



# Minutes

## APPEC General Assembly meeting

June 5, 2020

Zoom remote meeting

**Present**

Stan Bentvelsen, Berry Giebels, Michiel van den Hout (item 9 and 10), Catherine DeClercq, Katri Huitu, Peter Forgacs, Gautier Hamel de Monchenault, Andreas Haungs, Jorgen d’Hondt (observer ECFA), Uli Katz, Job de Kleuver (General Secretary), Antoine Kouchner, Marek Lewitowicz (observer NuPECC), Victor Matveev (until item 5), Teresa Montaruli (Chair), Marco Pallavicini, Mario Pimenta, Leszek Roszkowski, Christian Stegmann (Vice Chair), Ivan Stekl, Andy Williams (observer ESO) and Xin Wu.

Invited: Laura Baudis (SAC chair until item 6), Gianfranco Bertone (EuCAPT director, item 7), Katharina Henjes-Kunst, Stavros Katsanevas, Sylvie Leray, Frank Linde (item 10), Michele Punturo (item 10) and Katrin Link.

**Apologies**

We received apologies for their absence from Lars Bergstrom, Grahame Blair, Antonio Bueno, Eckhard Elsen (observer CERN), Laurent Favart, Anne-Isabelle Etienvre (replaced in this meeting by Gautier Hamel de Monchenault), Maria Garcia Borge, Nicolae Marius Marginean, Manolis Plionis, Antonio Zoccoli (replaced in this meeting by Marco Pallavicini).

Items		To Do’s:
<b>1. Adoption of the Agenda</b>	Montaruli opened the meeting. A short tour the table was made. The agenda was adopted. Agenda and documents are available on Indico: <a href="https://indico.cern.ch/event/914276/">https://indico.cern.ch/event/914276/</a> ; access key: GA-JK-2020	
<b>2. Minutes GA 3 December 2019</b>	The minutes were approved without changes.	
<b>3. Status European Particle Physics Strategy Update</b>	Montaruli gave an overview of the process so far. The process is in its final stage: discussions in closed sessions of the CERN council. We are waiting for the final decisions. Since it is unclear yet what will be written about APP it was suggested to prepare a message about the importance of APP in the broader context of Particle Physics. GA member can then decide to send this message to their Council representatives (or not). The draft will be circulated in the GA before it will be finalized. Its main aim is to improve the process for the future making it more transparent to APP and more inclusive. Some GA members stated that it was too late for interventions and that we have to respond to the updated strategy and invest in strong ties for the coming years.	Stegmann, Montaruli

Items		To Do's:
<p><b>4. Towards more sustainable APPEC</b></p>	<p>In the December 2019 meeting the GA discussed the proposal for a more sustainable APPEC. In general, there was strong support for stronger and effective coordination between the national agencies/research organisations via APPEC. With perspective to global developments (e.g. APIF, US, Asia) stronger European coordination is useful. It was recommended to define the aims and tasks in more detail. 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.</p> <p>These next steps were discussed recently in the Joint Secretariat. The Corona crisis forced us all to work from home. From this experience we learn that it is possible to form a good working virtual team. Based on these experiences and the discussion, the GA decided to further develop a detailed plan for a distributed APPEC workforce, under the condition that persons involved are available for APPEC tasks.</p> <p>This approach will be first discussed now in more detail with a small group of GA representatives of the most active partners in the APPEC workforce: DESY, CNRS, INFN, Nikhef/NWO and STFC. These further discussions will focus on aims, present and future commitments and the funding model, taking into account the credible comments of APPEC members in the December 2019 meeting.</p> <p>The detailed plan should be ready for final discussion and approval in the next APPEC GA meeting in December.</p>	<p>De Kleuver et al.</p> <p>De Kleuver et al.</p>
<p><b>5. Next steps Neutrinoless Double Beta Decay developments</b></p>	<p>In December 2019 the GA endorsed the Neutrinoless double beta decay report and recommendations. Montaruli informed the GA about the first follow-up actions towards more European coordination and the preparations for further coordination with US (DOE). It was decided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interested agencies will attend the meeting that DOE is organizing over summer. But it is expected that agencies will have more information after October, when France will conclude the IN2P3 perspective process and when also in Germany the community will have had time to discuss further.</li> <li>• A list of possible participants from GA and at the level of spokespersons and Directors of labs will be sent to DOE.</li> <li>• APPEC is preparing a first update on the situation on the neutrinoless double beta decay projects in the mid-term review process which should be finalized in 2021.</li> <li>• Berrie Giebels will represent APPEC in the US Snowmass 2021 process. The first meeting has already taken place.</li> </ul>	<p>Montaruli</p> <p>SAC 2021</p> <p>Giebels</p>

Items		To Do's:
	<p>We expect discussions in the Neutrino Frontier panel on Onubb decay with US agencies.</p> <p>It was discussed that more contacts with APIF, and IUPAP Commission for APP, and APPIC would be useful. It was also discussed that the LNGS Infrastructure of CUORE can be used for CUPID at LNGS and that LEGEND can be hosted in the LVD or Borexino Infrastructure. Both in the discussions of the sub-committees of the SAC on Onubb decay and in the DM sub-committee it was indicated a strong interest from the active communities in these fields towards an organized network of underground labs. This requires further discussions in the GA and SAC.</p>	<p>Montaruli / De Kleuver</p> <p>GA/SAC</p>
<p><b>6. Scientific Advisory Committee</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baudis gave a short overview of the most important topics discussed in the recent SAC meeting (her presentation is available on the Indico page): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a short tour de table in the new composition;</li> <li>○ a lively discussion about the midterm review process and preparations for the 2021 Town Meeting. This process is led by Sijbrand de Jong;</li> <li>○ a presentation and discussion of the draft report of the Direct search Dark Matter committee, chaired by Roszkowski. The final report will be available for discussion and approval by GA in December 2020.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The terms of SAC chair Baudis and deputy chair Monroe end in June 2020 and both are not available for a second term. The APPEC statutes say that the APPEC-GA appoints the chair [and deputy chair] among the SAC members. The outcome of a short procedure was a single nomination to the GA. Based on this nomination the GA decided to appoint Sijbrand de Jong as chair of the APPEC SAC for a term of two years, starting 1 July 2020, renewable once. The GA also decided to appoint Silvia Pascoli as deputy chair of the APPEC SAC for a term of two years, starting 1 July 2020, renewable once.</li> <li>• The GA also decided to appoint Sotiris Loucatos as new SAC member starting 1 July for a term of three years.</li> </ul>	<p>SAC</p>
<p><b>7. APPEC Theory Center EuCAPT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EuCAPT director Bertone gave a short presentation. He introduced EuCAPT and gave an overview of the first activities since the start last Summer. The interest to join EuCAPT is large. A census was organized and a number of workshops and virtual colloquia. A calendar listing all open (virtual) events is in preparation. The first annual symposium is postponed due to the Corona crisis.</li> <li>• A EuCAPT newsletter is in discussion and also the forming of several dedicated EuCAPT task forces.</li> <li>• Bertone is preparing a proposal to GA to change the EuCAPT governance now more than 100 institutes are interested to join EuCAPT. He will contact De Kleuver.</li> </ul>	<p>Bertone / de Kleuver</p>

Items		To Do's:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The GA suggested to strengthen ties in more countries, e.g. Poland, Czech Republic. These countries have national networks that can represent the country in EuCAPT. It was also suggested to contact ECT*.</li> <li>Bertone thanked for the feedback and suggestions.</li> </ul>	
<b>8. Election procedure next Chair and General Secretary</b>	<p>The terms of the APPEC Chair, APPEC Vice Chair and the APPEC General Secretary end at the end of this year. According to the rules set out in their mandates, they cannot be renewed. The proposal for the procedure of nominations and elections was approved by the GA. A Search committee was appointed with two members: Stan Bentvelsen and Uli Katz, supported by the General Secretary.</p> <p>The intention is to prepare nominations for an election of the new chair and the new General Secretary at the December 2020 GA meeting. The GA will discuss the vision statements of the nominees and will then vote.</p>	<p>Bentvelsen, Katz, GS</p>
<b>9. Report General Secretary (and functional centers)</b>	<p>De Kleuver presented his report to the GA with contributions of other JS members (see full presentation on Indico page).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He gave a brief overview of his activities and meetings in the last months.</li> <li>The APPEC Town Meeting is postponed until the Fall of 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>Montaruli reported about JENAS activities. 6 members for the panel that will evaluate Expressions of Interest (EoIs) were endorsed by the GA. The GA also approved the proposal to contribute up to k€ 10 from the APPEC Common Fund to facilitate activities of selected EoIs, under the condition that NuPECC and ECFA also organize support and that costs are justified in the EoI proposals.</li> <li>The ECFA-NuPECC-APPEC Diversity charter was presented last year. Implementation is ongoing.</li> <li>ASTRONET is preparing a new roadmap for European Astronomy (see also <a href="http://www.astronet-eu.org/">http://www.astronet-eu.org/</a>).</li> <li>Katsanevas presented the H2020 proposal APOGEIA, Astroparticle Observatories and Geoscience Infrastructure Activities, that was recently submitted and is supported by APPEC and GEO-8.</li> <li>Link reported about the ongoing communications and outreach activities. The GA thanked her for all her efforts and the very interesting newsletters and website content.</li> <li>Almost all contributions to the APPEC Common Fund are received now. De Kleuver hopes to receive the remaining contributions soon.</li> <li>GA approved the updated Budget and Meetings Plan 2020, including the contribution for JENAS EoIs.</li> <li>The APPEC Technology Forum is postponed until June 2021. Ivan Stekl presented the aims and venue for the</li> </ul>	<p>Montaruli</p> <p>De Kleuver</p> <p>Montaruli</p> <p>Katsanevas et al.</p> <p>Link</p> <p>Henjes-Kunst</p>

Items		To Do's:
	<p>ATF. The topic will be Robotics and operation of detectors in a harsh environment. His full presentation is on the Indico page.</p> <p>It was suggested to think about a video meeting as fall-back option for the live event in June 2021.</p>	Stekl
<p><b>10. Status preparation ESFRI proposal Einstein Telescope</b></p>	<p>Michele Punturo and Frank Linde joined our meeting to present and discuss the status of the preparations of the ESFRI application for Einstein Telescope and the status of the site characterization actions of both possible sites. Punturo gave an interesting and informative presentation on behalf of the ET Steering Committee (see Indico page for full presentation). In the lively discussion a number of comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The estimated operational costs are calculated based on the experiences of Virgo and other experiments. Since a substantial part of the investments is in the construction of the tunnels and caverns these costs are far below the regular 10% of the capital investments.</li> <li>• Most of the costs for computing are included in the budget presented in the draft proposal. The GA suggests to better justify these costs, if possible, in the proposal already.</li> <li>• In the proposal, it is proposed that interested Ministries start early consultations about forming a high level committee or council to establish a sustainable organization for ET.</li> <li>• To justify the 2 billion euro for ET the community should grow. Participation in EGO/Virgo can be a good pathway to ET for new groups.</li> </ul> <p>De Kleuver presented a few topics for further discussions (full presentation on Indico page):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APPEC partners could encourage Ministries for political support of the ET ESFRI application.</li> <li>• 30 RPO/RFOs signed the ET Letter of Intent (LoI); APPEC partners invited to join this LoI and be involved in the further developments of ET.</li> <li>• APPEC members are needed to pave the way for ET in more national RI roadmaps.</li> <li>• Involved agencies in Gravitational Waves should develop a balanced solution for fulfilling two parallel challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To remain competitive: Adv Virgo, EGO and Adv Ligo need continued support for at least another 10-15 years for operations, upgrades and community should fully exploit its science.</li> <li>○ To remain leading in future: ET is a big and complex project and needs a team of full committed people to catalyse and further organise the 3G developments in many aspects.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Interested GA members

Items		To Do's:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Covid-19 pandemic will change the short term opportunities for funds. But to be prepared, for the moment governments should develop investment schemes!</li></ul>	
<b>11. AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The next GA meeting will be on 9 December in Rome or remotely via Zoom. A final decision will be made early September.</li></ul>	