ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the 21st. meeting held on 6 September 1993


Present part-time: J-L.Baldy, M.Borghini, A.Lecomte, J-P.Merlo

Excused: P.Fonte, K.Peach, C.Rubbia, Y.Sacquin, L.Sandor

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS
D.Toet, Chairman, opened the meeting welcoming Professor C.Llewellyn Smith, Director General designate, and S.Loucatos replacing Y.Sacquin. Apologies for absence were received from C.Rubbia, P.Fonte and Y.Sacquin. He reminded the meeting that his mandate as Chairman expires at the end of this year, and that names of candidates should be submitted to B.Pattison by 26 November 1993. He reiterated his plea at the previous meeting for a replacement on the Restaurant Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
The agenda was adopted as distributed at the meeting with the addition of various items for A03. The agenda differed from that published earlier due to the unavoidable absence of two speakers.

NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT
C.Llewellyn Smith thanked ACCU for giving him the opportunity of seeing ACCU at work. He had been closely involved in User affairs at the time of the CERN Review Committee, and had been responsible for the questionnaire on relations between CERN and its Scientific Users. The current ACCU and the Users’ Office were created as a result. He reminded the meeting that the primary function of the Organization is to provide experimental facilities for its users. The role of ACCU, which is to advise the Director General on the practical measures to be taken in order to achieve this in a satisfactory way, is therefore very important.

Speaking about the future of CERN, the experimental programme must contain a front line facility capable of making fundamental discoveries. The current front line facility, LEP, has a well defined programme up to the end of the decade. In addition, CERN must maintain a sufficiently broad programme, all of course of very high quality. The criteria of depth and breadth are satisfied now and will be in the LHC era. Concerning the long term future of CERN, the only real option is to build the LHC as recognized by the Member States. The main cause for concern will be around the year 2000. There will still be plenty of analysis from LEP, but every effort must be made to provide resources for possible new experiments and initiatives to help bridge the gap between LEP and the LHC.
In summary, the DG Designate said that his goal will be to maintain CERN's leading position in the field of high energy physics, exploit LEP and LEP200, and obtain approval for the LHC and start its construction. Answering a question about the exploitation of LEP200, he saw three new possibilities: polarization, increased luminosity and higher energy. Since the SLC is now working satisfactorily he considered that polarization problems could be studied at SLAC. Luminosity could only be increased by more than a factor two or three by the addition of a second ring. Regarding increased energy, one must wait and see how well the new cavities work before deciding on possible future steps, although it is already clear that a further major upgrade is incompatible with the LHC.

Concerning the LHC timescale, there will be a dual presentation at the December '93 Council Meeting by the outgoing and incoming Directors General which will cover the design, the construction time, the costs involved, and a long-term plan for the laboratory. Following consultation by the Council Delegates, a decision could be expected for June '94.

The future DG has invited M.Jacob to help him maintain close contact with the Member States. The mandate is not yet fully defined, and any suggestions would be welcome. W.Blum noted that these contacts should include the European Community in Brussels. ACCU asked to be kept informed of the developments.

The Chairman thanked C.Llewellyn Smith and looked forward to close collaboration.

P.Darriulat speaking on behalf of the Director General referred to the recent death of N.Hamann, the LEAR Co-ordinator, a member of the JETSET collaboration and a highly respected physicist. The accelerators have worked very well up to the technical stop, with LEP scanning the Z peak, as well as exceeding 50% polarization. Two breakdowns on the 400 KV line from Genissiat could have been catastrophic, but were repaired in a rather short time.

The June Council meeting encouraged the present and future DG's to work together for the December presentation. Of note was the accession of the Czech and the Slovak Republics. In addition the Russian Federation has indicated interest in joining CERN sometime in the future.

The Committee of Council made a first serious attempt to study the position of non-Member States in the CERN framework. New categories of membership will be investigated.

The new President of Council will be Prof. H.Curien from 1 January 1994.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
The Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a correct record. W.Blum said that he had had some response to his request for contact persons regarding mobility of scientists. The project is gathering momentum, and he invited those who had not yet replied to let him have names as soon as possible. He noted that there do not seem to be too many barriers at present, but pointed out that there do exist differences in policies between different laboratories (eg MPI and CERN).
RESTAURANT No.1 UPGRADE
J-L. Baldy reviewed the situation since he last talked to ACCU (8 March 1993) about the double capacity solution. Priority has been given to an intermediate project improving the service and extending the restaurant in the region of the "Glass Box". The four main goals of the exercise are to avoid queueing, reduce bottlenecks and the noise level, and at the same time maintain or even increase seating capacity without forgetting the full size option. The existing floor area will be increased by 260 m² in addition to an extension of the Glass Box by 56 m². A new entrance will be created at the southern end of the restaurant. The extension will provide 220 seats which will offset the loss due to the free flow improvements. Thus, in the first stage, seating will be about the same as at present. The area for returning trays will be located nearer to the centre of gravity of the restaurant, the free flow area will have two entrances and four cash points, and the bar will be restructured to accommodate these improvements. Construction outside will start in October, and there will be a total closure of Restaurant No.1 from 18 December until 9 January, after which it will reopen with reduced service until the end of January or early February. The extensions to the restaurant are expected to be opened at the end of February 1994.

Replying to a question as to whether the 945KSF being put forward by the Co-op will be reflected in price increases, J-L. Baldy said that under the terms of the new contract between CERN and the Co-op this should not be the case. In answer to further questions, there will be both smoking and non-smoking areas, but of course this would depend on CERN's future policy regarding smoking. The kitchen equipment is in good shape, having been recently partially renovated. In the event of there being a shortage of seating space, there could be mixed furniture in that part of the coffee lounge close to the restaurant area until such time as the double capacity solution is adopted in toto. Thus, the total capacity of the present cafeteria would not be modified.

ACCU congratulated CERN on the rapid progress of this project which it has keenly supported.

USE OF CERN CARS
A. Lecomte described the CERN Car Pool, explaining the difference between the "white" and the "blue" cars. The former are purchased tax-free and use tax-free petrol, whilst the latter are leased. About 600 white cars are rented to Divisions, and about 130 blue cars are leased by PPE Division for the use of visiting groups. White cars are only insured for civil liability, whereas leased cars have CASCO cover. The rules governing the use of cars belonging to or hired by CERN are explained in the circular AG-OF/RH/3500 (July 1991), copies of which can be obtained from the Users' Office.

A study was made about two years ago into the feasibility of making a limited number of cars available for short term loan outside working hours for official use (eg. going to and from the LEP pits). An effective key distribution system (using magnetic cards) was proposed but rejected on cost grounds. However, such a system would probably be cheaper now.

ACCU agreed to request the Vehicle Users Committee to make a further feasibility study in time for the next meeting of ACCU.
NEW HOSTEL & CERN APARTMENTS
E.Roebuck, head of the CERN Housing Service, outlined the current situation of the CERN furnished apartments in Switzerland (90) and France (70). More and more people move to live in France as the cost of rented accommodation in Switzerland is no longer competitive. An occupancy rate of 80% is needed in the Swiss flats in order to break even. The current rate is only 72% so there will be a loss in 1993, and the Housing Fund Committee will have to seriously consider a further reduction of the number of Swiss flats rented by CERN and sub-let to users. On the other hand, whilst the flats rented in France by the Housing Fund enjoy 100% occupancy, they make a deficit due to the terms of the original agreement. The Housing Fund Committee recommends re-negotiation of this agreement. The Housing Service feels morally obliged to continue providing information about private accommodation on both sides of the border, although this can be detrimental to the occupation rates of CERN apartments in the current economic situation when offer outstrips demand.

Turning to the hostel, E.Roebuck reminded ACCU of the improvements introduced during the past couple of years: non-stop opening hours of the reception office from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m., the use of credit cards (34% of the customers pay using cards), the negotiation of concessionary prices in local hotels for CERN visitors etc.

Excavation for the new hostel will start on 13 September, and the architects estimate that the hostel will be completed for the end of January 1995. The plans and the model of the hostel & new physics building were on display during the day. Although the basement of the new hostel will not be fully equipped initially, the installation of a gymnasium, as suggested by a member of ACCU, is not foreseen due to the cost and to the proximity of local sports clubs. Asked about the availability of refrigerators, E.Roebuck replied that individual small refrigerators would be available in the kitchen. The Housing Offices will be situated in the new hostel.

The Housing Fund Committee has mandated E.Roebuck to examine replacement accommodation for the Barracks as it is considered that there will always be a need for accommodation at the cheap end of the range.

USERS' OFFICE NEWS
W.Blum announced that the office continues to provide service to more than 100 customers each day, but regrets that ACCU Delegates rarely visit the Users' Office unless they need something personally. He wished to mention two areas of activity. It is recognized that the users database is not yet up to date, and has many errors and omissions. The AIS database will come into being in 1994, and users can help by checking their personal information when documents are renewed. There is a special project in hand to identify team leaders, and contact them each year for correct information about their groups. The Users' Guide has been circulated for comments to various Divisions. Concerning space management, he said that it was not easy to have a master plan and then execute it since often large numbers of people are involved in a series of simultaneous moves.

Answering a question about the delay in obtaining a French Green Card and therefore delaying the purchase of a tax-free car in France, W.Blum replied that
unfortunately that was one of the characteristics of having the right to buy a tax-free car.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Complaints were received about the quality of food, the cost value and the service in the CERN restaurants. Following a brief discussion, the Chairman requested a copy of the letter of complaint for discussion in the Restaurant Advisory Committee. The Secretary replied to written questions about the closing time for the tunnel and the opening time of the Reference Section in the Library. Following a survey made in April which showed that only 3 or 4 cars used the tunnel carrying materials (and therefore a transfer slip) between 6 p.m. and 7.25 p.m., it was decided for reasons of economy to close the tunnel at 6 p.m. Due to staff shortages the library desk is manned from 10 a.m. until noon and from 1.30 p.m. until 5.30 p.m. When two posts which are currently open are filled, there will once again be normal 8 hour operation. However, any member of the library staff will open the Reference Section at any time on request.
Concerning the need to use a magnetic card to gain access to the library outside normal working hours, W.Blum said that the library has been faced by serious theft and has had to have recourse to this method.
Notice has been received by the Staff Association that the PTT is considering closing the Post Office in Building 504. ACCU requested further information before commenting.
Dates were proposed for the meetings in 1994 which would precede meetings of Council and CERN Committees: 7 March, 13 June, 12 September, 5 December. These were agreed to on the proviso that the future Director General would not hold his Directorate meetings on Mondays. In this case the ACCU meetings would be held on 9 March, 15 June, 14 September, 7 December.

DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be on 6 December 1993 starting at 10 a.m., and will continue in the afternoon. Items for discussion would include: Finance and Accounting, the Electronics Pool, Safety and Radiation Protection, and CUCI.

Bryan Pattison