Minutes of the 35th meeting held on 12 March 1997


* part time

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DRAFT Agenda for the meeting to be held on Wednesday, 11 June 1997

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6. News from Member States
7. Report from the Housing Fund
8. Video Conferencing
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ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

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1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS
Opening the meeting, P. Bagnaia, the Chairman welcomed A. Böhm, B. Jean-Marie, P. Kluit and R. Möller new members for Germany, France, Holland and Sweden attending their first meeting. He also welcomed Miss A. Ciasnohova and P. T. Dias replacing the Slovak and Portuguese delegates respectively, and presented the apologies of those unable to attend.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
The agenda was adopted as announced.

3. NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT
C.H. Llewellyn Smith, Director-General, summarized the outcome of the December 1996 Council meetings. Council agreed to build the LHC in a single stage with start-up scheduled for 2005, but imposed serious financial restrictions with budget reductions of 7.5% in 1997, 8.5% in 1998, 1999 and 2000, and 9.3% beyond 2000. Payment for the LHC would be allowed to go beyond 2005. In analyzing how to cover the shortfalls, he pointed out that running down or stopping various activities such as Omega, the heavy ion programme, CHORUS and NOMAD, had already been foreseen in the previous plans. In addition, running time for fixed target and heavy ions will now be reduced in 1997 and 1998. The CERN staff has been levied a cut in take-home pay equal to 2.5% of the basic salary. In addition, the 4% reserve built up during times of a strong Swiss franc has been removed, despite the fact that the weakening of the Swiss franc in recent months has decreased CERN's purchasing power, and services to users, which are bound to suffer, will be studied.

As a result, CERN has lost any ability to create a programme in the gap between the end of LEP and the start of LHC. To cater for this, CERN has obtained special contributions from various countries for the anti-proton decelerator project, and COMPASS has been approved subject to outside funding. The upgrade for the LHC cryogenics will be brought forward. This will allow LEP to run at higher energy and/or luminosity in 1999, and additional funding is being sought to continue running in 2000.

Better news is that Japan has made another contribution of 45 MCHF, and that an Agreement has been initialled with the United States. The approval by Congress is the next step.

Stability is now of paramount importance for the future of CERN. Globalization will make it much easier to defend CERN, but everybody, particularly the users, must make a better job of explaining CERN to the public and the spin-offs generated. This is already happening in some Member States, and CERN can help through the newly improved travelling exhibition which will be able to visit four or five Member States each year. CERN can provide slides for people giving public lectures (cf the catalogue on the Web).

ECFA will be involved in a new quantitative study of spin-offs in industry, and a network for information flow will be created. ACCU delegates can also provide input in their regular "News from Member States" agenda items.
4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
The Minutes of the 34th meeting were approved.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
G. Bossen explained the procedure for correcting user accounts following the increased charges for stores items, introduced internally for CERN groups. The results will be carefully monitored over the next few months. ACCU requested that any future changes in policy be discussed in ACCU prior to implementation. Concerning health and accident insurance, B. Pattison showed how users may remain members of their national social security schemes and be able to take advantage of the French and Swiss schemes in case of emergency. A paper will be circulated soon to ACCU Delegates. ACCU, however, emphasized that the CERN Medical and Emergency Services should transport urgent cases to the nearest appropriate hospital for the case in hand, and not enquire whether the individual is insured in Switzerland or not! Further directives are requested.

6. THE CERN LIBRARY
C. Pettenati, Head Librarian, reported on the library upgrade which took place in 1996, and the current status. The library contains 38,000 books, with 1,000 new titles each year, 35 journals are available electronically, and Inter-library loans amount to 2,500 per year, most of which (> 96%) are satisfied. The main library is open 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, and the desk is staffed from 09.00 until 20.00 on weekdays. This may change due to forthcoming early retirements. ALICE has been converted to UNIX and an easy Graphical User Interface is now available to query the catalogue.
C. Pettenati thanked ACCU for the support given for the library extension which is now complete, but noted that, like every other group at CERN, it suffers from budget cuts. An anti-theft system has been installed, and books must only be taken from the library when the desk is manned.
The audio-visual room contains 3 monitors, 2 of which are copy stations, for looking at academic training video tapes. Special projects include the site license for INSPEC, the largest bibliographic data base in CERN research areas. A demonstration of INSPEC is available every weekday from 11.00 to 11.30 in the Library. COMPENDEX and Metadex are also available but mediated by a librarian and on a 'pay-per-view' basis. The Librarian then gave a demonstration of the library Web site.
Thanking the speaker, the Chairman congratulated him and his staff on all these improvements.
K. Huitu requested that a 'mirror' of the Berkeley Particle Data Group server be made available at CERN due to the heavy load experienced at Berkeley. C. Pettenati will report back.

7. ACCESS CONTROL
C. Jacot of the Access Control Group, gave a status report of the group's work whose objectives are to make CERN a secure place, but allow it to remain accessible and welcoming like a university campus. Thus it is necessary to identify the users and visitors, to control access to the site, buildings and installations, guarantee safety in hazardous areas (eg. radiation), and integrate all services related to access.
On arrival at CERN a new user or visitor will register the minimum information and receive a temporary card allowing access to the site within 10
minutes. New users would then be directed to the appropriate service to complete their full registration procedure and receive their definitive CERN Card. It is foreseen that CERN cards, costing only 41c each, will be produced in B33, B55 and B61, and temporary cards, valid for a defined period will be produced at the main entrances to the Meyrin and Prévessin sites as well as B33. Card operated barriers, connected to the data base to check authorization, will be installed in the near future at the tunnel.

8. TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT
H. Brodmann of the Communication's group Technical Service described the recently installed CERN telephone system. Following an earlier request from ACCU it is now possible to make long distance calls using a PIN code from any telephone at CERN by "substitution" of one's own telephone. This is done by dialling *7_own number_PINcode_*4_0(or 10 for France)_number being called. In the discussion it appeared that this does not work for shared telephones, but could be resolved by creating "virtual" telephone numbers. Requests should be made to the System Manager who can also establish direct dialling access to a particular number (eg. home institute) on request.

Details will soon be published concerning payment for private calls made by people paid by CERN, but other means have to be found for those not paid by CERN. It is hoped that a prepayment card, using a PIN code, will soon be available from international telecom operators, and which can be used from any telephone. A leaflet describing the whereabouts of all public telephones will be made available in the Hostels. ACCU suggested that the PTT could provide a card dispenser.

The paging system will be phased out early in 1998, and replaced by GSM handsets operating in a Closed User Group (CUG). GSM handsets cost 500 SF, and there is a monthly fee of 50 SF for an unlimited number of CERN internal calls made in the CUG area. Delegates expressing fears that extreme additional costs will be incurred, requested that a GSM based paging system be investigated. GSM subscriptions for Teams normally operate in 'master' mode, which means that within the CUG area the calls to CERN are free of charge; calls to external numbers can be made worldwide and are billed at the same tariff as if made from an office phone. Outside the CUG area all communications are worldwide and costs are billed according to the GSM tariffs. On request call privileges for Teams can be reduced to the level of 'standard' mode or 'standard' with privileges and/or call-barring.

9. LOW COST ACCOMMODATION
E. Roebuck, Head of the CERN Housing Service, summarized the current state of the project to provide permanent low-cost accommodation in replacement of the barracks. It is proposed to take advantage of the extensive repair and renovation work unavoidable in building 38 (B38) to transform three out of the existing four levels into low-cost accommodation. Two floors will also be added to B38 offering rooms of the same standard as B39. The rooms on the present top floor will represent an intermediate category of comfort. Work will start in June 1997 and entail the closure of the present top floor. B38 will subsequently have to be completely closed between October 1997 and June 1998, the period when the occupancy rate is always at its lowest. B38 has never so far housed any low-cost accommodation, which is currently catered for in B5. No difference in this respect will therefore be caused by the work on B38, the rooms in B5 remaining
available to the Housing Service until the reopening of B38. Guests seeking medium cost accommodation as proposed hitherto in B38 will, however, have to suffer the inconvenience caused by the partial, then total closure.

With the recommissioning of B38 in June 1998, total hostel capacity on site will be 397 beds, including 140 low-cost, (i.e. 26 SF per room per night in 1996 prices, as announced at the previous ACCU meeting). The Housing Fund Committee will make every attempt to maintain this rate, even in 1998.

Replying to a question about 'CERN' apartments, E. Roebuck said that there are 37 in Geneva compared to approximately 100 in 1991, and 70 in France (no change since 1991). As the demand for such accommodation changes, and in particular decreases, the number of appartments made available through the Housing Fund is constantly reviewed as they are not financially viable. The policy of advertizing or not of private furnished accommodation will be discussed in the next meeting of the Housing Fund. ACCU requested a review of CERN furnished accommodation at the next ACCU meeting.

10. USERS' OFFICE NEWS
News from the Users' Office was covered in other items.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
G. Walzel summarized the last two EPAC Meetings held in December and February.

A new, more transparent procedure for standardizing Pool items has been discussed in EPAC: recommendations for new standard equipment will be immediately published on the Web. The technical evaluation of instruments may be published with limited access following comments by firms. More systematic contacts with firms in so called liaison meetings should be held in future. A summary of these is available on the Web. Feedback to the paper "Towards a Single Standard for Modular Electronics" was in general positive, and the Pool will adopt those guidelines. It is timely to start now, because a large stock of Camac and Nim electronics is currently available following the end of many experiments (eg. Omega, LEAR).

In 1996 all user requests for electronic equipment had been satisfied, and the pool is optimistic for 1997.

G. Bossen, replying to a question about access to EDH from outside CERN, said that all teams were informed about one year ago of the procedure to request this access which is not by default. Two conditions have to be met: team leaders must agree to the use of electronic signatures, and they must inform PPE Division which team members will spend a large fraction of their time at CERN.

Several delegates noted that transport to the airport or railway station is no longer available after 16.30. This is due to a new contract coming into force. However, "Bons de Taxis" are still available from the ST Division Dispatching Section through Division or Group Secretariats.

12. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING (11 June 1997)
A report from the Housing Fund Committee was requested for the next meeting, together with a discussion on video conferencing facilities at CERN.

Z. Hajduk observed that new standard software adopted by CERN can create problems in institutes, and requested a report on guidelines and future plans.

Bryan Pattison