuilt). Performances of ancient drama are held every summer in the Odeum. There are also a few ruins of the temples of Polias Athena, Pythian Apollo and Zeus.

Sights near the city

Only 3km from the city lies the luscious greenery of Rodini Park, with many flower-gardens, picturesque lanes and ponds. From Rodini one can visit the Tomb of Ptolemies and the ruins of a Roman aqueduct.

East coast

The most fascinating site on east coast is Lindos (47km from the city of Rhodes), built on the ruins of the ancient Doric town of the same name. In medieval times Lindos was the second most important centre of the island, after the city of Rhodes itself. The ancient Acropolis was then built into a castle. It is said that St. Paul the apostle landed here when he came to the island of Rhodes, accordingly the tiny harbour on the other side of the village has been named «Agios Pavlos».

Under the steep cliff of the Acropolis lies the present townlet, charming with its whitewashed houses and pebbled courtyards. Houses retain traditional interiors, heavy ironwork on balconies and brown windows. Some 15th century houses have been officially declared traditional buildings to be preserved. One should also visit the church of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) of Lindos and the chapel of Agios Pavlos.

A series of steps leads to the Acropolis. Inside the main gate we discern the ruins of the Knights' Lodge and the Byzantine church of St. John.

Outside the Doric Stoa the prow of a Lindian Hellenistic trireme has been carved in a rock (4.5 x 5m). We cross the Doric Stoa (5th century BC) with its 42 columns (20 have been restored) and climb the majestic staircase to a higher terrace with Propylean ruins (5th century BC). From this point we reach the Sanctuary of Lindian Athena, with its elegant bi-prostyle temple on the edge of the cliff (4th century). Ruins of an ancient theater have been found on the slope of the Acropolis.

There are other beauties on this part of the island besides antiquities. Koskinou (10km) is an inland village with charming traditional houses. Kalithea (10.5km) is built around a colourful pine-covered bay with old spas; Faliraki (14km) is a cosmopolitan resort with an exquisite beach, Ladiko boasts a beautiful coast, Afandou (21km) is an old Rhodian village with an interesting church and a golf course. To the right of the Kolimbia coast a road leads to the enchanting Seven Springs (Epta Piges), a cool oasis with pine and plane-trees and crystal-clear waters. Tsambika has a beautiful sandy coast and a mountain where the monastery of the Virgin Mary stands.

Arhangelos (29km) is note worthy for its beautiful traditional houses, ceramics and carpet workshops. Haraki, a charming fishing village, lies on the beginning of the marvelous coast which leads to the Vilha Bay, and includes the medieval castle of Faraklos. To the south of Lindos we meet traditional villages here and there and charming coasts until the road abandons the coastline and turns left towards Katavia (80km), a major village in southern Rhodes. But the journey is not yet over. It's worthwhile to follow the unpaved earth road leading to the Prassonissi peninsula, full of sand dunes and accessible only in the summer, as the sea transforms it into a true island in winter.

West coast

Populous resorts, important archaeological sites, picturesque villages await us on this side of the island as well.

Following the road to the west, we cross the great coast where most of the island's hotels are clustered and reach Trianda (8km) or Ialissos, a townlet surrounded by orchards. The beach of Ialissos marks the end of the great chain of hotels starting from the beach of the city of Rhodes. One should visit here the church of the Dormition of Theotokos (Virgin Mary, Mother of God) with its famous wood carved temple, and then follow the winding picturesque road crossing the pine-wood up to the Acropolis of Ialissos (6km) the important Doric city built on the flat top of Mt. Filerimos, strategically overlooking the island.

Places of archaeological interest include the temple of Polias Athena (3rd century BC), the Baptismal Font of an early Christian church, the brilliantly restored church of Panagia Filermos, the monastery, the ruins of a medieval castle, the Doric fountain and the ancient necropolis.

Further to the west on the coast road, after Kremasti and Paradissi, one should go up left and reach the lush greenery of the famous Petaloudes (Butterflies) valley (25km), unique in the whole of Greece. Millions of butterflies gather here in the summer. Returning to the coast road we reach the side-road leading to Ancient Kamiros, third in importance commercial centre of Antiquity (34km). We discern parts of houses and buildings, the Agora, with its Doric Stoa (3rd century), a Hellenistic temenos with Doric temple, ruins of an aqueduct and remnants of the peripheral temple of Kamiriad Athena. Beside the foundations of that temple stands the Panagia Monastery, near to a proto-Christian catacomb.

The west road continues for a while along the coast, reaches the village Scala Kamirou (51km), then turns inland. From this village, with picturesque windmills and a panoramic view to the opposite islets, one can reach Chalki by caique. The traveler will be pleasantly surprised by the amphitheatric Kritinia village (55km), with a nearby medieval castle, then Siana, (69km), full of old stone houses, and Monolithos, built on pine covered slopes of Mt. Ataviros. To the south one crosses endless green fields to reach Apolakia (84km), famous for its marriage feasts, and finally the opposite side - Katavia (102km).

Inland

Not only coastal Rhodes is worth a visit. An inland journey uncovers beautiful traditional villages, untouched by the cosmopolitan spirit of tourist resorts. If we start out from Agios Syllas monastery, lost among the pine and beach, we can reach Profitis Ilias (altitude 720m) with its monastery and panoramic view of the sea. This is an enchanting journey, leading to idyllic villages on hill-tops or built on gentle slopes, with stone houses, whitewashed or ochre. Villages like Apolona, Agios Isidoros, Embonas, Laerma, Askiplio, Messanagros, Psithos and Salakos, stay in the visitor's memory for ever, each for its own charms but all with equally gentle and hospitable inhabitants.

TOURS FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

Full day Rodos Island Tour

A perfect opportunity to see a lot of the island with its interesting landscape and numerous villages. The tour begins with a drive along the East Coast of the Island and the first stop is Seven Springs, a pretty wooded area with a fascinating tunnel leading to one of the springs. Continuing along the East Coast, you visit Archangelos,

the second largest village, then we make our way to Kiotari. A stop is made here for lunch and a swim. After lunch you cross the island at the centre towards the West Coast. During this horizontal trip through the island you will perceive spectacular scenery. Throughout the year the West Coast remains a very green and fertile region, quite different from the East Coast. A stop is made for photographs at the Castle of Monolithos. Your journey then takes you along the West Coast passing several villages where the locals still live the traditional way of life. A refreshment stop is made at Kamiros Scala, mid-afternoon, before returning to your hotels.

Full day excursion to the island of Symi

While sailing across the Aegean Sea, you pass very close to the Turkish coastline. Symi is one of the most unspoilt of the Greek islands. You arrive at the small picturesque harbour with its multicoloured houses and dazzling clear water and relax in one of the harbour side taverns. Later the boat will cruise to the West Coast port of Panormitis with its 12th century monastery. A lovely relaxing journey to a beautiful island.

Rodos City Tour

You will be first taken on a drive around the New Town of Rodos and shown various places of interest. Afterwards you will be taken on a panoramic drive to Monte Smith. Here you have a fantastic view of the Old and New Town. A visit will be made to the Temple of Apollo and the Ancient Stadium. You will then visit the Old Town of Rodos and take a walk through the Street of the Knights of St John. The Grand Master Palace and the Ancient Museum will be pointed out to you so that you may explore them some other time. We end our tour with a drive along the east coast to the famous Italian Spa at Kallithea.

ESCA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Tuesday 18:45, "Delphi" Amphitheatre

SATELLITE EVENTS

EU SPEECH PROJECTS DAY

As in previous years, there will be a Eurospeech satellite event devoted to EU sponsored speech projects. This event will take place on Monday 22 September from 9:00 to 12:30 in the Rodos Palace Hotel Convention Centre. Participation is free of charge and all interested Eurospeech participants are welcome to attend.

The program of the event will be the following:

EU Speech Projects Day

Registration
8:30-9:30

Opening
George Kokkinakis, Eurospeech
Louis Pols, ESCA
Giovanni Battista Varile, EC
9:30-9:40

Roadmap of challenges and achievements in speech processing, with focus on the contribution of EU speech projects

Joseph Mariani, LIMSI-CNRS, France
Roger Moore, DRA, UK
9:40-11:00

Coffee break 11:30-12:00

Future EU activities in Language and Speech

Giovanni Battista Varile, European Commission
11:20-11:50

The role and contribution of the ELSNet, international cooperation, ELRA and EAGLES

Steven Krauwer, ELSNet
Khalid Choukri, ELRA
Roger Moore, EAGLES
11:50-12:20

Questions from the floor 12:20-12:30

Information contact:
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ESCA WORKSHOP ON INTONATION

18-20 September 1997, at Athens, Greece

Information contact:
Antonis Botinis
Tel: +30 1 7211119
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E-mail: tonesca@di.uoa.gr
WWW server: http: //www.di.uoa.gr/esca

COCOSDA WORKSHOP '97

Friday, 26 September 1997, 9:00-13:00, Convention Centre, Rodos Palace Hotel.

Information contact:
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Fax: +1 215 573 2175
E-mail: myl@unagi.cis.upenn.edu

ESCA. ESCOP TUTORIAL & RESEARCH WORKSHOP ON AUDIO-VISUAL SPEECH PROCESSING: Computational & Cognitive Science Approaches

26-27 September 1997, Rodos Palace Hotel

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COST WORKSHOP: Speech Technology in the Public Telephone Network: Where are we today?

Organized by COST Telecom actions 249, 250 and 258 26-27 September 1997, Rodos Palace Hotel

Information contact:
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GRANTS FOR ATTENDEES

Grants have been offered to students and young scientists needing financial assistance as follows:

- 21 grants including free registration, accommodation and full board sponsored by the EU (10 grants) and by Eurospeech '97 (11 grants)
- 11 grants including free registration to Eurospeech '97 sponsored by ESCA
- 3 grants including free registration to satellite workshops of Eurospeech '97 sponsored by ESCA.

EUROSPEECH '99 BUDAPEST

Hungary August 31 - September 3, 1999
Department of Telecommunications and Telematics
Technical University of Budapest (DDT TUB) Szticzej u. 2, Budapest, Hungary, 1111

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EUROPEAN SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION (ESCA)

ESCA is a non-profit organization, whose objective is to promote speech communication science and technology in a European context. If you are interested in joining ESCA or need information about the association, please contact:

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WWW server: http://ophale.icp.grenet.fr/esca/esca.html

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