ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the 47th meeting held on 1 March 2000


* 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. The Structure & Role of ETT Division
7. Revoking Computer Accounts
8. Users' Office News
9. Election of ACCU Chairman
10. Any Other Business
11. Agenda for the next meeting

DRAFT Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 14 June 2000

- Chairman's remarks
- Adoption of the agenda
- News from the CERN Management
- Minutes of the previous meeting
- Matters arising
- Revoking Computer Accounts
- Activities of the Visits Service
- Users' Office News
- Any Other Business
- Agenda for the next meeting

Minutes of the 47th meeting held on 1 March 2000

1. CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS
   Opening the meeting, R. Jones, Chairman, welcomed R. Brenner, M. Déjardin, C. Goessling, A. Kiiskinen, F. Navarria and A. Waananen attending their first meeting as Delegates for Sweden, France, Germany, Finland, Italy and Denmark respectively

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
   The agenda was adopted without change.

3. NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT
   Representing the Director General, C. Détraz said that the Management was becoming more and more confident that the LHC machine will be on time and within budget, although he reiterated that this demanding project allows no margin for error. The last adjudication for the 1200 dipoles is coming under control, with three companies in competition for the final contract. Two dipoles are expected to be delivered daily. The timescale for the detector programmes was more worrying, and the current underspending could be a portent of future problems. This will be looked at critically to determine how to address this major concern. It is too early to say that the detectors could fall behind schedule, but not too early to foresee possible problems. There will be a full review of the LHC machine & the detectors at the end of this year and a comprehensive report presented to Council. The Council approved the CNGS project at its December meeting. CERN is therefore in a strong position to make further significant contributions to neutrino physics and oscillations. Generous additional contributions have been made by some Member States, and Council’s commitment is very important. Recent achievements in the heavy ion programme have received wide coverage in the media. Clear statements were necessary to the public and funding agencies on the current and future programmes. The neutron time of flight facility, TOF, will start commissioning in spring, and significant support from the European Union will help bring in new people. This, together with the approval of HARP and an experiment to search for Axions, demonstrates the ability of CERN to allow for new experiments despite severe restrictions. The anti-proton decelerator (AD) experienced normal teething problems and the first decelerations were made just prior to the shutdown. There is every confidence in its future role which will produce exciting physics. The present
manpower will remain with the AD until it runs satisfactorily.
The Medium Term Plan, currently under review, will be presented to Council in June, and CLIC technology will be a major item of research and development.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The Minutes of the 46th meeting were adopted as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES
There has been some disquiet about the General Conditions for Experiments at CERN. Delegates are invited to send information to the Secretary.

Similarly, concern was expressed about visas for France for nationals of non-EU Member States. The Chairman and Secretary were requested to discuss this with the Head of the Office for Relations with the Host States.

Replying to a question about improving the coverage of the CERN site by France Telecom, R. Voss said that two French companies had expressed no interest, but he would discuss this with ST Division. The Secretary announced that the Director General had written to the Swiss authorities about CT permits, and has received an acknowledgement.

Negotiations still continue with the French concerning the registration of CERN vehicles in France. ACCU considered that this is taking too long to resolve and instructed the Secretary to convey this to CERN in writing.

Discussions with the Swiss PTT and Swisscom resulted in a lack of interest to install vending machines for international telephone cards due to the wide variety of these cards available on the market as well as the proliferation of mobile phones. However, ACCU requested the Users' Office to study the feasibility of selling phone cards (e.g., Global One). The Secretary concluded by demonstrating the tortuous route followed in order to locate CERN's Official News on the Web unless one knew the 'url,' and said that he would propose a simpler path. (Secretary's note: implemented).

6. THE STRUCTURE & ROLE OF ETT DIVISION
J.A. Rubio, Leader of the new Education and Technology Transfer Division, ETT, presented the aims of the Division. Its principle mission will be to communicate to Society at large the scientific results achieved by the CERN programme. This will be done in collaboration with institutes associated with CERN, and the cultural and educational implications as well as the technologies developed in accomplishing CERN's mission will be demonstrated. The electronic use of the CERN Library will be promoted, and the archives of scientific and technological results made available.

Technology Transfer (TT) will be promoted through CERN, including its Users, or by people detached by industry. Training programmes at CERN will be tailored to suit the needs of industry etc. in the Member States. Since CERN is a high tech organization it can be at the forefront in setting up joint technical research with industry. The speaker then went on to elaborate some of the main activities where this has been or will be put into practice.

However, in order to achieve successful Education and Technology Transfer, the Division will be heavily involved in maintaining, updating and promoting a variety of areas such as technology data bases, intranet Web pages, visits to CERN, the development of a pro-active Intellectual Property Rights policy etc. Concluding, the speaker showed the organizational structure of the Division.

G. Bobbink noted that during the LEP era visits to LEP experiments had been most successful, and wondered what was envisaged for the future when those experiments will be dismantled. C. Goessling encouraged the use of the dismantling period for visits. In reply J.A. Rubio said that a database has been created to select material for exhibitions, and the Unit was looking into the possibility of retaining one LEP experiment as a display exhibit.

N. Produit expressed worries about the content of the CERN Courier. Replying, C. Détraz said that the Courier was governed by an Advisory Board which welcomes input from Users. Whilst it is a CERN publication, it is also de facto a magazine for High Energy Physics, not necessarily CERN centered, but including other laboratories. G. Vestergombi considered that the Courier helps to promote HEF to other sciences.

Replying to a question from Z. Hajduk about using the younger Member States to promote CERN and HEF, J.A. Rubio said that whilst those States might not have the same level of technical advancement, co-operation has to be two way. The Member State has to encourage training at CERN in close contact with home industry. A project, EXSIF, to understand the best practices for Technology Transfer by promoting spin-off companies has been submitted for sponsorship to the EU. These practices will be applied to all CERN Member States even if not members of the European Union. C. Détraz added that, in the past, there have been several successful scattered programmes at CERN which should be combined into one. Various Member States send young students for training (e.g., Portugal and their young engineers).

P. Soler asked whether visits by private companies to attract young people would become regular features? J.A. Rubio said that the first such case happened last year, and it is planned to establish a portfolio of needs for as many different European industries as possible. Whether CERN should encourage companies to visit with a view to attracting young people when they leave CERN is being discussed.

In conclusion, J.A. Rubio thought that following the request of some ACCU Delegates, and in view of their interest in the discussion, ACCU could be represented on the ETT Advisory Committee. He will transmit this to the CERN Management. Thanking J.A. Rubio, the Chairman considered that it was most appropriate to hear this presentation soon after the creation of this new Division.

7. REVOKING COMPUTER ACCOUNTS
The Secretary announced that it would be preferable to postpone this topic until the next meeting as the sub-committee, of which he is a member, would only be meeting for the first time the following day. Delegates made various suggestions which should be mentioned at that first meeting.

8. USERS' OFFICE NEWS
B. Pattison answered various questions which had been sent to him since the last meeting.

There has been no change in policy in the use of CERN cars. ST Division and the Office for Relations with the Host States have been contacted concerning requesting the French authorities to provide lighting along the CERN boundary
fence along RN84. The Chairman noted a lack of lighting on the pathway between Restaurant No. 1 and Building 38. The provision of a card giving access to the CERN site for Users retiring in the local area is under discussion. Finally, Users requiring assistance for taxation matters in France were referred to the Weekly Bulletin No. 8 of this year, and contact, where necessary, the Installation Service in HR Division.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
   There was no other business.

10. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING (14 JUNE 2000)
    The agenda for the next meeting will include a discussion about closing computer accounts following an individual's departure from CERN, and the Visits Service will be invited to present its current and future activities.

Bryan Pattison