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PREFACE

We are very pleased that the Third Conference of the European Chapter of the Association of Computational Linguistics took place in Copenhagen. There was a substantial amount of interest in the Conference from a number of different perspectives.

First, we received more than 90 abstracts for reviewing, of which unfortunately we could only accept slightly more than 50%. The programme showed a wide variety of nationalities—although of course mostly Europeans, and a wide span of fields of interest. The largest sessions were on parsing, grammar formalism and syntax, and machine translation. Secondly, the conference attracted quite a large number of registrants (about 180) who contributed to its success by their active participation. Thirdly, a number of publishers, software houses, and related organisations displayed information at the meeting.

It is my impression that the European Chapter of ACL is getting mature. Although the conference attracted contributions from all over the world, there were a very large number of papers by Europeans that reflected research of particularly high quality. This is to me the best proof that the computational linguistics community in Europe in general, and the European Chapter of ACL in particular, is growing in a sound and solid way.

So many have contributed to the success of the conference: the primary credit, of course, goes to the speakers. By their papers they established the quality of the conference. Secondly, thanks should go to the referees and to the programme committee members who did a thorough and conscientious job—it was not easy to select the papers to be presented. Thirdly, the work of the Organizing Committee is much appreciated. Last, but not least, my special thanks to Kirsten Enevold and Dennis Hammeken who handled all the communication with the participants and actually managed the conference operations.

Bente Maegaard
Programme Committee Chair

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