

EUROPEAN STRATEGY PREPARATORY GROUP

Minutes of the first meeting held on
Friday, 9 September 2011

Present: A. Aleksan (telephone), P. Braun-Munzinger, P. Chomaz (telephone), C. De Clercq, K. Desch, M. Diemoz, K. Huitu, P. Jenni, Y. Kuno, P. McBride, T. Nakada (Chairman), D. Wark, A. P. Zarnecki, F. Zwirner.

1. PROCEDURE

The ESPG meeting began with a round of introductions of its members.

The Chairman was asked if he should approach CERN for secretarial assistance for the meetings and was encouraged to do so. He will pursue this with a help of the CERN member to the ESPG.

The Chairman then discussed the membership of the ESPG and pointed out that there will be a new ECFA Chair selected in October 2011, and who will then join the ESPG.

The Chairman pointed out that the aim of the ESPG is to update the existing Strategy and not generate a new Strategy. Therefore, the core business of the meeting started with going through the existing 17 Strategy Statements and pointing out what activities have followed since then. A number of different references of input and documents (reports by and to the Council, SPC, ApPEC, NuPEC, etc.) were discussed and it was agreed that they should be made available to the ESPG members. Those references should be wider than just CERN. The Chairman has agreed that with a help of the Strategy Secretariat, he will produce a short summary report on the Strategy Statements and the type of actions that have been taken to implement the strategies.

2. 2006 EUROPEAN STRATEGY

The Chairman led a discussion of how the CERN Strategy process worked last time (in 2006). The ESPG organized a community discussion Open Symposium in Orsay to receive community inputs, as well as having solicited written statements from around the world. Those inputs were digested as Briefing Books for the Strategy Group. The Strategy Group then met in Zeuthen to produce a draft of the Strategy, which was subsequently endorsed by the CERN Council. The framework for the Zeuthen meeting was set by the ESPG.

Some Council delegates are expressing their perception that the Strategy was outlined by the ESPG before the Strategy Group meeting, which actually was not the case at all. In order to avoid such a misconception, the President of Council wishes that the Strategy Group gets involved in the process earlier. It was felt that this time the Strategy Group should be involved in the discussion of how the Strategy Group meeting, where the draft Strategy should be generated, would be organized before this meeting. It was pointed out that the organization of such a meeting should be based on proposals from the ESPG.

The current proposed time-scale is the following: Orsay-like meeting in ~April 2012, a Zeuthen-like meeting in September 2012 with perhaps an additional shorter Strategy Group meeting in ~November 2012 to iron out unsettled details. There was much discussion on the schedule, but the end date (the Ministerial Meeting in Brussels in December 2012) is currently fixed, and the minimum amount of time for each step then pushes the Orsay-like meeting to ~April 2012. New results which will be announced at Neutrino 2012 in Kyoto in early June 2012 and at ICHEP in Melbourne

on 4-11 July 2012 will probably require an additional (smaller) community meeting in about the third week in July 2012 to allow the community to discuss updates to their input. A suggestion was made to schedule this meeting around the plenary ECFA meeting in July 2012.

R. Aleksan reviewed how the ESPG worked in 2006, which converged as briefing materials. The method was to divide work amongst the members, which essentially wrote the entire document based on input from the community arising from the Orsay meeting, written input from the community, and interviews with selected community members.

3. WORKING GROUPS

P. Chomaz suggested that this time the ESPG should act to organize the community into working groups to provide input for the community meeting and briefing documents. There was discussion of how that would work, and many discussions about how to group topics. It was agreed that the ESPG members to be divided into working groups and it would be left to the Working Groups to develop a plan on how to interact with the relevant communities. The following Working Groups were created:

1. Physics at High Energy Frontier: P. Jenni, M. Diemoz, K. Desch, P. McBride
2. Strong Interaction Physics: P. Braun-Munzinger, A. P. Zarnecki
3. Flavour Physics and Symmetries: T. Nakada, Y. Kuno
(including quark and charged-lepton flavour physics, EDMs and \tilde{g} -2)
4. Physics of Neutrinos: D. Wark
(including neutrino oscillations, double-beta decay, neutrino mass)
5. Astroparticle Physics, Gravitation and Cosmology: C. De Clerc, P. Chomaz
6. Accelerator Physics: R. Aleksan
7. Particle Physics Theory: F. Zwirner, K. Huitu.

It was agreed that the accelerator issues, for both particle physics related and application related areas, should be dealt by the Accelerator Physics Working Group. It is understood that a close interaction with other groups is essential for the particle physics related issue.

At the next meeting of the ESPG, the convenors of each Working Group should state their plan for how to communicate with the relevant communities and a statement of what topics they believe are covered within their Working Group.

It was decided to defer subjects like technology transfer and public engagement to later meetings, as these subjects already have well-defined groups dealing with them and thus requiring less work for the update.

4. VENUES FOR OPEN SYMPOSIUM

The ESPG discussed the requirements for hosting the Open Symposium:

- Ability hold a three-day plenary meeting.
- A plenary meeting room able to accommodate ~500 people.
- A few small meeting rooms for individual discussions.
- Live Webcast of all sessions.
- Free wireless access with sufficient bandwidth for all participants.
- A press room.
- Secretarial and administrative support.

- Modest conference fee.
- Enough housing with various price categories.
- A meeting room for the Preparatory and Strategy Group meetings, holding up to 50 people.

Currently, the most convenient date would be to hold this meeting just after Easter 2012. However, the entire period of 2-27 April 2012 should be considered.

The ESPG would like to have the bids for the Open Symposium submitted by ~end of September 2011. The ESPG will select the host in consultation with the President of Council.

5. DATES FOR ESPG MEETINGS

The next ESPG meetings will be held towards the end of October 2011, during the second half of November, in early January 2012, and during the second half of February. The Chairman will launch a Doodle poll for all of these.

Notes taken by D. Wark

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