

# Researching the Roots of IEEE Region 8

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**Abstract** — This paper describes the preliminary steps towards the foundation and the early history of IRE Region 9 / IEEE Region 8. The information has been gathered mainly from the archives of the IEEE Benelux Section.

**Index Terms** — IEEE History, IEEE Region 8, IRE Region 9.

## I. INTRODUCTION

All indented parts are transcriptions of documents that are available in the IEEE Benelux Section archives or in some other locations.

The research in the Benelux Section archives led to the following important dates with respect to the foundation and the early years of our Region.

- **14 February 1962** – informal meeting of the Inter-Sectional Committee, Europe – 4 Sections: Benelux, France, Geneva, Italy
- **6 March 1962** – sending of a petition by the Benelux Section to the IRE Board of Directors to form a new Region, with its territory based on the European Broadcasting Area defined in the Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunication Union; the European Broadcasting Area includes the Western part of the USSR and the territories bordering on the Mediterranean; see Fig. 1
- **24 April 1962** – approval of the new Region by the IRE Executive Committee; see Fig. 2
- **24 May 1962** – approval of the new Region by the IRE Board of Directors
- **6 June 1962** – inaugural meeting of the IRE Region 9 Committee – 12 attendees – 6 Sections: Benelux, Egypt (not present), France, Geneva, Israel, Italy
- **22 October 1962** – second IRE Region 9 Committee meeting – 7 Sections; new Section: United Kingdom & Eire
- **8 January 1963** – re-approval by the IEEE Board of Directors (after the merger of IRE and AIEE): renaming of IRE Region 9 to IEEE Region 8
- **22 April 1963** – first IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting – 8 Sections; new Section: Norway
- **1 January 1970** – Greenland was added to Region 8, and all the countries that were partly in Region 8 (the USSR and countries in North Africa) are now considered to belong completely to Region 8; see Fig. 3.
- **1 January 1981** – The rest of Africa was added to Region 8; see Fig. 4.

## II. INFORMATION TAKEN FROM THE BENELUX SECTION ARCHIVES

The idea for an IRE Region Europe arose at the end of 1959 in the Benelux Section, especially on the initiative of Bruce B. Barrow,<sup>1</sup> at that time the Section's first Secretary/Treasurer (till August 1961, but remaining a member of the Section's Executive Committee until his returning to the USA in summer 1962). The idea was actually brought up when Lloyd V. Berkner, a member of the IRE Board of Directors, attended the first (!) Benelux Section meeting on 3 October 1959. In a subsequent letter to Lloyd Berkner dated 4 October 1959, Bruce Barrow states:

We believe it would be very helpful to us to have Europe (including Russia) designated as Region 9. Boundaries might be drawn to include Egypt and Israel Sections. Such a step would give Europe a Regional Director, and might accelerate the formation of other European Sections, with whom we could effectively cooperate.

However, at that time, the IRE Board of Directors decided that the time was not yet ripe.

One year later, the idea was brought to the attention of the IRE President, Ronald L. McFarlan, in a letter by Bruce Barrow, dated 17 October 1960.

Secondly, I wonder if you would care to bring up the question of establishing Region 9 with the Board of Directors. I know that it was discussed about a year ago, and that the Board decided the time was not yet ripe. Since you have left here, I have given the question a good deal of thought, and would like to argue that the time is now ripe, or at any rate that it will be by the time the necessary preliminaries are taken care of.

At the same time, in a letter to Lloyd Berkner, dated 18 October 1960, Bruce Barrow writes:

I am pushing Dr. McFarlan, quite informally, to bring up once more the question of establishing Region 9 in Europe, so you may hear something of this in one of your next meetings. My points in favor of such a move are, briefly, as follows:

- 1) 1961 would be the year to elect the regional director of an odd-numbered region. Even if

<sup>1</sup>From 1958 till 1961 on leave with SHAPE Air Defence Technical Center, The Hague, Netherlands, where he was studying improved methods of transmitting digital data over fading radio paths; see [1, page 2].

the Board moved now, he would not take office until Jan. 1962.

- 2) Europe has roughly 1500 IRE members, far more than Canada had when it was given regional status.
- 3) We need a region to promote the orderly development of sections in Europe. Our problems are not the same as those of other sections.
- 4) The Region would be appropriate for the coming united Europe (see editorial).<sup>2</sup>
- 5) We need the Educational Committee of a region.

In his answer of 10 November 1960, Ronald McFarlan expressed his sympathy with the idea of a 'European Region' and promised to discuss the issue with the IRE Executive Committee.

Support was then sought from the Italy Section (established, like the Benelux Section, 13 May 1959) by sending a letter on 28 November 1960, with a positive reply on 22 December 1960, and from the Geneva Section (established 13 December 1960). There was a general feeling not to take any formal step towards the IRE Executive Committee until a France Section (established 17 October 1961) would have been formed. Since this took more time than expected, the Benelux Section sent a formal petition to the IRE Executive Committee on 3 March 1961, followed by a similar petition from the Italy Section on 16 March 1961 and one from the Geneva Section, as well. The text of the petition reads as follows:

#### PETITION

To the Executive Committee of the Institute of Radio Engineers, Inc.

From the Executive Committee of the Benelux Section of the IRE:

#### WHEREAS

- there are at present more than 1500 IRE members in western Europe, as well as three active IRE Sections;
- we believe these members and Sections to be entitled to direct representation by a European member on the IRE Board of Directors;
- there is an increasing and frequently expressed desire on the part of the European IRE members for international meetings and opportunities for professional contacts;
- there is similarly a desire among members in several countries to establish new IRE Sections;
- the presence in Europe of a representative of the IRE Board of Directors would help to ensure that future expansion of European IRE activities would be carried out in an orderly

manner, to the benefit of both the IRE members and the various European radio and electrical engineering societies;

#### WE HEREBY PETITION

the Executive Committee of the IRE, in the name of the Executive Committee of the Benelux Section,

- to go on record as favoring the establishment without delay of IRE Region 9 in western Europe;
- to draft the changes in the IRE Bylaws necessary to effect the establishment of this Region and to present these changes to the Board of Directors for action at their meeting in May 1961;
- to fix the composition of a provisional Regional Committee;
- and to authorize a meeting of this provisional Regional Committee for April 1961 for the purpose of nominating one or more candidates for the office of Regional Delegate-Regional Director as provided for in the IRE Bylaws, and of conducting such other business as may seem desirable.

The Hague, 3 March 1961

H. Rinia, Chairman  
The Benelux Section of the IRE

B.B. Barrow, Secretary-Treasurer  
The Benelux Section of the IRE  
Postbus 174, The Hague, Netherlands

In the mean time, on 4 January 1961, IRE had formed a special committee (the IRE International Activities Committee) to study the international aspects of the IRE, which was chaired by IRE's former president Ronald L. McFarlan and with Herre Rinia, the first Benelux Section Chair (until 1962), as one of its members. In March 1961, after having received the petitions mentioned earlier, this committee decided to visit various European countries (in particular UK, France, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Italy) at the end of June 1961,

"... to find out whether local societies would welcome such a region and, if so, to try and smooth over any stumbling blocks and establish cooperation."

(Quotation taken from a letter by Herre Rinia to Bruce Barrow, dated 28 March 1961). See also a partial transcript of the letter of 21 April 1961 by Ronald McFarlan to Bruce Barrow below:

George Bailey's letter of April 19, 1961 to you regarding the Executive Committee action on the petition for the formation of Region 9 in Western Europe has just come to my attention. Since it was upon my recommendation that the Executive Committee deferred action on the petition I owe you an explanation.

<sup>2</sup>Bruce Barrow refers to a guest editorial for the March issue of the Transactions on Communication Systems, in which he would like to write on the expansion of the IRE activity in Europe; see [1, page 3].

Starting in London on June 19th the IRE Ad Hoc Committee for Activities Outside Existing Regions will visit in sequence England, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Italy. This committee comprises, in addition to myself as Chairman, E. Finley Carter, John T. Henderson, Herre Rinia and Ernst Weber. Among the matters to be discussed will be the formation of new IRE Sections and their areas, Professional Group activities, relations with the national societies of these countries, and so forth. It has been my feeling that formation of Region 9 should await the results of the forthcoming European discussions of this committee.

...

Let me also say, if I may, that I personally favor the formation of a Region 9 in Western Europe after the necessary exploratory work has been accomplished. This is one of the topics that will be high on the agenda when we meet in June.

Unfortunately, the IRE Executive Committee was not yet convinced of the desirability of establishing a new Region before the end of 1961. This was caused by the upcoming merger between IRE and AIEE, which led the IRE President Lloyd V. Berkner to the statement in December 1961 "...that this matter should be postponed until the negotiations with AIEE are completed." See a partial transcript of the letter of 20 December 1961 by Lloyd Berkner to Bruce Barrow below:

The idea of a quick formation of an IRE Region 9 at this time represents a great many pluses and minuses. In the balance, it would be my judgement that this matter should be postponed until the negotiations with AIEE are completed, since I believe it highly probable that a new society would recognize the need for Region 9, and it could be organized as a part of the shift to a new society.

Prior to a meeting of the IRE International Activities Committee in New York on 27 March 1962, Herre Rinia, member of that committee, called for an informal meeting in Geneva on 14 February 1962 of representatives of the four existing IRE Sections in Europe (Benelux, France, Geneva and Italy) and some people from countries where the forming of a Section was foreseen: Germany (established 12 July 1963; invitation sent to Prof. W.J. Kleen, Munich) and Sweden (established 29 March 1965; invitation sent to Dr. C.E. Granqvist, Stockholm). One of the motions that came out of this meeting was that the new region should consist of all of Greater Europe (and *only* Greater Europe, thus explicitly excluding such territories as South America and the Far East), where Greater Europe is to correspond by definition to the European Broadcasting Area, defined in the Radio Regulations of the ITU, 1959 (Article 5, Nos. 126, 131 and 133): bounded on the West by the Western boundary of Region 1, on the East by the meridian 40° East of Greenwich and on the South by the parallel 30° North so as to include the western part

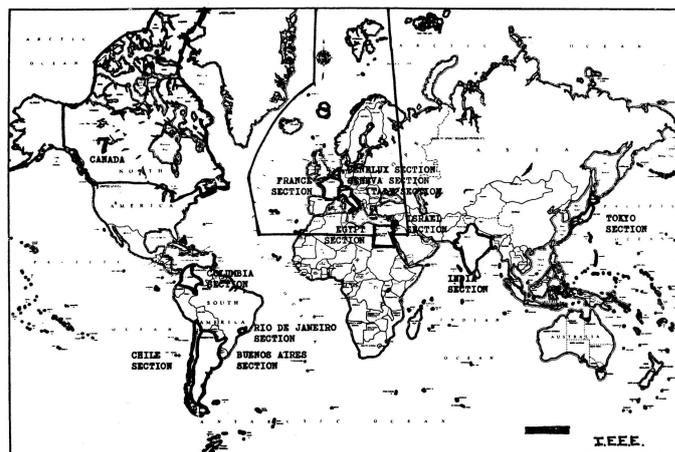


Figure 1. IEEE Region 8 as defined on 8 January 1963; it was defined exactly the same as IRE Region 9. The sketch is taken from the document "Recommendations Regarding IEEE Regions and Districts," prepared by Bradley Cozzens, AIEE, and Walter E. Peterson, IRE, revised 11 July 1962 [2]. This document formed the basis for the merger of IRE and AIEE to IEEE. The boundaries of IRE Region 9 were not changed at the time of the merger: "IEEE Region VIII consists of IRE Region IX plus AIEE and IRE members in the area."

of the USSR and the territories bordering the Mediterranean, with the exception of the parts of Arabia and Saudi-Arabia included in this sector. In addition, Iraq is included in the European Broadcasting Area. See Fig. 1.

A final petition to establish such a region (see below) was then sent to the IRE Executive Committee by the Benelux Section on 6 March 1962, and the Sections in France, Geneva and Italy were asked to do the same.

Board of Directors of the Institute of Radio Engineers  
1 East 79 Street  
New York 21, N.Y.  
U.S.A.

Dear Sirs,

The Executive Committee of the Benelux Section wishes to ratify the action taken by its representatives at the meeting of the I.R.E. Intersectional Committee, Europe, held on 14 February 1962 in Geneva to discuss matters of interest to the European I.R.E. Sections and to report to the I.R.E. Committee on International Activities. It, therefore, submits the following

#### PETITION.

We, the undersigned, officers and executive Committee members of the Benelux Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers, hereby petition the Board of Directors of the Institute of Radio Engineers to establish a Region that will compass the territory of Greater Europe.

Because the purpose of such a Region would be to provide representation of the European I.R.E.

members on the Board of Directors and to coordinate I.R.E. activities in Europe we request that territories in the Far East and in South America not be included in the new Region. We suggest that the territory of the new Region be based on the European Broadcasting Area defined in the Radio Regulations of the I.T.U. which area produced a definition of Europe that has proved practical and that has been internationally agreed to for certain telecommunication purposes. The European Broadcasting Area includes the Western part of the U.S.S.R. and the territories bordering on the Mediterranean.

H. Rinia, Chairman  
G.J. Siezen, Secretary-Treasurer  
B.B. Barrow  
W. Metselaar  
H.P. Williams  
H.R. van Nauta Lemke  
C.B. Broersma

As a result, the IRE Executive Committee approved the new region, Region 9, on 24 April 1962, and the IRE Board of Directors gave its final approval on 24 May 1962.

The inaugural meeting took place in Geneva on Wednesday 6 June 1962, with invitations sent to 6 Sections: Benelux, Egypt (established 8 September 1955), France, Geneva, Israel (established 5 October 1954) and Italy. The first meeting was attended by 12 people: H. Rinia, G.J. Siezen, H.P. Williams, B.B. Barrow (Benelux), J. Lebel (France), J.H. Gayer, W. Gerber, W. Baumgarten (Geneva), E.H. Frei (Israel), G.P. Tarchini, V. Svelto (representing E. Gatti, Italy), and R.L. McFarlan (IRE Headquarters); Egypt was not represented. Herre Rinia (see picture) was elected as Region 9 Director, and he appointed E. Gatti as Vice Chair and J.H. Gayer as Secretary/Treasurer. The second meeting, with UK & Eire as a new Section (established 10 July 1962), took place on Monday 22 October 1962, again in Geneva.



The next meeting was held on Monday 22 April 1963, being the first meeting after the merger of IRE and AIEE to IEEE, and the renaming of IRE Region 9 to IEEE Region 8; during this meeting, Norway was welcomed as a new Section (established 28 March 1963). The second meeting of Region 8, with the Federal Republic of Germany as a new Section (established 12 July 1963), was held on Monday 4 November 1963. The third meeting took place on Monday 27 April 1964, during which Jean D. Lebel was nominated as the next Region 8 Director (and as such elected later in 1964). The fourth meeting was held on Monday 26 October 1964. The fifth meeting took place on Monday 26 April 1965, with Sweden as a new Section (established 29 March 1965). The sixth meeting was held on Tuesday 7 September 1965. Note that all these meetings took place at the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Building, Place des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

### III. IRE REGION IN EUROPE – BRUCE B. BARROW

The transcript below is taken from the article “The Benelux Section and Early IRE/IEEE Activity in Europe” by Jan Biemond and Bruce B. Barrow, presented at the 2009 IEEE Conference on the History of Technical Societies, Philadelphia, PA, 5–7 August 2009. The article is available in IEEEExplore at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/HTS.2009.5337847> [3, Section III].

In 1960 the Executive Committee of the Benelux Section had already begun to consider the idea of asking the IRE to establish a formal “region” in Europe. The regional structure would give the European Sections an opportunity to interact with each other and, more importantly, would permit the members in the region to elect a representative to the IRE Board of Directors. The idea was discussed with senior IRE officers, and on December 27, 1961, Barrow sent a letter to Dr. McFarlan, then Chairman of the IRE International Activities Committee, requesting authorization for himself to initiate exploratory contacts with other newly founded European sections and requesting authorization for Mr. Rinia to convene an inter-sectional meeting to discuss IRE activity in Europe. Such a meeting was held in Geneva on February 14, 1962, at the headquarters of the International Telecommunications Union. It was attended by representatives of the Benelux, Geneva, Italy, and France Sections, and an IRE member from Germany, where formation of a section was being considered. Following this meeting, on March 6th, the Benelux section formally petitioned the Board of Directors of the IRE “to establish a Region that will compass the territory of Greater Europe” and suggesting “that the territory of the new Region be based on the European Broadcasting Area defined in the Radio Regulations of the I.T.U. which area produced a definition of Europe that has proved practical and that has been internationally agreed to for certain telecommunication purposes. The European Broadcasting Area includes the western part of the U.S.S.R. and the territories bordering on the Mediterranean.” On Rinia’s request, the other Sections submitted similar petitions.

On May 9,<sup>3</sup> 1962 the IRE Board of Directors gave formal approval of Region 9, with boundaries closely following the recommendations of the sections. Note that inclusion of the Mediterranean area brought in the sections in Israel and Egypt. Region 9 was born, and Rinia was appointed its first Director.

It must not be assumed that the expansion of IRE activity into Europe took place without opposition. Although IRE members welcomed the new opportunities for sharing information and other professional contact, a number of the established engineering societies felt threatened. In 1948 a “Conference of Representatives from the Engineering Societies of Western Europe and the United States of America” had been held in London. This conference, which became known by the acronym EUSEC, was “of the opinion that international cooperation between professional engineers by direct contact between recognized national Societies is to be desired.” One

<sup>3</sup>This is apparently an error and should read May 24.

of their explicit recommendations was, "That the formation by one Constituent Society of a branch in the territory of another is undesirable except by mutual agreement."

The engineering societies of Germany and Denmark, as well as the IEE in the United Kingdom, all members of EUSEC, formally expressed displeasure with the expansion of IRE section activity in Europe. One of the aims of EUSEC was that "no participating Society will initiate any action within the country of another without first informing the participating Society of that country and obtaining its co-operation."

The IRE, in all its European activities, had sincerely sought the cooperation of the local societies, but the idea that a national society could veto the formation of an IRE section was quite unacceptable, and Rinia had to engage in careful diplomacy. With the merger pending, the situation was complicated by the fact that, although the IRE was not a participant in EUSEC, the AIEE was. The Benelux Section objected strongly to bringing the merged society into EUSEC, and this matter became one of the agenda items in the merger discussions.

#### IV. A REGION'S 'BIRTH CERTIFICATE'

Figure 2 shows a copy of a message from Emily Sirjane, IRE Office manager, to the IRE Board of Directors and Section and Subsection Officers, which can be considered as a 'Birth Certificate' of IRE Region 9. It is interesting to note that this 'Birth Certificate' is at the same time a 'Birth Certificate' of the United Kingdom Section. The second interesting point is that the IRE Office manager refers to the approval of a new Region by the IRE Executive Committee (on 24 April 1962) and not to the approval by the IRE Board of Directors (on 24 May 1962), although the memorandum itself was dated after the Board has reached its decision. This might lead to the conclusion that IRE considered 24 April 1962 as the date at which the new Region was formed.

#### V. THE START OF REGION 8 AND ITS SECTIONS – ROBERT C. WINTON

After the merger of the IRE and the AIEE to IEEE on 1 January 1963, the IEEE Board of Directors renamed the former IRE Region 9 into the new IEEE Region 8 on 8 January 1963. A partial transcript of "The Start of Region 8 and its Sections" as it appeared in the "Region 8 Centennial Review" [4] reads as follows:

Region 8 was created when the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE) and the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) merged in January 1963 (see the article "Our First 100 Years" in this Review). However, its seeds were planted by the IRE which, unlike the AIEE, was a transnational society with Sections outside the U.S.A.

The IRE initially had seven Regions in the U.S.A., Canada was Region 8, and there were no Regions in other countries, although Sections existed. However, on 12 May 1962,<sup>4</sup> shortly before the merger, the IRE created Region 9 consisting of

<sup>4</sup>This is an error; the date should read 24 May 1962.

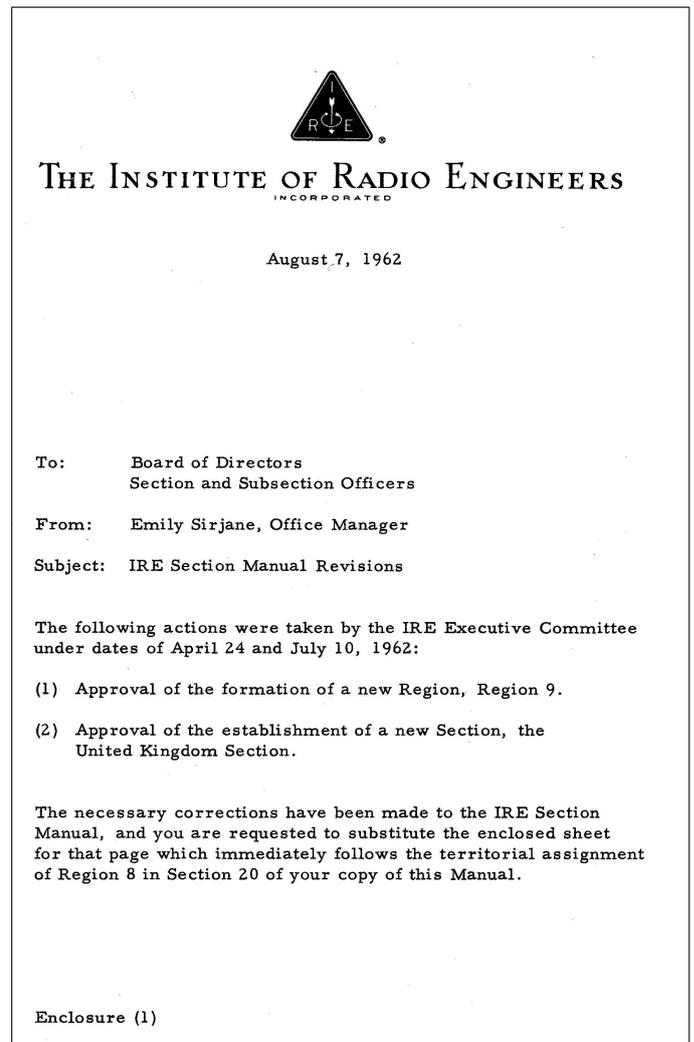


Figure 2. IRE Region 9 Birth Certificate.

twelve Sections in other countries, seven of these Sections being in Europe.<sup>5</sup>

At the time of the merger it was agreed that the IEEE should continue the transnational concept. The IRE type of structure was adopted, but revised: the number of Regions in the U.S.A. was reduced from seven to six; Canada became Region 7; Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa became Region 8 on 8 January 1963, which is therefore the date on which our Region was founded;<sup>6</sup> other parts of the world were covered by Region 9. The present Regional structure resulted from later changes: in 1966 South America became Region 9, with Region 10 covering other parts of the world; finally in 1981 the remainder of Africa became part of Region 8.

<sup>5</sup>This is an error; Region 9 was restricted to Greater Europe with six IRE Sections: Benelux, Egypt, France, Geneva, Italy, Israel. The IRE Sections Buenos Aires, Chile, Colombia, India, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo were located in the 'Rest of the World,' i.e., outside Regions 1 through 9. The United Kingdom Section was not founded yet.

<sup>6</sup>This is questionable; it neglects the fact that our Region started as an IRE Region.

## VI. IRE/AIEE MERGER – BRUCE B. BARROW

The transcript below is taken from the article “The Benelux Section and Early IRE/IEEE Activity in Europe” by Jan Biemond and Bruce B. Barrow, presented at the 2009 IEEE Conference on the History of Technical Societies, Philadelphia, PA, 5–7 August 2009. The article is available in IEEEExplore at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/HTS.2009.5337847> [3, Section IV].

The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) was formed on January 1, 1963, by the merger of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE, founded 1912) and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers (AIEE, founded 1884).

Notable Presidents of IEEE and its founding organizations include Elihu Thomson (AIEE, 1889-1890), Alexander Graham Bell (AIEE, 1891-1892), Charles Proteus Steinmetz (AIEE, 1901-1902), Lee De Forest (IRE, 1930), Frederick E. Terman (IRE, 1941), William R. Hewlett (IRE, 1954), and Ernst Weber (IRE, 1959; IEEE, 1963).

Fundamental characteristics of the merged society were taken from the IRE, which, unlike the AIEE, was a transnational society with sections outside the USA. At the time of the merger it was agreed that the IEEE should continue the transnational concept. The IRE type of structure was adopted, but revised; the number of Regions in the USA was reduced to six; Canada became Region 7; Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa became Region 8. On January 8, 1963, at the first IEEE Board meeting in New York, Rinia was appointed first Director of IEEE Region 8 (formerly IRE Region 9). Since no AIEE sections had existed in Europe, the section structure of IRE Region 9 was adopted for IEEE Region 8, and the AIEE members were automatically included in the IEEE Sections. What follows is a short reflection on the merger, the international policy of the IEEE and the concerns raised by European Societies about the organization of IEEE Sections in European countries.

### A. Reflection on the merger

The major interests of the AIEE were wire communications (telegraph and telephony), machinery, and light and power systems. The IRE concerned mostly radio engineering, and was formed from two smaller organizations, the Society of Wireless and Telegraph Engineers and the Wireless Institute. With the rise of electronics in the 1930s, electronics engineers usually became members of the IRE, but the applications of electron tube technology became so extensive that the technical boundaries differentiating the IRE and the AIEE became blurred. After World War II the two organizations became increasingly competitive. In 1957 the IRE, with 55,500 members, was the larger organization, and it had more appeal to students and young electrical engineers. Negotiations about a merger started that year, and in 1961 the leadership of both the IRE and the AIEE resolved to consolidate the two organizations. In 1962 the IRE had 96,500 members, and the AIEE 57,000.

In the summer of 1962, having successfully defended his dissertation, Barrow returned to the U.S., where he had a small

part in the discussions that were taking place as details of the merger were worked out. The President of the AIEE at that time was Dr. B. Richard Teare, Dean of the College of Engineering and Science at Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University). Teare had been Barrow's professor when Barrow was an undergraduate, and the two felt warm mutual respect.

### B. Some diplomacy

Late in September, Barrow traveled to Pittsburgh and had an opportunity to talk at length with Dr. Teare. Following are quotes from the letter-report that Barrow sent to Rinia. “The central topic of our conversation, which lasted some five hours, was international policy of the IEEE, and we concentrated specifically on the attitudes that would be brought into the IEEE from the AIEE. Dr. Teare emphasized that he could not speak for the AIEE Board, nor for the 14-man committee that is now implementing the merger. . . . He pointed out that the non-national character of IEEE is specified in the new constitution, and he defined ‘non-national’ as meaning that the activities of the new society would be carried out throughout the world, wherever IEEE members wanted such activities, and without regard to national boundaries.”

“Dr. Teare himself has thought a good deal about questions of international policy, partly because several of the secretaries of EUSEC societies have brought such questions to his attention. . . . Because of these contacts with the European societies he was very interested to hear something of our views.”

“I talked at great length (as usual), and emphasized that IRE relations with European societies are in general rather good. I also pointed out that each country, and each society, had to be considered individually, and I then said what I could about each individual problem. I pointed out the specific accord that had been reached with the SFER in France, and the proposals that had been discussed with . . . the VDE in Germany. I also told him what I knew of our difficulties and inhospitable reception in Denmark, and of the obstacles that certain of the EUSEC societies placed in the way of IRE Region 9. I emphasized that EUSEC societies were not the ones that represented the electronics profession in a number of countries, such as Belgium and France. . . .”

“The second point – the real point of contention – concerns the organization of IEEE sections in European countries. . . . I emphasized that the EUSEC societies interpreted [the EUSEC Memorandum of Organization] to mean that they had a right to veto activity by another society in their territory. . . . Dr. Teare agreed with me . . . that the IEEE must retain the *right* to organize sections anywhere in the world, and that IEEE members who petition in a responsible manner to form such sections must be able to expect an affirmative response from the IEEE Board. The IEEE has announced its intention of operating in the entire world, and it must be willing to support its members, wherever they live. On this all-important and fundamental principle, Dr. Teare agrees with us completely. He is, however, very concerned that every effort be made to

conciliate the various national societies, and he very much wishes to move carefully enough, and tactfully enough, to avoid open ruptures with the European societies.”

Rinia and other IEEE leaders did indeed move carefully and tactfully, and relationships with the European societies have been conciliatory. But the IEEE did not affiliate with EUSEC.

#### VII. THE CREATION OF IEEE REGION 10 AND THE EXTENSION OF REGION 8

IEEE Region 8 was formed (as an IEEE Region after the IRE/AIEE merger) on 8 January 1963. At that time it comprised Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. The ‘Rest of the World’ was all Region 9 at that time, until in 1966, Region 9 was limited to South America and the ‘Rest of the World’ became Region 10, with Shigeo Shima as its first Director (1967–68). During its meeting on 13–14 November 1969, the Board of Directors agreed to change Bylaw 401.1 such that ‘Region 8 shall consist of Greenland, Europe, U.S.S.R. and the following countries in North Africa and the Near East: Aden Protectorate, Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Muscat, Oman, Niger, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Spanish Sahara, Sudan, Syria, Trucial Coast, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Republic, and Yemen.’ See Fig. 3. Note that ‘United Arab Republic’ was at that time and until 1971 the official name for Egypt; between 1958 and 1961, it was the name of a union between Egypt and Syria.

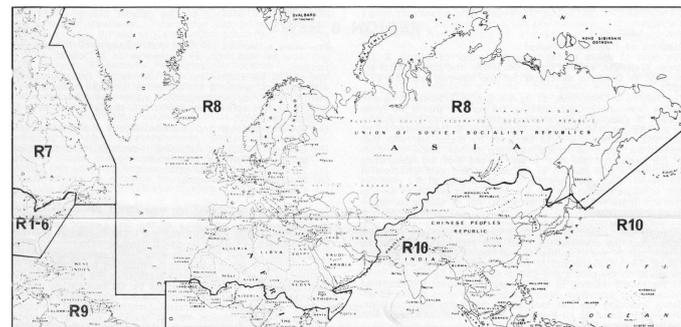


Figure 3. IEEE Regions as of 1 January 1970. The sketch is taken from IEEE Region 8 newsletter, No. 10, April 1970.

The South Africa Section (established 5 August 1977) and the Nigeria Section (established 12 January 1978) were part of IEEE Region 10 till 1981. At the 14 December 1979 meeting of the Regional Activities Board, Region 8 Director Dick C.J. Poortvliet (see picture) and Region 10 Director S.Y. King announced that Region 8 will add the continent of Africa to its territory in 1981 and that a proposal for revisions in the Bylaws would be presented at the February meeting. Said proposal was accepted unanimously at the 15 February 1980 RAB meeting, pending acceptance of the concerned sections (South Africa and Nigeria). In



the 22 August 1980 RAB meeting, the motion to recommend to the Board of Directors adoption of the revision of Bylaw 401.2 passed. In its subsequent meeting of 24–25 August 1980, Vice President Larry K. Wilson (Regional Activities) moved for (1) adoption of revised Bylaw 401.2 which would assign the continent of Africa to Region 8, as recommended by the Region 8 and 10 Committee and RAB, this boundary change to become effective January 1, 1981, (2) approval to waive the 1981 Region 8 assessment for those members involved in the transfer from Region 10 to Region 8, and (3) approval to include in the 1981 RAB Budget the funding of travel expenses of the Nigeria and South Africa Section Chairmen to attend 1981 Region 8 Committee meetings. The motion passed, after which Bylaw 401.2 reads: “... Region 8 shall consist of Africa, Europe, Greenland, Iceland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Near and Middle East countries located west of Afghanistan and Pakistan. ...” See Fig. 4.



Figure 4. IEEE Regions as of 1 January 1981. The sketch is taken from the IEEE web site.

#### VIII. THE PRESENT IEEE REGION 8 SECTIONS

The following list of 56 Sections, chronologically sorted by their foundation date, is taken from the Region 8 web site.

- 5-Oct-1954 Israel
- 8-Sep-1955 Egypt
- 13-May-1959 Benelux
- 13-May-1959 Italy<sup>(a)</sup>
- 13-Dec-1960 Switzerland<sup>(b)</sup>
- 17-Oct-1961 France
- 10-Jul-1962 UK & Rep of Ireland<sup>(c)</sup>
- 28-Mar-1963 Norway
- 12-Jul-1963 Germany<sup>(d)</sup>
- 29-Mar-1965 Sweden
- 16-Apr-1968 Spain
- 18-Aug-1968 Denmark
- 12-Feb-1970 Iran
- 17-Mar-1970 Greece
- 21-Jun-1971 Croatia<sup>(e)</sup>
- 21-Jun-1971 Serbia and Montenegro<sup>(e)</sup>
- 21-Jun-1971 Slovenia<sup>(e)</sup>
- 1-Dec-1972 Poland
- 12-Jun-1973 Finland

5-Aug-1977 South Africa<sup>(f)</sup>  
 12-Jan-1978 Nigeria<sup>(f)</sup>  
 21-Dec-1979 Austria  
 5-Jun-1981 Saudi Arabia  
 4-Dec-1981 Portugal  
 19-Nov-1982 Kenya<sup>(g)</sup>  
 20-Jun-1987 United Arab Emirates  
 21-Aug-1987 Hungary  
 18-Nov-1988 Western Saudi Arabia<sup>(h)</sup>  
 18-Aug-1989 Turkey  
 20-Feb-1990 Kuwait  
 15-Aug-1990 Romania  
 15-Aug-1990 Russia<sup>(i)</sup>  
 21-Nov-1991 Ukraine  
 1-Aug-1992 Czechoslovakia  
 30-Jun-1993 Cyprus<sup>(j)</sup>  
 24-Jun-1995 Bulgaria  
 14-Feb-1997 Rep of Macedonia<sup>(e)</sup>  
 12-Nov-1999 Jordan  
 23-Jun-2000 Iceland  
 22-Jun-2001 Bahrain  
 15-Feb-2002 Belarus  
 13-Feb-2003 Russia (Northwest)<sup>(i)</sup>  
 13-Feb-2003 Russia (Siberia)<sup>(i)</sup>  
 18-Nov-2004 Lebanon  
 18-Nov-2004 Morocco  
 18-Nov-2004 Qatar  
 18-Jun-2005 Lithuania  
 12-Nov-2005 Bosnia and Herzegovina<sup>(e)</sup>  
 18-Feb-2006 Oman  
 23-Jun-2006 Estonia  
 18-Nov-2006 Malta  
 16-Feb-2008 Latvia  
 21-Jun-2008 Iraq  
 21-Jun-2008 Tunisia  
 5-Sep-2008 Ghana  
 15-Nov-2008 Zambia

- (a) The Italy Section was split into two Sections, Italy (North) and Italy (Central & South) in May 1966; until 1988, Italy (Central & South) was called Italy (Middle & South). The two Sections were merged again in November 2005.
- (b) The Switzerland Section was called Geneva Section until 20 September 1967.
- (c) Until 1 November 1966, the UK & Rep of Ireland Section was called the UK & Eire Section.
- (d) Until 17 June 1991, the Germany Section was called the West Germany Section (until 20 September 1967) and Germany (West) Section (after 20 September 1967).
- (e) The Yugoslavian Section was established on 21 June 1971. Following the wars in Yugoslavia, in 1992 the Region 8 Director Kurt Richter organized a meeting with three members of the Yugoslavian Section Executive Committee in Graz, Austria. It was decided to form by petitions three new Sections, as three equal successors of

the previous Yugoslavian Section: the Slovenia Section, the Croatia Section, and the Yugoslavia Section, all established on 1 August 1992. It was a friendly splitting into three new Sections and in 1996 all three Sections celebrated their 25th anniversary. In 1997 the Republic of Macedonia Section was formed. The name Yugoslavia became an increasing anomaly, and in 2005 it was renamed the Serbia and Montenegro Section; the Bosnia and Herzegovina Section was formed later that year.

- (f) The South Africa and Nigeria Section were initially Sections of Region 10. They were assigned to Region 8 on 1 January 1981, when all of Africa was shifted from Region 10 to Region 8.
- (g) The Kenya Section has been called the East Africa Section for a couple of years, and was renamed Kenya Section again in August 1990.
- (h) The Western Saudi Arabia Section started as the Jeddah Subsection of the Saudi Arabia Section; formation date 16 February 1987. Until 15 August 1990 it was called the Jeddah Section.
- (i) After the Russia Section (initially: Moscow Section, until 28 February 1993) was formed in 1990, membership growth was very slow, mainly for economic reasons, although many Chapters were formed, partly with the aid of a financial support initiative from some IEEE Societies, especially from Electron Devices, and who paid for initial memberships so that Chapter formation petitions could be created, and there were a number of IEEE conferences held. However, Chapters in parts of Russia remote from Moscow sometimes complained of lack of support from their Section, and after a while moves to provide some independence for activities in St. Petersburg and Siberia arose. After some suggestions to form a Russia Council were abandoned, there was finally agreement in 1993 to form three Russia Sections, one to be called 'Northwest' and one 'Siberia' – while the original Russia Section retained responsibility for all other parts of the country. Existing Chapters were transferred to the newly formed Sections where the location of their principal activities justified it.
- (j) The Cyprus Section started as a Subsection of the Greece Section; formation date 18 July 1988.

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- [2] Bradley Cozzens, AIEE, and Walter E. Peterson, IRE, "Recommendations regarding IEEE Regions and Districts," 11 July 1962.
- [3] Jan Biemond and Bruce B. Barrow, "The Benelux Section and Early IRE/IEEE Activity in Europe," in *Proceedings of the 2009 IEEE Conference on the History of Technical Societies, Philadelphia, PA, 5–7 August 2009*. The article is available in IEEEXplore at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1109/HTS.2009.5337847>.
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