



Minutes

APPEC General Assembly meeting

December 3, 2019

Lisbon, Portugal

Present

Stan Bentvelsen, Grahame Blair (remote), Antonio Bueno, Catherine DeClercq, Eckhard Elsen (observer CERN), Laurent Favart (remote), Katri Huitu (remote), Peter Forgacs, Gautier Hamel de Monchenault, Andreas Haungs, Jorgen d’Hondt (observer ECFA), Uli Katz, Job de Kleuver (General Secretary), Antoine Kouchner, Antonio Masiero, Teresa Montaruli (Chair), Mario Pimenta, Leszek Roszkowski, Christian Stegmann (Vice Chair, remote), Ivan Stekl and Xin Wu (remote).

Invited: Katharina Henjes-Kunst (remote), Stavros Katsanevas (remote), Sylvie Leray (remote), Katrin Link.

Apologies

We received apologies for their absence from Laura Baudis (SAC chair), Lars Bergstrom, Michiel van den Hout (replaced in this meeting by Job de Kleuver), Anne-Isabelle Etienvre (replaced in this meeting by Gautier Hamel de Monchenault), Maria Garcia Borge, Berry Giebels (replaced in this meeting by Antoine Kouchner), Nicolae Marius Marginean, Manolis Plionis, Victor Matveev, Ronald Stark (observer ASTRONET), Andy Williams (observer ESO, replaced in this meeting by Paolo Padovani), Antonio Zoccoli (replaced in this meeting by Antonio Masiero)

Items		To Do's:
1. Adoption of the Agenda	Montaruli opened the meeting. A short tour the table was made. The agenda was adopted.	
2. APP in Portugal	Pimenta gave a brief overview of Astroparticle Physics in Portugal. His presentation can be found in the APPEC cloud. Astroparticle Physics activities are growing (presently 42 FTEs and a total funding of 700 k€ per year) with strong involvement in: Cosmic ray experiments, Neutrinos experiments, Dark Matter experiments and Gravitational waves research.	
3. Accession Poland to APPEC	The GA approved the accession of Poland to APPEC through CAMK. The General Secretary was mandated to finalise the formalities, including the signing of the two accession documents. Roszkowski gave a short presentation about Astrocent, the Particle Astrophysics Center for Science and Technology in Warsaw. His presentation can be found in the APPEC cloud.	
4. Minutes GA meeting 16/17 May 2019	The minutes were approved without changes.	

Items		To Do's:
<p>5. Status European Particle Physics Strategy Update</p>	<p>Montaruli gave an overview of the process so far and the next steps in the process of the European Particle Physics Strategy Update. From 21-25 January 2020 the drafting session of the European Strategy Group preparing the next European Particle Physics Strategy Update will take place in Bad Honnef (Germany). The APPEC chair is invited for this session and the APPEC input was discussed in the meeting.</p> <p>In the further process we aim the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • strive for a sentence (or short paragraph) in the PP Strategy document about Astroparticle Physics (including more specifically ET) • support the continuation of the Neutrino Platform • find a way for cooperation on Dark Matter & other topics • CERN support for realization of ET. <p>Elements that were discussed were: the APPEC Strategy and recommendations from 2017, focus on synergies PP and APP, unifying gravity and the other fundamental forces in the PP Strategy, once well-defined stronger collaboration with CERN to realise ET.</p> <p>It was decided that Bentvelsen, Stegmann and Montaruli prepare a not too long APP recommendation. The draft will be circulated in the GA before it will be finalized.</p>	<p>Bentvelsen, Stegmann, Montaruli</p>
<p>6. Towards more sustainable APPEC</p>	<p>In the last meeting the GA took note of the discussion paper 'Path to a sustainable APPEC'. The GA decided to request the authors to include the opinions and comments of the GA discussion in Grenada and to prepare a proposal for the preferred organisation model (including a business plan) for a stronger APPEC. This proposal was recently sent to the GA for comments and was discussed in this meeting.</p> <p>In a tour de table all APPEC members gave their opinions on the document and the question whether they consider to make a bid for hosting a central APPEC office.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general there is strong support for stronger and effective coordination between the national agencies/research organisations via APPEC. Individual agencies are too weak to handle alone. With perspective to global developments (e.g. APIF, US, Asia) stronger European coordination is useful. • However there is a delicate balance between autonomy of agencies and APPEC coordination. INFN, CNRS/CEA, STFC mentioned they have own people in Brussels for lobby, have contacts with industry on a national level and report and prioritize to their own Ministries. • It was recommended to define more concrete and subtle the aims and tasks for APPEC taking into account this balancing act. This could lead to more specified tasks and accents in the organisation. 	

Items		To Do's:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The form of a sustainable APPEC could be a strong central office or a more distributed organisation but with stronger commitments of APPEC members to fulfil their contributions (in-kind personnel and in-cash contributions) and form together an effective team with all expertise that is needed. This needs further exploration. • Most countries can live with bit higher contribution. • The members that are committed in the present MoU to a Functional Center with 2-3 FTE each (Italy, France, Germany) feel committed to their MoU obligations. • Netherlands and Czech Republic could contribute with some personal support to APPEC. • Switzerland suggested to host the APPEC office at CERN. • Germany, France and Italy are considering to make a bid if we open a procedure for a central office. <p>It was concluded that the next steps are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Secretary and the Chair will contact France, Italy, Germany and Netherlands and discuss in more detail the aims and present and future commitments • Based on these talks we will come back to GA with a plan for the next step: a distributed plan or a model with a central office (including a bid procedure). 	<p>De Kleuver et al.</p>
<p>7. Scientific Advisory Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pascoli, chair of the Neutrino less double beta decay subcommittee, presented the final draft report. The GA thanked the committee for their efforts. The report was endorsed by the GA. Then the GA discussed the recommendations of the SAC, supported by the subcommittee. Finally, the GA agreed on the following recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APPEC-GA endorses the scientific review carried out by the committee to summarize the main European efforts in neutrinoless double beta decay. ○ APPEC-GA encourages the community to explore convergence towards 2-3 technologies with the potential to be scaled up to the ton-scale (and beyond). ○ APPEC-GA strongly endorses the importance of neutrinoless double beta decay searches. There should be at least two large experimental programmes globally, and at least one hosted in Europe. ○ This evaluation should be updated in 3-4 years, reflecting what is learned in the meantime from technology demonstrations, what we learn about normal vs. inverted hierarchy from neutrino oscillation experiments, and the international funding situation. ○ APPEC-GA endorses R&D towards new technologies to reach the normal hierarchy and for new physics searches. 	

Items		To Do's:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ APPEC-GA endorsed the panel recommended for a more active coordination role from the largest of the underground laboratories. <p>Finally the GA decided to contact DOE for more global coordination. Before that a common European position will be discussed and prepared with interested funding agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The SAC mandate for a Direct Dark Matter Searches subcommittee, including a proposal for the composition of this committee was endorsed by the GA. This subcommittee will start works soon and a draft report will be available in May 2020. ● End of 2019 the term ends of 5 APPEC SAC members. The GA decided to appoint 6 new SAC members. The GA also decided a few changes in the nomination procedure for new SAC members. Nominations can be sent by GA members only, and include short CV of candidates. The General Secretary will update the SAC mandate for this. 	<p>Montaruli</p> <p>Direct DM searches subcommittee</p> <p>De Kleuver</p>
8. Proposal Regular APPEC Town Meetings	<p>De Kleuver presented the proposal for the APPEC Town Meeting in October 2020. A new interactive format has been developed to stimulate debate and input of all participants. The SAC will play an important role in preparing the topics and discussion items.</p> <p>The GA endorsed the plan for the Town Meeting. It was decided to organise this event in Berlin, Germany. The date for the Town Meeting will be fixed as soon as possible.</p>	<p>De Kleuver + SAC</p> <p>Henjes-Kunst</p>
9. Status European and global Gravitational Waves	<p>Due to lack of time this topic was not discussed at length in the GA meeting. It was decided to communicate recent developments via the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Virgo is up and running in Science run O3 ● Many new events are seen by Ligo-Virgo-Collaboration ● Discussions are ongoing concerning funding Advanced Virgo Plus phase 2. This is urgent to be competitive in the coming years ● New European groups join GW experiments ('Way to ET via Virgo'). ● The draft ESFRI proposal in preparation. The time schedule is tight, but the progress is large, including convergence on many items. A MoU between RFO/RPOs is in preparation; a first draft is available and will be discussed between RPO/RFO representatives early 2020. 	
10. Report General Secretary (and functional centers)	<p>De Kleuver presented his report to the GA with contributions of other JS members (see the full presentation in the APPEC cloud about all topics mentioned below).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He gave a brief overview of his activities and meetings in the last months, including some presentations about APPEC at different occasions. ● EuCAPT started in July 2019. A website is online now http://eucapt.org and first activities were organized. 	

Items		To Do's:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moglia left DESY for another, permanent job. She will be missed. De Kleuver thanked Moglia, a great team player, for 3 years of excellent work for APPEC. • The topic of the <u>Next APPEC Technology Forum</u> is: Robotics and operation of detectors in a harsh environment. The APPEC JS is in doubt. On the one hand we have no workforce to contribute to the organization of the ATF. So it seems too risky to organise this event in 2020. In the past the FC-DESY spent a lot of time in preparing ATF meeting, contacts with companies, preparing brochure before and report afterwards. This support is not available in 2020. On the other hand: Stekl offers local support and APPEC only has to appoint a Scientific Committee for this event, that could be a joint effort of APPEC, NuPECC and ECFA. The GA understands the concerns of the General Secretary and the JS and concluded that in 2020 an ATF is only possible under the strict condition that the local organisers guarantee organisational efforts, including the preparations and reporting as described above. • Link gave an overview of the APPEC communications and outreach activities, including the website, newsletters and the Twitter account. Concerning APP communication and outreach networks there is overlap with particle physics in science, technology & outreach topics. The favourable way is to use existing structures from particle physics i.e. the European Particle Physics Communication Network (EPPCN). So there is no need for separate networks. Link will establish an APP working group with mailing list. Concerning Outreach Link and Montaruli made contacts and participated to the IPPOG – International Particle Physics Outreach Group Meeting at CERN. Link had a first exchange of ideas during JENAS preparation and it is now considered that APPEC joins IPPOG. • Not all contributions to the APPEC Common Fund were received early November. De Kleuver hopes to receive the remaining contributions soon (without reminders). • GA approved the final Budget and Meetings Plan 2019. • GA discussed the Budget and Meetings Plan 2020 prepared by the General Secretary. The contributions to the Common Fund are clear and equal to this year. This plan was approved by GA, including the proposal to extend the communications activities in 2020. 	<p>Stekl</p> <p>Link</p> <p>Link</p>
<p>11. AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next GA meetings will be in Amsterdam (June 2020) and Rome (December 2020). Doodles to fix the dates will be sent after the Christmas break. • Pimenta was thanked for the arrangements of this meeting and the dinner. 	<p>De Kleuver</p>