ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the 19th. meeting held on 8 March 1993


Present part-time: J-L.Baldy, J-P.Merlo, H.Weber


INTRODUCTION
D.Toet, Chairman, welcomed B.Nielsen, P.Fonte, J.Marco and P.Bloch, the new members for Denmark, Portugal, Spain and PPE Division respectively, as well as B.Michel and N.Manthos, replacing A.Falvard and G.Theodosiou respectively. He took the opportunity of thanking those members of ACCU who had retired from ACCU since the last meeting. Since the split of the Czechoslovak Republic on 1 January 1993, he recommended that the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic be invited to send observers to the next meeting pending their successful application to join CERN.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
The agenda was adopted as circulated with the addition of the Mail Delivery Service and Private Telephone Calls under AOB.

NEWS FROM THE CERN MANAGEMENT
P.Darriulat speaking on behalf of the Director General referred to the December series of CERN Committee meetings. G.Charpak was congratulated by Council on being awarded the 1992 Nobel Prize for Physics. Council made the following appointments:

Director General (from 1 January 1994) C.Llewellyn-Smith
Chairman of the Scientific Policy Committee: G.Wolf
AS Division Leader J.Ferguson
AT Division Leader J-P.Gourber

Spain considers it is premature to propose building the tau-charm factory in Spain.
The two independent states formed following the split of the Czechoslovak Republic are expected to apply for separate membership of CERN with effect from June 1993. Meanwhile CERN will ensure that there are no practical changes with respect to the existing status.
The CERN budget has been significantly cut by 300MSF over 10 years following intricate financial discussions in Council. Spain has difficulties in paying their full contribution due to technical evolution in Spain, and has requested a decrease of a factor 3 in their contribution (ie. a drop of 60MSF p.a.). The consequence is that CERN can no longer consider building the LHC within a constant budget framework. 95% of the budget has been released to the Divisions as well as 75% of the project money. In reply to a question about possible cuts in
1993, P.Darriulat said that the Directorate will be reporting back to the DG in a few days.

Concerning the LHC, the Director General will make a first oral presentation to the SPC in March, followed by one to the Committee of Council in June. There will be a special meeting in November of the Committee of Council at which the final draft presentation will be presented. This will enable the Member States to have time for reflection before the final presentation at the December Council Meeting. Currently it is anticipated that LEP 200 will operate until 1998/99, before switching activities to LHC.

Following UN Resolution No.757 last year against Serbia and Montenegro, the President of Council decided that Yugoslavia should not be invited to continue its Observer status at Council meetings until further notice. In addition, CERN has taken the necessary steps to terminate its co-operation with scientific institutes in Serbia and Montenegro. ACCU recognises CERN's delicate position in finding a balance between adhering to the UN Resolution and respecting CERN's tradition of free, unrestricted scientific exchange. In addition ACCU condemns demonstrations of political antagonism on the CERN site, and in particular in contacts with the media.

W.Blum stated that there is a general trend in Germany to change the rules for financing German scientists working at CERN and DESY. German groups are in imminent danger of losing financial backing, and he considers it would be absurd if Germany withheld the 5% of its high energy budget used for this purpose.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
These were approved after noting that the UK Users' Advisory Committee is UAC, not CUAC.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES
Following the discussion at the previous ACCU meeting and the recent cycling accident, the Swiss authorities have decided to extend the cycle track from the Satigny crossroads to the Customs Post.

Discussions are continuing on the subject of insurance for Italians, and V.Palladinio hopes to report to ACCU at the next meeting.

The Secretary reported that there may be a breakthrough concerning an early warning system for people whose CERN contracts are coming to an end.

RESTAURANT No.1
Recently the Site Committee has studied restaurant related matters: modernizing the kitchens, introducing a free flow serving system and increasing seating. J-L. Baldy presented possible modifications aimed at increasing capacity and reducing queueing. The new physics building near the main building will accommodate some 850 people, and Restaurant No.1 is currently not equipped to cope with a large number of additional people. Negotiations are proceeding between Co-op and CERN concerning the distribution improvements.

It is proposed to use the ornamental pond area (285 m²) as an extension to the coffee lounge, covering it with a glass roof between B60 and B501. An extension on the ground floor in the region of the "Glass Box" would compensate for the loss of seating due to the creation of the free flow system. This area could
ultimately have table service as at Restaurant No.2. A first floor is proposed above B501, and would be equipped with a Bar and coffee lounge in addition to some lounge space downstairs.

These improvements would result in there being a maximum of 870 places in the ground floor self-service restaurant (currently 414), 80 places with service, and 208 places in the first floor coffee lounge. The magnolia could probably be kept. The cost would be 270KSF for the "Glass Box" extension, and 3.35MSF for the remainder, although savings could be made to the latter figure depending on the materials used and whether or not air conditioning is included. About 900 lunches per day are being served, and it is anticipated that this could increase to at least 1200.

Answering a question concerning possible price increases, H. Weber said that the cost of meals in Restaurant No.1 was about 2-3 SF cheaper than found outside. The Chairman stated that restaurant prices are agreed in discussions between the Restaurant Committee, the Staff Association and the Restaurant Management.

After thoroughly discussing the presentations, ACCU arrived at the following conclusions:

1. The restaurant and cafeteria have essential functions, not only for eating and drinking, but also as a place for meeting and discussion - especially for outside users - and, as such, are of important value in the CERN environment.

2. Only the double capacity solution will cope with the requirements in the long run. The extension in the Glass Box area is recommended as the first priority, followed by setting up a 'free flow' arrangement. Finally the double capacity solution should be implemented. In no case should the number of places in the 'coffee area' be reduced.

3. ACCU asks the Management to present a scheme for financing part of the cost of the new restaurant space by the sales of the services to the clients (principle of cost neutrality).

LIBRARY MATTERS

S. Schwarz reminded ACCU of the objectives set out in 1987, and said that all items funded had been achieved. The full text database system has still to be launched. Relating the tasks of the Group to its resources, he noted a considerable reduction of the latter since 1987, whilst the former were steadily increasing due to the volume of information produced, new services expected with the available new technology, and increasing user community. Comparing the size of CERN and its library staffing and resources with similar sized institutes in the USA, he concluded that the CERN library is understaffed. The staffing situation has become critical, and threatens the survival of essential services. He noted that three professional librarians have recently left, and that a fourth will leave in August. P. Darriulat pointed out that when CERN staff leave in an expected way they are not normally replaced, whereas if the departure is unexpected they would normally be replaced. Two of the four mentioned above left unexpectedly. Whilst the 1993 library budget is larger than in 1992, the expected positive effect of this has been virtually absorbed by increasing costs. Transparencies were shown supporting the above arguments, and showing service reductions expected to be implemented in April.
The SIPB agrees that the library resources are grossly insufficient compared to the size of CERN, and that more literature should be available in the CERN library to reduce the heavy dependence on inter-library loans from Zürich and abroad.

ACCU stated that it considers the library to be an essential service for doing high quality science and engineering, and that it plays a key role for the documentation and retrieval of scientific literature. It asks the CERN Management to restore and maintain the level of this service to correspond to the users' needs.

COMPUTING AT CERN

W.Hoogland informed ACCU on the current situation and use of the central computing services at CERN, and compared them to that of a year ago. He noted for example that the internal traffic on the backbone now exceeds 300GB/week compared to 200 a year ago.

CERN's future computing framework will be based more and more on distributed systems, and a scaling down of VM in favour of CORE is to be envisaged. The CRAY will stop at the end of March after 5 years successful, but expensive service. The role of mainframes is diminishing. Some modern workstations may also qualify as supercomputers, and therefore may have security restrictions similar to the CRAY (eg. DEC Alpha). The lease of the current IBM 9000/900 extends until the end of 1994, and decisions about the follow up have to be prepared. Work Group Servers are expected to play an important role.

The suitability of Massively Parallel Processing (MPP) in view of future LHC needs must be investigated. To this end, CERN intends to go ahead on two fronts, the GP-MIMD-2 project funded by the EEC, and, if possible, an internal project to be funded by CERN. In preparing for the LHC computing needs, the COLLECT committee has been formed and meets regularly. Its purpose is to understand the LHC computing model, serve as a focus for collaborations and standardization efforts, facilitate information exchange, and to advise the CERN Management on priorities.

Replying to questions, W.Hoogland said that after discussion in Council, CERN has no intention to charge for CPU usage. It is not clear whether there has been any change in the amount of computing done outside CERN.

STATUS OF WOMEN AT CERN

S.L.Wu introduced the topic, expressing surprise that the number of female senior staff members is low (one only in PPE/TH) compared to the USA where special posts are in fact reserved for females. G.Bossen presented statistics showing that the current female/male ratio of scientific CERN staff members is 4%, whereas this ratio is 12% for Unpaid Associates. As part of the 1993 revision of the CERN Staff Rules and Regulations, a Working group has been set up to consider the status of women at CERN, and input will be welcomed.

In the ensuing discussion, it became clear that only some Member States have a policy whereby women, having the same qualities as their male counterparts, are preferred. In Poland, where women obtained early emancipation, there are still only about 8% women mentioned in "Who's Who in Polish Physics" (ie. the same as at CERN). A request was made for the statistics on the number of women who apply for Fellowships at CERN. Whilst some delegates considered
that CERN's employment policy went beyond ACCU's mandate, others felt that the situation in all the Member States should be investigated.

USERS' OFFICE FUNCTION
E.Lillestøl announced that he would be replaced by W.Blum on 1 April as Deputy Division Leader of PPE and Head of the Users' Office. The UO is in the throes of reorganization, following an increase of staff and space. It is expected that this will allow the scope of the UO to be developed and widened. J.Audier now handles space problems. Discussions continue with PE Division for facilitating some of the work which involves both Divisions, and solutions are anticipated during the course of 1993.

The financing for the new hostel was approved at the December Council meetings, and the site is currently being cleared.

The Chairman considered that, despite all efforts, communications between ACCU and the users is still a problem, and that the latter are still not convinced that ACCU is influential. In addition, he stated that the Users' Office staff would welcome more frequent impromptu individual discussions with ACCU delegates during their visits to CERN.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Following recent wrong delivery of mail, S.L.Wu suggested that the address for all internal mail should include the Building, Floor and Room numbers. This should facilitate the workload in the Mail Service, and perhaps free personnel for making a third delivery. ACCU considers that the Mail Delivery service is inefficient, and requests a significant improvement.

Too many private telephone calls are still being made via the switchboard. It is time consuming to collect the money from individuals. Since there are plenty of pay phones installed on the site, ACCU considers that such private calls should be restricted for emergency only. More pay phones could be installed if the user community feels it necessary.

DATE AND AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING
The next meeting will be on 7 June 1993 starting at 10 a.m., and will continue in the afternoon. Items for discussion would include: a report on MT Division, Telephone service review, Finance and Accounting, and a report from the Working Group on the Status of Women at CERN.

Bryan Pattison