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From the President's desk

This issue of Intersteno E-news could be titled "Progress". We are running swiftly towards the opening ceremony of the 51st Intersteno Congress in Berlin (July 22nd-28th) and it is time to spell out the work that has occupied us until now. By the way, do not forget to register at <http://www.intersteno2017.org/register.php>



Managing the Intersteno Federation in recent years has been a great honour and a unique opportunity to express our ideals and make concrete contributions to the work of Intersteno. The Board members and I, as President, have devoted our (limited) capabilities and our (great) devotion to a cause that has a meaning for our hearts and for our profession. We have embedded our vision and personal beliefs (could it be different?) into the destiny of this old yet nevertheless modern association. The 51st Congress in Berlin will mark the beginning of new projects as well as the opportunity to bring together the numerous efforts made in past years. This is the case, for instance, with some alterations of the Statute, aimed at improving the Federation's activity and clarifying some rules.

On page 8 you can read the presentation of these modifications that the Board will place on the Council table at the end of its two-year mandate. You will also find some comments or explanations that will help you to understand the logic and the aims of each amendment, all of which have been deeply discussed by Board members. In the next few days these proposals will also be launched via the "forum" at the Intersteno website <http://www.intersteno.org/forums/forum/council/>. This method of discussing issues with all our members is another important step forward for internal (and in the near future external) communication on Intersteno actions: all members will have the chance to contribute comments and suggestions so as to anticipate and ease the discussion that will be held in the Council meetings and thereafter in the General Assembly during the next Congress (read more on page 12).

As you know, the programme of the 51st Congress includes the conferences of Intersteno and IPRS. These are to be merged and led by the Scientific Committee and IPRS. Carlo Eugeni on page 4 introduces the panelists, presents the tentative programme and draws our attention to the *"manifold meanings covered by the notion of quality"*, which is the main theme of those sessions. It will be interesting to learn the many emphases that "quality" receives in various countries, and to hear the tips and experiences of our colleagues. This is yet one more reason to be in Berlin.

Patti Calabro (on page 5) gives us a "new" presentation of herself. After (too) many years we are finally able to hire administrative and marketing support, starting a cooperation with this talented and experienced woman, that the Board believes will improve our daily and strategic management. As Patti states, from now until the Congress in Berlin she will focus on providing support for communication, expanding the face of Intersteno in the social media realm and marketing to increase membership and awareness of our association. But I am sure that in the months and years to come the interaction between Patti and the Board will open new and further fields for bringing effectiveness and quality to Intersteno's

activities.

Read on page 6 the interesting notes of Joe Strickland (published earlier by the *Journal of Court Reporters*, the magazine of the National Court Reporters Association of United States) who took part in the Zagreb Council and IPRS meeting. Though this article refers to our event of last October and may seem of out of date, you will get the impressions of someone who attended. We hope that the article will inspire you to prepare for the Congress in Berlin. Sorry, Joe, that we did not see this and publish it earlier, but we appreciate the opportunity to share it with our Intersteno community now!

Thank you once more to Jorge Bravo, Diana Campi and Azat Ambartsoumian who tell us that, for the fourth year, the programme on stenography "Palabras Dibujadas" <http://www.bcnradio.com.ar/> will be broadcast from the Library of the Argentine Parliament. As many of you already know, this programme spreads information, comments and investigations on the vast world of stenography and presents curiosities and tales taken from an historical huge archive saved in that Library (the Pallant Collection), that contains books and documents of great value to our heritage, collected by the former Parliamentary stenographer Miguel Pallant.

Happy reading!

Fausto Ramondelli

IPRS session and General Conference - Programme

In the renovation process of the Congress formula, spearheaded by the Intersteno Board, the Scientific Committee and the IPRS are pleased to announce the result of their joint efforts: the programme of the next the IPRS session and of the General Conference. This was not an easy task because of the many proposals received and the numerous topics covered.



The IPRS session will take place on Sunday 23 July 2017 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. and will have a profession-oriented approach. It will be divided into two sessions: in the first session Vice from the UK House of Lords, Mulders from the Dutch Parliament, and Verruso and Savalli from the Sicilian Regional Assembly, will report on the notion of quality in their professions.



Following that a workshop will specifically focus on the notion of quality in the profession and its multiple aspects. The second part of the IPRS meeting will be dedicated to automatic speech recognition as a tool to be used in the profession and its manifold applications. The topic will be discussed from the research, professional and technological points of view.

The General Conference will be held on Tuesday, 25 July 2017 and will deal with the topic of quality. The final programme of the General Conference comprises four sessions. After an introduction to the manifold meanings covered by the notion of quality presented by the chairman of the conference, Carlo Eugnei, Loeffler from Germany, Varga from Hungary, and Kaneko from Japan will discuss the notion of quality in education.

After that a whole session will be dedicated to quality in research concerning shorthand. Speakers include Hirano from Japan, Metilli and Accetta from Italy and Bravo, Ambartsoumian and Campi from Argentina. In the afternoon, Manetti from Italy, Arai from Canada and Eras from the Netherlands will report on their studies about quality in the human-machine interaction.



Finally, Voutilainen from Finland, Kawahara from Japan, La Rocca from the Netherlands, and Zwijnenburg from the Netherlands will cover the issue of quality in the profession from a scientific standpoint.

Carlo Eugeni

GENERAL CONFERENCE IN BERLIN

THE TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION (9:00 – 9:30)

Institutional Greetings (Fausto Ramondelli, Rian Schwarz)

Eugeni (Intersteno) - Introduction to the notion of quality diversity

QUALITY IN EDUCATION (9:30 – 11:00)

Varga (Hungary): Forming and developing touch typing skills in secondary education in Hungary

Loeffler (Germany): Shorthand and information processing

Kaneko (Japan): The Effect of German Cursive School on Stenography to Japanese, Chinese and Korean Stenography

COFFEE BREAK (11:00 – 11:30)

QUALITY IN RESEARCH ON SHORTHAND (11:30 – 13:00)

Hirano (Japan): A new cursive bilingual stenography system for personal use

Metilli-Accetta (Italy): the Odyssey Shorthand – about deciphering less widespread systems

Bravo Ambartsoumian and Campi (Argentina): Shorthand for music and dance, written words remains

LUNCH (13:00 – 14:30)

QUALITY IN HUMAN-MACHINE INTERACTION (14:30 – 16:00)

Manetti (Italy): The quality of Automatic Translation on the era of Human-Machine Interaction

Arai (Canada): Quality of real time reporting

Eras (the Netherlands): Speech-to-report - the quality of reporting in the Netherlands

SECOND COFFEE BREAK (16:00-16:30)

QUALITY IN THE PROFESSION (16:30 – 18:00)

Voutilainen (Finland): Quality of Verbatim Reports in Finland

Kawahara (Japan): Quality transcripts in Parliamentary reporting

La Rocca (the Netherlands): Notions of quality in parliamentary reporting

Zwijenburg (the Netherlands): Parliamentary reports serving as videostream subtitles



IPRS SESSION

THE TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

As for the IPRS session, the tentative program here below has been agreed and will be improved in next weeks.



14:00 – 14:15 INTRODUCTION

Schwarz (Intersteno) – Introduction to the IPRS meeting

14:15-15:15 – QUALITY IN THE PROFESSION

Vice (UK) - Quality in the profession of reporting props in the UK

Mulders (the Netherlands) - Quality in reporting

Verruso and Savalli (Italy) - Quality in reporting in Italy

15:15-16:15 – Workshop on quality in the profession

16:15-16:30 – COFFEE BREAK

16:30-17:45 – AUTOMATIC SPEECH RECOGNITION

Eugeni introduction to ASR (10 minutes);

Cedat or PerVoice – Presentation about their products (25 minutes);

Radboud University Nijmegen – investigation in the field (20 minutes)

Q&A (20 minutes)

CONCLUSIONS

Schwarz – Pros and cons of voice recognition in reporting (15 minutes)



Introducing myself again ...

Hello all reporters, re-speakers, captioners, and everyone else in the Intersteno/IPRS world.

You probably recognize me, Patti Calabro, as a member of the Steering Committee of IPRS and an American reporter from Arizona. And that is why you have a new introduction to me!



I have a new role with Intersteno. I have a new home (in The Hague) and my retirement from Calabro Reporting Services and the Pima County Superior Court is effective 2 June 2017. Any time you are interested, I am happy to tell you about that. But the most important thing I want to tell you is that Intersteno and I have entered into an agreement that I will be marketing coordinator and administrative assistant for Intersteno.

From now until the Congress in Berlin my focus is on providing support for communication, expanding the face of Intersteno in the social media realm and marketing to increase membership and awareness of our association. I'm pretty excited about the possibilities for this position. Intersteno is a well-respected international association with a long history. It came into my life only 8 years ago, but I remember American reporter icons like Jim Bouley who would return to the U.S. after a competition and entertain me with stories of his experiences.

My goal is to work with all of you to strengthen the foundation of Intersteno with increased membership and funding, making sure that we are educated, entertained and that we enjoy the opportunities our meetings provide in the way of new friendships, vendor encounters, and business relationships. And let's not forget the friends we already have with whom we reunite at each Council meeting or Congress. It is so important to remember that Intersteno does not thrive when the members are not present or do not participate. I am not the complaint and returns department, but I am the person you should contact with concerns, recommendations and ideas. Never hesitate to contact me when you need or want to. This is how you reach me: patti@intersteno.org

So, you'll be seeing me and hearing from me. We have a remarkable Congress evolving to present to you in Berlin in July. Rumour has it there may be a raffle (lottery) opportunity for



a popular media tool and who knows what else. We'll try out ideas and learn by what works and what doesn't. I want to leave you with this thought...you can't get to second base with your foot still on first. That's a little baseball phrase that we can use to applaud the Board's vision and decision. They picked up that foot from first base, always appreciative of the volunteerism and commitment of Intersteno members, with focus ahead to the second base of promoting and nurturing Intersteno in a fast-paced changing world.

See you in Berlin!

Patti Calabro

Though this article by Joe Strickland published in the *Journal of Court Reporting* may refer to our event of last October, you will get the impressions of someone who attended and we hope the article will inspire you to prepare to attend the Congress in Berlin. Sorry, Joe, that we did not see this and publish it earlier, but we appreciate the opportunity to share it with our Intersteno community now! F.R.



“Dobro jutro, dobrodošli.”

“Good morning, welcome!” Our greeting upon arrival in Zagreb was characteristically warm and friendly as 65 reporters and industry professionals from 17 nations gathered for four days of interaction, education, and networking in this capital of the Republic of Croatia at the historic and political threshold between East and West.

Thanks to the JCR and the enthusiastic work of many reporters (including Russell Page, Patti Calabro, Tori Pittman, Linda Drake, and Virgene Biggers) NCRA members are now aware of Intersteno, the International Federation for Information and Communication Processing.

Intersteno holds worldwide Congresses and competitions every two years. NCRA members have competed and medaled in the English section of the speed competitions. Past venues have included Budapest, Ghent, Paris, Beijing, and Prague. IPRS, the Intersteno Parliamentary and Other Reporters Section, is the division of Intersteno which addresses machine stenography, as well as the creation of parliamentary records for governments around the world.

In the years between World Congresses, the Intersteno Council meets and IPRS simultaneously holds educational seminars and provides networking opportunities. No speed contests or transcription competitions are held during these characteristically smaller gatherings. My first participation was an IPRS meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, in 2008. It’s a



wonderful way to meet new colleagues, learn about international reporting practices, experience a new foreign destination, and make lifelong friends from around the globe. Don’t let the word “parliamentary” scare you away.

In Zagreb, participants visited the historic twin hills of Gradec and Kapitol, where earliest written records date back to 1094 with the forming of the diocese of Kapitol, where still today the Zagreb Cathedral graces the skyline with spires piercing the sky. The center of Croatian Government is found on the fortified hilltop of Gradec. The IPRS group was treated to a private tour of the Hrvatski Sabor, the Parliament building, its unicameral

chamber, and the archives of parliamentary documents and records.

Our welcoming hosts from the Hrvatsko Stenografsko Društvo (Croatian Shorthand Association) kicked off the first seminar with a Croatian language lesson. I have to admit, the language is frustratingly difficult – a Slavic tongue twister for English speakers – but learning a simple “Thank you” was doable.

Since the meetings of IPRS are conducted in English, there is no problem in participating in or understanding the seminars or the tours. This is fortunate, since the topics included a presentation from the Netherlands on the cognitive benefits of teaching touch-typing to children, a Finnish presentation regarding systems technology, and a presentation from Italy regarding parliamentary reporting in Sicily. As for conversation over delicious Croatian wine with new friends from China, South Korea, and Poland, all I can say is, “Thank goodness for Google Translate.”

Joe Strickland

RPR, CRR, CRC, retired as Chief Reporter of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2015. He spent 22 years as a reporter on Capitol Hill. He’s a travel addict and a freelance reporter in Washington, D.C.



Proposals for amending the Statute (put forward by the Board - comments by Fausto Ramondelli)

- In paragraph 5.4 delete the words: "from countries where no national group exists"; consequently delete paragraph 5
- In paragraph 6.3, delete the words: "by registered letter" wherever they appear in the text
- In paragraph 10.1, delete the words: ",excluding a congress organized by the National Group"
- In paragraph 13.2 add the following sentence: " The proposals of Board and Jury can be rejected only with a two-thirds majority voting against such proposals"
- In paragraph 21.2 add: d) "revenues from online Intersteno competitions fees and activities of congress"
- In paragraph 23.1 finally add the following sentence: "For amending the Constitution at least three quarters of the delegates representing the standing Members must be present and voting"; paste here the text of paragraph 23.4
- Substitute paragraph 23.3 with the following text: "For amending the Constitution a majority of two thirds of the votes is required".
- In paragraph 2.3 f. add the following words: ",also by indicating standards of professional competences and skills, as a base for certification programs"



The proposals to amend the Intersteno Constitution follow deep investigations and discussions by the Board. They are an important step in achieving the strategic goals of recruiting a broader membership and improving the proceedings of the Federation.

On the one hand, the proposals include corrections made necessary by the changes that have taken place and include the deletion of rules rendered out of date by the advancement of information technology.

For example, in (#3) it is no longer correct to refer to "Congress organized by the National Group", since from the occasion of the 50th Congress in Budapest Intersteno has been in charge of the organisation of the Congresses.

Further, we can delete the words "by registered letter" (#2), given that our communications are mainly delivered via internet (email, forum, web, social media).

The amendment #5 is meant to include among the financial resources of the Federation those revenues arising from the activities of the Congresses and from competition fees, including those of the Internet Keyboard Competition. Such revenues are not currently mentioned in the Constitution.

The remaining amendments satisfy the aims agreed by the Board of facilitating the membership of individual and associated members in those countries where a national group exists, and recognizes the privileged status afforded to the proposals put forward by the

Board and by the Jury, given their role in the general management of the Intersteno Federation.

The amendment #1 is meant to ensure that the admission of individual and associated members by the Council will follow the same proceeding, both where countries have a National Group and where a National Group does not exist.

Amendment #4 states that the proposals of the Board and Jury only can be rejected only if two thirds of the Council members vote against such proposals.

Proposal #8 adds among the aims of our Federation that of defining basic standards of competences and skills for some professions related to the Intersteno domains such as, for example the Intersteno Set of Professional Competences (ISPC) that was approved by the Council in Zagreb. As a natural consequence, Intersteno can promote "certification programs" for ascertaining those requirements, according to limits and rules that may be agreed later.

Finally, the Board proposes to alter the proceeding for amending the Constitution with the aim of clarifying the current text and facilitating the proceeding. Consequently amendment #6 states that in order to amend the Constitution three quarters of the delegates of the standing Members must be present - as it is also in the current rule (par. 23.3) - while the amendment #7 confirms the actual *quorum* of two thirds of the votes.



Another year of broadcasts about stenography on Argentine radio

A few days ago a new season of "Palabras Dibujadas" ("Drawn words") began. The program is about shorthand and the stenographers' work. It is transmitted on the Library of National Congress radio in Argentina: www.bcnradio.com.ar.



This is the fourth year of these broadcasts. The idea was born in meetings between stenographers and the librarians of the "Special Collections" Department of the Library of Congress. The Palant Collection, which was the property of Miguel Palant is made up of books and magazines about shorthand from different countries. He was a Senate stenog-

rapher who also worked as a doctor at hospitals and in his own surgery. The programme's mission is to spread knowledge of Miguel Palant's heritage and make known the stenographers' role, stressing that it is not only useful professionally but personally.

On the other hand, our purpose is also to make known the relationship between famous history characters and shorthand (for instance Dickens, Dostoevski, Shaw or Dante Alighieri). Research such as that undertaken by Danielle Metilli (from Italy), who won a University of Chicago Library competition for deciphering shorthand writing on the margins of Homer's *Odyssey*, edited in 1504 in Venice. We also will continue with interviews such as those that were made with INTERSTENO president, Fausto Ramondelli or that which we conducted with Argentine stenographer's dean, Federico Barboza, who is 100 years old and delighted us with his career resumé as a Senate and United Nations stenographer.

We will also continue with different sections such as "Traveling with words" in which we present the history of shorthand from different countries, and "Diana Monica's corner", in which we share peculiar stories where shorthand is involved. And from this year we began the section "Did you know ...?" In this we give very brief news on curious questions that have to do with shorthand.



We want to thank everyone who listens to us, and follows our Facebook page "Palabras Dibujadas" (Drawn words).

We invite you to follow us and write if you have information to share (activities, Congresses or stories). The goal is always the same: to spread our interest in shorthand and the work of Intersteno because, as we always say, *verba volant scripta manent* or, "the spoken words fly but the writing remains."

Jorge Bravo – Diana Campi – Azat Ambartsoumian

Intersteno Web Forum

As briefly mentioned in the previous E-News magazine, the Board decided to create a web forum through the Intersteno community, to allow members to actively comment and contribute to the discussion in the related topics and groups. All members can join and follow all active correspondences and discussions, especially before the Council meetings.



I have taken the opportunity to create the forum platform system technically inside the Intersteno.org website and to manage all forums, memberships and moderations. First, we have created some forum groups for related organs of our federation, such as Board, Council and Jury. But it is also foreseen that this will soon spread to public forum groups for all members and individuals.

The forum platform is entirely working on the website and is accessible from anywhere and via any devices such as PCs, tablets and smartphones using the link: <http://www.intersteno.org/forum>.

It is also available on the main-menu of the Intersteno website on all pages.

Using the forum and writing posts and replies is done in the most simple way with standard rules - like many forums - and it is very easy to use to post as you would do on Facebook and Twitter.

Everyone will need to get a username and password to access all related forums by providing name and an e-mail address. We have already started to create account information. Everyone who wishes to do so may contact me for all issues about the forum via admin@intersteno.org



Below you will see some general information about how to use the forum and its contents:

USER LOGIN:

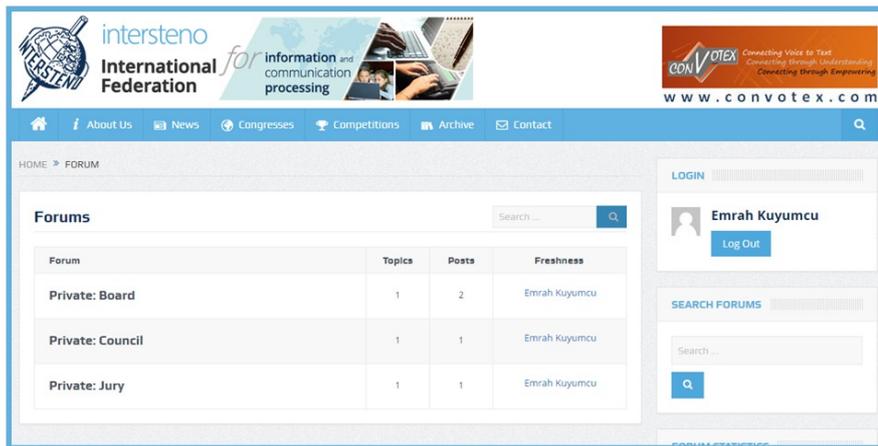
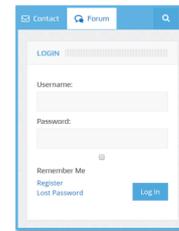
Please go to the forum link: <http://www.intersteno.org/forum>

You will see a Forums page and a Login box.

Please enter your “username” and “password” to login.



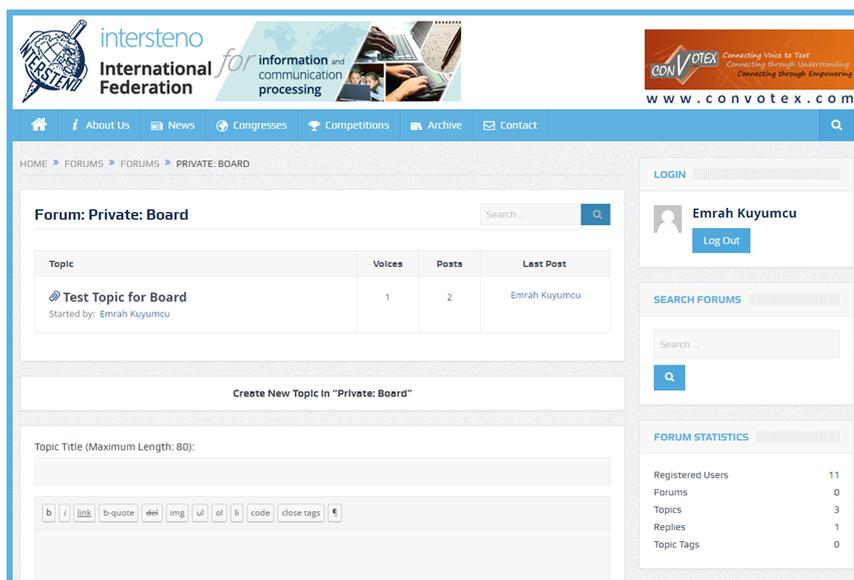
You should see a page like the example below. You will see relevant forums to access according to your user group.



FORUMS AND TOPICS

Inside the Intersteno Forum section, there will be several forums that are relevant. These are private and accessible only by authorized users. When you click on a forum name you will see all the topics posted and discussed by its members.

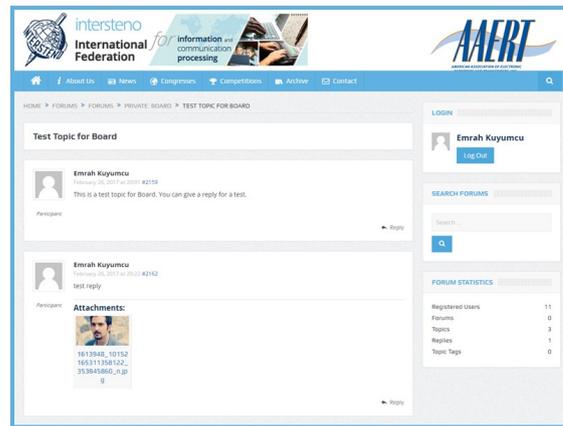
An example image of inside the FORUM page:



TOPICS AND RESPONSES

Topics means each “subject to discuss” for proposals, projects, announcements, etc. Every member can make a response to each topic. These will appear sorted by the posted dates. Everyone can upload and add files to send with the messages or responses for each topic.

An example image of inside the TOPIC page:

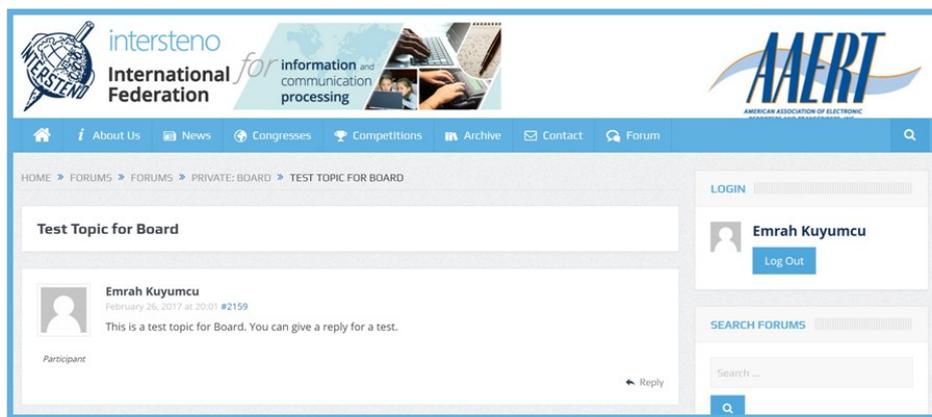


NAVIGATION

Underneath the blue banner is the navigation path to your location on the forum. This is a series of words separated by a double right arrow. It will look similar to this:

HOME >> FORUMS >> PRIVATE:BOARD >> FIRST TOPIC

In this case, to return from the FIRST TOPIC discussion to see other topics the Board has discussed, click on PRIVATE:BOARD. If for example, you are also authorized for the PRIVATE: COUNCIL forum, you can open that forum by clicking on FORUMS and then on Private: Council.



For any additional or technical information, you can contact me via admin@intersteno.org

Emrah KUYUMCU

Many thanks to Peter Walker for linguistic revision, and to Daniela Bertolini for the layout.

This newsletter is published under the responsibility of the Board of the International Federation for Information and Communication Processing - Intersteno - and sent to all email addresses of persons participating in the work of the members of Intersteno known to the Board. Contributions to the newsletter can be sent using the form on the web site. Publication will take place at the discretion of the Board. Text with signatures cannot reflect the official position of the Board of Intersteno, but only that of the authors. Please use news@intersteno.org for any additional comments as well as names of persons and entities interested in receiving this message. If you do not want to receive this letter, please send an email stating only UNSUBSCRIBE in the object of the message.

