

**POLISH ELECTROCHEMICAL
ANTICORROSION PROTECTION COMMITTEE**
at the Main Board
of the Polish Electric Engineering Association
Warsaw



INSTEAD OF AN INTRODUCTION ...

When almost exactly 30 years ago, as the result of the requirements of the technical community dealing in Poland with electrochemical protection of metal structures, in autumn 1972 a group of specialists was organised at the Main Board of the Polish Electric Engineering Association (SEP) under the name „Central Committee”, later renamed the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee, certainly no one suspected that it would function for such a long time and would last to the times of integration of Poland with the European Union. On the occasion of such a jubilee one should recall the history, aims and tasks of this group, in the past, as well as the present.

On 19th December 1963 the first and up till now the only legal act of the highest national rank was issued – Order No. 136 of the Prime Minister - dealing with anticorrosion protection. A series of other decrees followed of Ministers regulating the whole sphere of problems connected with anticorrosion protection in the national economy – for example, concerning introduction of government department anticorrosion protection programmes. The Science and Technology Committee nominated leading institutions in each anticorrosion protection technology. The National Institute of Telecommunications in Warsaw-Miedzeszyn became the leading institute in the scope of electrochemical protection. The Maritime Institute in Gdańsk became the leading institute for the maritime economy. Standardisation work was intensified: the first standards in the scope of stray currents were developed in 1964-1966 (PN-66/E-05024). Work on standards led to integration of specialists dealing with similar problems in different institutions. When in 1972 the Anticorrosion Protection Scientific-Technological Committee was founded at the Main Board of the Polish Federation of Engineering Associations, similar to committees functioning in the Council for Mutual Economic Aid, it was naturally supported by a group of specialists (Central Committee of Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection at the Main Board of the Polish Electric Engineering Association), headed then and for the next 22 years by Prof. Olimpia Skiba-Rogalska from the National Institute of Telecommunications in Warsaw. The Committee grouped specialists dealing with the above mentioned problems and its aim was to draw conclusions and forward postulates to the government, to popularise this field of technology in the national economy.

In spite of the fact that the above mentioned organ does not exist, the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee still fulfils its statute tasks of integration of scientists and engineers dealing with electrochemical anticorrosion protection. It has a number of achievements, such as „Corrosion measurements ...” conferences. They were organised together with SEP branches and scientific research units. The Maritime Corrosion Department of the Maritime Institute is again co-organiser of today's meeting. Electrochemical anticorrosion protection technology was and still is the main field of interest

of the Maritime Corrosion Department. It covers the theoretical and practical problems of cathodic protection of various structures operated in sea water environments.

The subject of the present VIIth conference, similarly to the previous one, is dominated to a great degree by the problem of stray currents, mainly in the scope of measurement methodology. The electrolytic corrosion hazard to underground structures is not the main subject but the aim of today's research is correct evaluation of the effectiveness of cathodic protection in interaction zones of these currents. Evaluation of cathodic protection effectiveness of newly constructed pipelines is the subject of investigations in the whole world. In Poland this matter is a present day problem due to the recently built Yamal Peninsula – Western Europe transit gas pipeline and expected further investments of this type.

A series of important tasks stands before the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Committee of SEP in the new millennium. The Committee is a scientific and technical organ of SEP in the field of electrochemical anticorrosion protection. This is an important task and responsibility. The Committee is at present the only technical social organisation in Poland, which, due to the adopted statute and activity regulations, is obligated to propagate modern anticorrosion protection methods and is highly interested in development of electrochemical anticorrosion protection methods in Poland.

Hence, the programme of activities of the Committee for the nearest period should lead to increase of the technical culture in the scope of design and production of cathodic protection installations and to the widest possible propagation of this technology through:

- Increase of the scope and popularisation of training of personnel,
- Introduction of attestation of design offices and companies realising cathodic protection, especially of those realising public orders,
- Organisation of seminars and technical excursions to leading companies applying and realising cathodic protection technology,
- Widening of co-operation with other Polish and foreign organisations, the experience of which could be utilised by Committee members.

As from the last term of office the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Committee of SEP has been issuing its own BULLETIN. It was the answer to existing demands – lack of information in Polish on the technological progress in electrochemical anticorrosion protection, lack of text books and training materials. Due to the irregularity in issuance of the materials it did not fulfil expectations and perhaps the next volume of these materials or their electronic form will ensure wider access to the sought information.

Introduction of European standards in Poland requires possibly rapid and faithful translation of documents approved by CEN. The statute role of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee of SEP is clearly visible here. Its aim in the nearest future will be to actively participate in the standardisation process of this technology in co-operation with the Polish Committee for Standardisation. These works have already begun.

The Presidium of the Polish Electrochemical Anticorrosion Protection Committee hopes that all members will take part in the realisation of the above undertakings. The consecutive conference in Jurata should be an occasion not only for a jubilee meeting, for exchange of technological experience, but also should be a forum for discussion on the programme of the Committee and for seeking of new ways for development and propagation of electrochemical anticorrosion protection.

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