



ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the 40th meeting held on 10 June 1998

Present:

B. Asman, P. Bagnaia (Chairman), G. Bobbink, A. Böhm, E. Chaney*, L. Foà*, Z. Hajduk, K. Huitu, C. Jarlskog, R. Jones, A. Kirk, S. Komamiya, L. Köpke, R. Landua, C. Llewellyn Smith*, M. Luptak, M. Martinez, J-P. Matheys, R. Möller, V. Palladino, B. Pattison, A. Petrilli*, M. Reyes Tareb, M. Robin*, J. Salicio Diez, A. Schopper, D. Stickland, G. Vesztergombi, D. Vilanova, R. Voss, G. Walzel, P. Závada

Apologies:

F. Barao, B. Jean Marie, P. Kluit, T. Papadopoulou, N. Produit, A. Read, J. Urban, G. Wilquet

* part time

Agenda

1. Chairman's remarks
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. News from the CERN Management
4. Minutes of the previous meeting
5. Matters arising
6. WWW Access to Administrative Applications
7. Funding for the Library
8. Use of CERN Cars
9. Housing Fund Report
10. Users' Office News
11. Any Other Business
12. Agenda for the next meeting

DRAFT Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 16 September 1998

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| 1. Chairman's remarks | 7. ACES |
| 2. Adoption of the agenda | 8. VAX Policy |
| 3. News from the CERN Management | 9. Users' Office news |
| 4. Minutes of the previous meeting | 10. Any Other Business |
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| 6. Funding of Basic Research in the EU | |

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1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Opening the meeting, P. Bagnaia, the Chairman welcomed C. Jarlskog, the new special advisor to the Director General for Member State affairs, and G. Bobbink, M. Luptak and M. Reyes-Tareb representing the Delegates from the Netherlands, the Slovak Republic and Switzerland respectively.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Due to a special meeting of the Directorate the order of the agenda was varied, but reported in the original order.

3. NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT

The Director General announced that, following the usual procedure, CERN's medium-term plan (4 years from 1999) would be presented to Council the following week, together with a brief update of the long-term plan (up to 2008). Permission to operate LEP in 2000 would be sought, although commitments from Member States had so far fallen short of expectations and there is still a shortfall in funding.

Apart from ISOLDE, the 'gap' between the end of LEP and the start-up of the LHC is currently covered only by COMPASS, and the AD programme, both of which are funded from external sources. The DG noted once again that there is no freedom for additional new scientific initiatives which would have to be funded from external sources. An extension to the neutrino programme is highly desirable, and INFN has requested 60% of the capital costs of providing a neutrino beam to Gran Sasso. The remainder is being sought from private sources, but the personnel and operation costs would also have to be covered and additional funding would be needed for CERN to realise this possibility. Furthermore, preventive maintenance and consolidation is being reduced to an absolute minimum leading to increased risk of a major breakdown. He has consistently said this to Council and to Users, but he fears that people tend to forget.

In conclusion the DG showed the projected income and expenditure for the next 10 years and discussed the cash flow problem, which is extremely sensitive to changes in the LHC expenditure profile. The recent generous financial contribution from Japan was most welcome.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the 39th meeting were approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

ACES: The Chairman of ACES, G. Viertel, will report to ACCU at the next meeting. L. Köpke has agreed to represent ACCU on ACES, and the Chairman thanked G. Walzel for representing ACCU on EPAC for so many years. No smoking policy: ACCU considers that the policy seems to be a nonserious directive. The announcement in the Weekly Bulletin was not amongst the Official News which everybody is deemed to have read, the publicity has been minimal, and designated smoking areas have not been identified. It was noted that there now seem to be growing amounts of cigarette litter outside the entrances to buildings. ACCU requested that the no-smoking policy be better publicized and properly implemented.

SIPB: B. Asman, who had been nominated to represent ACCU on the SIPB, said that she could not undertake this, and that another candidate should be found.

6. WWW ACCESS TO ADMINISTRATIVE APPLICATIONS

A. Petrilli, of AS Division, introducing this subject said that although he would be referring mainly to the Budget Holder's Toolkit (BHT) and to Electronic Document Handling (EDH), the work in hand covered many other topics. Currently ad hoc solutions and 'patches' for accessing BHT and EDH have been found in order to circumvent existing technological limitations. These still have other drawbacks such as scalability, security and interactivity.

The proposed solution is to give world-wide access via the Web which would have the advantage of having the same interface from inside and outside CERN, there would be cross-references between related information, and there would be a common login for all available applications. This implies changes to the user interface, the introduction of EDH passwords to access all Web applications, and the provision for 'certifying' clients as approved users.

At present, the non-Web versions of EDH and BHT have been frozen, and the functionality is being moved to the Web as a maintenance activity. It is expected that various parts of these applications will gradually become available during the course of 1998.

Thanking the speaker the Chairman said that ACCU would welcome a demonstration at a future meeting.

7. FUNDING FOR THE LIBRARY

E. Chaney of the CERN Library reviewed the improvements made to the Library since 1995. These include amongst other things the library extension, an audiovisual room, extended desk hours, the development of the inter-library loan service (ILL), online access to INSPEC database and Britannica online, the input of missing divisional documents for the period 1960-70, the introduction of new publication and archiving policies, anti-theft deterrents, the collection of Academic Training videos (~110 lectures) etc. She went on to review the main statistics for 1997: 600 Open journal subscriptions, including 140 full text electronic versions, 24,000 new pre-prints, the dissemination of 50,000 CERN documents, 3300 outgoing and 250 incoming ILL requests, and an 8% increase of registered loans (6500). There are improved links and co-operation with similar libraries (DESY, FNAL, BNL, SLAC and RAL) which will also include short term exchanges of librarians.

Improvements and the provision of a continued high standard of service inevitably cost money. Whereas the library budget for 1997 was finely balanced by additional funding from DG funds and the Administrative sector, this is not the case for 1998 where a deficit of 140 KCHF is expected. The Scientific Information Policy Board (SIPB) does not consider any further cuts in acquisitions either acceptable or possible. Options remaining to provide for the foreseen deficit are to open budget items elsewhere to complement Library allocations, to request extraordinary contributions from other Divisions, or to transfer the cost of satellite libraries to Divisions. An emergency solution based on the latter possibility has been proposed for 1998, but if this is not approved subscriptions for the amount of 140 KCHF will have to be cancelled.

It was reported at a recent meeting of the SIPB that from 1999 a budget line may be opened on the DG funds to complement the Library's budget from AS Division, although no figures are available yet. The SIPB concluded that, in future, it expected the CERN Management to find a unique centralised budget source. Thanking the speaker, the Chairman said that ACCU recommends that the CERN Management provides adequate funding, suitably indexed, from a single source to enable the Library to continue providing its high quality service.

8. USE OF CERN CARS

The Secretary tabled the current draft version of the Operational Circular, and asked that comments be sent to him before 30 June 1998.

9. HOUSING FUND REPORT

D. Stickland, summarized the recent meeting of the Housing Fund Committee (HFC), at which he had represented ACCU. The rates for the CERN Hostels and apartments remain unchanged for 1998. Notice was given in December 1997 to terminate the contract for the 70 apartments at 'La Rivière' on 31 December 1998, and occupants were notified on 25 May 1998. The renovations to Building 38 are behind schedule, and it is anticipated that it will re-open in mid-September 1998. The rooms in Building 5 will be retained pending further studies.

The availability of apartments on both sides of the border is a cause for concern, and the HFC proposes to retain 15 apartments in Switzerland, and acquire 15 apartments in France specifically for short term users (2-6 months). ACCU strongly endorsed this policy. The present occupants of La Rivière will receive assistance from the Housing Service in relocation, or possible re-leasing through the new 'régie'. The Housing Service staff are receiving training in order that all can respond to enquiries concerning both the hostel and apartments. Concluding, D. Stickland suggested that the Housing Service actively follow up all housing enquiries for a

limited period as a test of the success rate in finding accommodation and how it was found. A spin-off of this would in fact reflect whether the availability of 15 short-term apartments is sufficient.

In the discussion it was pointed out that distant, non-francophone users face the biggest problems. The Secretary was requested to find out from the Housing Service the number of long- and short-term leases at La Rivière, and the occupancy level, and e-mail ACCU members with the result. Finally on a more positive note, ACCU expressed its thanks to the Housing Service in providing an excellent service concerning the cleanliness etc. of the apartments, and for extending the opening hours of the reception desk.

10. USERS' OFFICE NEWS

B. Pattison tabled copies of Operational Circular No.2 (Rev.1) entitled 'Conditions of Access to the Fenced Part of the CERN Site'.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

R. Jones brought CERN's attention to the problem of single parents coming to CERN. They are currently not allowed to stay in the CERN hostels with their child, and he noted that child minding facilities are not available at CERN. It was agreed that children could not be left unattended in the hostels, since this could cause CERN legal liabilities. Replying, D. Stickland said that the subject had been discussed in the recent Housing Fund Committee meeting which noted that the child minding problem must be solved before deciding whether or not children could be allowed to stay in the hostels. J-P. Matheys for the Staff Association noted that the CERN Kindergarten cannot legally accept children below the age of two and a half, and that the minimum length of enrollment is one month with an upper age limit. The Staff Association would be willing to enter into discussions about a crèche. R. Jones asked that a survey of child minding facilities in the area be made, and the results sent to the Secretary. In order to gauge the expected demand, ACCU Delegates were asked to consult their users concerning problems being encountered and by how many users. R. Möller announced that recently a colleague had been heavily fined by the French Customs authorities for using a car with Swiss plates whilst resident in France. The Secretary had consulted the Relations with the Host States Office who had telephoned the French Customs for clarification. The situation is as follows: A person resident, temporarily or otherwise, in a country belonging to the European Union may not rent or borrow a car registered in a third country (ie. non-EU) and use it in the country of residence except in certain circumstances (eg. your car breaks down and has to be repatriated and you rent a car to get you home). This rule applies whether or not the person is a national of an EU country. ACCU recommended that all Members of Personnel are informed of this rule through the CERN Official News.

M. Robin, the Director of Administration, announced that CERN would soon issue a notice concerning tax liabilities for Users resident for more than 6 months in France.

12. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING (16 September 1998)

The agenda for the next meeting* will include discussions on the Funding of Basic Research in the EU, ACES, and the policy concerning the VAX shutdown.

Bryan Pattison

* **The next meeting will take place in the Council Chamber**