



Summary record

The 22nd meeting of the ILO Forum was held in hybrid mode on **Tuesday, 27 September 2022**.

Industrial Liaison Officers: Mr J. Visser (Netherlands, **Chair**), Mr M. Aver and Mr M. Schmidt (Austria), Ms V. Huppertz (Belgium), Mr J. Spunda (Czech Republic), Mr H. Bak Jeppesen (Denmark), Mr R. Aare (Estonia), Mr N. Berton (France), Dr F. Haug (Germany), Mr N. Manthos (Greece), Mr M. Morandin and Mr M. Onozi (Italy), Mr A. Jelinskas (Lithuania), Mr O.-P. Nordahl (Norway), Ms S. Wójtowicz (Poland), Mr J. Antão (Portugal), Mr G. Popeneciu (Romania), Mr L. Vargovčík (Slovakia), Mr L. Monreal and Mr M. Moreno Ballesteros (Spain), Dr F. Engelmark (Sweden), Mr M. Hübner (Switzerland), Mr H. Kiziltoprak and Mr E. Savaş (Turkey), Mr R. Farrow and Mr A. Silverman (United Kingdom)

CERN officials:

Ms L. Bellini-Devictor (IPT-PI-AG), Mr E. Cennini (CERP3), Mr C. Hartley (IPT Department Head), Ms M. Lapka (IPT-KT), Ms C. Lara (IPT-PI-RI), Mr J. Perliot (IPT-PI-AT), Mr A. Unnervik (IPT-PI Group Leader), Ms S. Waller (DG-TMC, summary record)

Item	Summary
	<p><u>The meeting was called to order at 9.00 a.m.</u></p> <p>At the invitation of the Chair, the new members present at the meeting (J. Spunda from the Czech Republic, L. Monreal from Spain and E. Savaş from Turkey) introduced themselves.</p>
1.	<p><u>Adoption of the agenda</u></p> <p>The agenda¹ was adopted.</p>
2.	<p><u>Approval of the summary record</u></p> <p>The summary record of the 21st meeting of the ILO Forum, held on 22 March 2022 (document CERN/ILF/21/draft), was approved.</p>
3.	<p><u>Procurement and Industrial Services group; organisation</u></p> <p>A. Unnervik presented the Procurement and Industrial Services group's organisational chart as at September 2022, recalling the structure of the group, which was composed of four sections and one project, and indicating some new members.</p> <p>In reply to a question from the Chair about the members of the group who would be leaving or retiring soon, A. Unnervik said that one position had already been opened, but the Management had decided that one of the staff members would not be replaced.</p> <p>On behalf of the ILO Forum, the Chair expressed concern about the consequences of the Management's decision for an already stretched group.</p> <p>C. Hartley said that he took note of the concern expressed by the ILO Forum and that the IPT department was exploring ways to manage the situation, including by requesting additional temporary human resources that would be assigned to procurement projects focused on delivering on some of the Organization's priorities, such as sustainable procurement or improving industrial return.</p> <p>On the request of R. Farrow, <u>it was agreed</u> that the presentation of the organisation chart would in future highlight the changes made since it had last been presented to the ILO Forum and distinguish between members of the group on limited-duration contracts and those holding indefinite contracts.</p>

¹ The agenda and all presentations are available on Indico at <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1195001>

The ILO Forum took note of the presentation by A. Unnervik and of the additional points made during the discussion.

4. Sustainable procurement project

E. Cennini gave an update on CERN's Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy project (CERP3), recalling the project's origins, outlining its principles and goals in the context of ISO 20400:2017 (sustainable procurement), and providing details of its updated deliverables and timeline. The draft policy was now ready to be shared with the ILOs, whose feedback would be required by mid-October in order to be incorporated into the document before it was presented to the department heads and the Enlarged Directorate. An accompanying guideline document would set out practical ways to implement the policy for each of the procurement families.

During the ensuing discussion, the following additional information was provided:

- CERN's "overall Environmental Management and Transparency Strategy", which is referred to in the draft policy, is not a single document but is made up of the environmental objectives set for the Organization since 2016 by the CERN Environmental Protection Steering Board (CEPS) and outlined in the public Environment Reports. The Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy dovetails with that wider strategy (E. Cennini, in reply to R. Farrow).
- Initially, the suppliers' sustainability rating (slide 12) will be introduced simply to get an idea of how existing and new suppliers are ranked by their willingness and ability to develop sustainable practices. Longer term, the aim is to add some specific sustainability criteria into the supplier selection process in order to achieve some quick wins, for instance in relation to procurement emissions. In parallel, CERN will work in partnership with its existing suppliers to encourage them to move towards more sustainable practices (E. Cennini, in reply to A. Silverman).
- At this stage, the objective is to establish the Environmentally Responsible Procurement Policy and to make sure that all of CERN's suppliers are aware of the direction in which the Organization intends to move. CERN is gradually introducing some environmental criteria in its procurement criteria for specific tenders, such as use of wood alongside concrete in construction, but at this stage it does not wish to rule out any companies based solely on their degree of compliance with environmental criteria (C. Hartley).
- The first step is to gain a better understanding of the situation in industry, as some companies may already have advanced sustainability practices while others will need to be nudged in that direction. Stricter environmental criteria may be introduced into CERN's procurement practices at a later stage (A. Unnervik).
- The key concepts that come into play when considering who to buy from (slide 6) show an intersection between countries' industrial return status and their suppliers' sustainability practices. An analysis of CERN's scope 3 procurement emissions in 2019 revealed that transport only accounted for 11 kT of the total procurement emissions of 178 kT. Even so, improving the emissions resulting from transport would open up opportunities for buying from poorly balanced countries that are further away from CERN but whose companies have strong sustainability practices, such as the Nordic countries (E. Cennini, in reply to J. Antão).
- CERN will involve the ILOs closely in the process of engaging with suppliers in their countries about their sustainability practices. To this end, the CERP3 team and the project consultant will be putting together a plan, which will be communicated to the ILOs in due course (E. Cennini, in reply to the Chair).

The ILO Forum took note of the presentation by E. Cennini and of the additional information provided during the discussion.

5. Thematic industry events@CERN: organisation, activities

L. Bellini Devictor provided details of the first thematic industry event, which had been held online on 19 and 20 September and focused on cabling, assembly and industrialisation of electrical cabinets/switchboards, power converters and switchgears, presented the feedback received from companies, CERN technical officers and ILOs so far, and requested additional feedback from the ILOs present in order to help CERN prepare for future events.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- D. Schoerling liaised effectively with the ILOs in the lead-up to the event, which was well organised. The presentations were suitably detailed and met the companies' requirements. The format provides a good template for future events (A. Silverman).
- CERN technical officers from four departments participated; their feedback was that the event was efficient and useful. Because the content and meetings revolved around specific projects, the mutual interest was clear. In addition, the technical teams appreciated the opportunity to have direct contact with various companies that are new to CERN (L. Bellini Devictor, in reply to J. Antão).
- The general feedback from the ILOs, as expressed in the informal ILO meeting on 26 September, was positive. They agreed that such events are an excellent way to engage with industry. A four-stage process for future events was outlined: an initial online event with unlimited participation, after which companies that are definitely interested can create their profile in the supplier database, then a follow-up event during which CERN technical officers set up meetings through the B2Match tool, and/or an on-site event at CERN for companies to see the relevant equipment and working areas. In general, in the interests of transparency, companies and ILOs would appreciate receiving information about the invitation criteria for events as well as feedback about the reasons for refusing companies that wish to attend. The ILOs would also like to receive a draft schedule of industry events for the next couple of years, showing the upcoming topics of interest and combining several small and fewer large events. The onus is on the ILOs to keep track of the companies that have had contact with CERN in order to make sure that regular contact is maintained. Finally, it was decided to set up an ILO working group to address the finding that some aspects of the former national events are missing from the thematic events and should be worked into the new set-up (Chair).
- The thematic events should coexist alongside webinars, which could be particularly focused on generating interest in market surveys and are straightforward to organise whenever a need is identified (M. Morandin).
- Based on the success of the pilot thematic event and the feedback received from all parties, the procurement service will draw up a preliminary plan for the coming years setting out the topics to be covered and the kind of events planned, which will be shared and discussed with the ILOs. The intention is to hold two big thematic events (like the pilot event) per year, alongside a number of smaller, ad hoc, web-based events, such as for market surveys (A. Unnervik).
- When planning future thematic events, the procurement service will clearly convey to ILOs their primary objective, for example to focus on companies from (very) poorly balanced companies or to add companies to the supplier database (A. Unnervik, in reply to M. Morandin).
- All the presentations from the thematic events will be made available online for the ILOs to use in subsequent interaction with companies in their countries (Chair, in reply to L. Vargovčík).
- From 2023, national events will only be organised if there is a particular reason for doing so, such as on a one-off basis for new Associate Member States (A. Unnervik, in reply to J. Antão).
- The ILOs would like to work with the procurement service to develop a new industry event policy that is based on thematic events as the default but incorporates some flexibility for niche markets, new Associate Member States, etc. (A. Silverman).
- It was a deliberate decision to focus the thematic events on CERN's forthcoming needs, so that companies can follow the procurement process through to its conclusion and the award of a contract. Events such as the Big Science Business Forum provide companies with a longer-term view of future directions, not just at CERN but across big science (A. Unnervik, in reply to O.-P. Nordahl).

The ILO Forum took note of the presentation by L. Bellini Devictor and of the additional points made during the discussion and expressed its support for the new organisation of thematic industry events.

6. Presentation of upcoming industrial opportunities

J. Pierlot presented 11 upcoming tenders for the Accelerators and Technology sector, in each case describing the components required, outlining the estimated cost range and the timeline for

the market survey and the invitation to tender, and indicating the relevant contact person. In 2023, one of the thematic industry events may be devoted to electronics (fast-acquisition electronics and motherboards) and another to civil engineering work.

During the ensuing discussion, he provided the following additional information:

- The procurement service is likely to struggle to identify enough potential suppliers for the collimators (slide 2) and for cryogenic cables for the beam position monitors (slide 11). In the case of the latter, no suitable companies in the Member or Associate Member States have been identified so far (in reply to M. Morandin).
- The screws for the actuation systems (slide 3) must be roller screws because of the potential radiation from stray particles (in reply to L. Vargovčik).
- The tender for the transport equipment for magnets and superconducting links (slide 9) envisages two separate systems (one forklift and one trailer system) and will not include delivery of a workshop for maintenance and support, unlike previous similar tenders (in reply to L. Vargovčik and R. Farrow).
- The tests during the market survey phase, which are mentioned for several of the tenders, will involve CERN buying the sample components and testing them in its facilities (in reply to R. Farrow).
- CERN would be happy to enter into a collaboration agreement with industry or academia for the development of components where it is struggling to identify suppliers; the ILOs should send any suggestions for potential partners to the procurement service (in reply to A. Silverman).

On the request of A. Silverman, it was agreed that, in order to provide ILOs with advance information on forthcoming invitations to tender, the procurement service would extract the technical descriptions from the relevant departmental requests and send them to the ILOs.

The ILO Forum took note of the presentation by J. Pierlot and of the additional information provided during the discussion.

7. Update on the next Big Science for Business event (now BSBF2022)

M. Moreno Ballesteros presented the organisation, programme and ambitions of the 2022 Big Science Business Forum (BSBF), which would take place in Granada, Spain, from 4 to 7 October, as well as some information about the selection of the 2024 BSBF host country.

The ILO Forum took note of the presentation by M. Moreno Ballesteros and confirmed that many of them would be attending the BSBF.

8. Other business, conclusion

J. Visser said that the informal ILO meeting the previous day had been a useful opportunity to gather feedback on the thematic industry events and that the working group would continue to explore ways to bring some important features of the national events into the new set-up.

The ILOs were encouraged to reach out to the relevant CERN technical officers about the forthcoming tenders.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.

ILO information session

C. Lara gave a presentation outlining what the ILOs could expect from CERN (training, documentation, IT tools, statistics, other services), the role of the ILOs and what CERN expected from them, and the developments being made to the supplier database.

It was agreed that a pilot training session on the CERN Procurement Rules and Procedures and on the General Conditions for CERN contracts and invitations to tender would take place online in the following couple of months, mainly for the new ILOs, and that a full in-person training session covering updates, computer tools and any other requested subject would be run at a date to be agreed between ILOs and the Procurement service. Thereafter, a training session would be held every other year.

The information session ended at 12.35 p.m.