

**European Cooperation
in Science and Technology
- COST -**

Brussels, 2 July 2013

Secretariat

COST 4116/13

DRAFT SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: JAF Group meeting¹ held in Brussels on 16-17 April 2013

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Group adopted the agenda as set out in CM 2152/13 of 22 March 2013².

2. Approval of Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting

The Group approved the Summary of Conclusions of the JAF meeting of 5-6 March 2013 set out in document COST 4107/13.

¹ 33rd meeting of JAF in its composition as set out in its Working Methods (COST 283/04). Exceptionally, any CSO member was invited to attend the meeting. List of participants is set out in Annex I.

² The agenda points are listed in Annex II.

3. COST New Implementing Structure (NIS)

Final revision of the draft Statutes to be sent to the CSO for approval and first revision of the NIS Internal Rules

The Group made the revision of the Statutes article by article and elaborated a last version of the Statutes. The legal adviser, Ms Ruth Wirtz assisted in the drafting and will incorporate all the comments and will prepare the version that will be presented for approval at the CSO meeting of 15-16 May 2013.

The discussion of the Group focused mainly on:

- Membership criteria (art. 6 and 7): the Group recommended to be as light as possible as anyway new memberships are subject to CSO decision. The adequate participation in COST activities will remain in the Statutes and a mention on the preamble will be introduced on the democratic and European values;
- Exclusion criteria (art. 9): the Group recommended aligning these criteria with the admission criteria;
- Voting and quorum definitions: Ms Wirtz will make a list of the required voting by Belgian law. The other voting will be developed in the NIS Internal Rules;
- Request of a non-paper concerning the calculation of the COST Fund for the future.

The draft version of the Statutes to be presented for approval at the CSO meeting of 15-16 May will be concise and simplified. Advance questions, suggestions or changes can still be introduced in the Statutes and they need to be sent prior to the CSO meeting with deadline of 12 May 2013. Ms Wirtz will be assisting the CSO meeting the morning of 16 May.

4. Presentation of the CSO Roadmap towards a successful end of the Grant Agreement in FP7

The President presented the document on the CSO Roadmap exercise. The Task Force Budget will prepare a revised version of the document for the CSO in May.

5. Budget presentation of the FP7 II GA

David WEBER, ESF Director Department of Administration and Finance and Carmen PAOLONE, ESF Coordinator of the Roadmap made an update presentation of the budget via videoconference, including:

- Update of budget
- Update on main roadmap issues having financial implications: cash flow issue before end of Grant Agreement, transition and decommissioning costs, cut-off rules and HR issues
- Feedback on Audit 2012 from European Court of Auditors

Some questions were raised on the transition and decommissioning costs. David WEBER informed about the upcoming meeting with the EC which will take place on 6 May 2013 and that it will be decisive to acknowledge if two contracts could run in parallel.

6. Action related items

a) Proposals for new COST Actions

The COST Office presented a shortlist of 41 new Action proposals following the evaluation procedure in accordance with the COST Guidelines. Following an exchange of views the Group agreed to recommend to the CSO the approval of the 41 proposed Actions.

b) Requests for extensions of COST Actions

The Group approved all the 7 requests for extension of COST Actions (Annex III). The Group observed that two of the requests for extension from MPNS domain (MP0904 and MP0905) would go beyond the FP7 contract and it was decided to grant the extension period only until the 1/06/2014.

7. COST Strategic Activities

- New procedure for approval of the policy-driven strategic networks: The revised version of the Plan for Strategic Activities (COST 4107/12) was presented and the Group agreed to recommend it to the CSO for approval.

- Recommendation of the MoUs for new policy-driven targeted networks after assessment of the external experts: Two targeted networks (TN) were presented, “Next Generation of Young Scientist: towards a contemporary spirit of R&I (Sci-GENERATION)” and “The voice of research administrators – building a network of administrative excellence (BESTPRAC)”. For each of the TN three different assessments from independent experts were presented. In general, the experts recommended these TN to be funded subject to a revision of the MoUs. After the JAF the MoUs are to be sent to the initiators to integrate the comments made by the experts. A new version of the MoUs will be presented to the CSO in May, accompanied with an explanatory note about the introduction of these new changes.

8. Progress report on the COST Action Plan (COST 4156/12)

COST Office Policy Officer for Inclusiveness and Excellence presented the progress made since the approval of the COST Action Plan. The Group congratulate the COST Office for the timely report.

9. Update of the TDP pilot initiative

The TDP Science Officers presented the final report on Trans-Domain Proposals Standing Assessment Board (TDP-SAB). Consequently, the TDP Pilot Evaluation and Selection Procedure was presented including information on the on-going procedure, timeline, introduction of a TDP Pilot proposal template, definition of the TDP Panel, situation of the COST Experts Database, summary of the TDP registrations and allocation of External Experts.

The CSO President informed the Committee on the contacts and needs to appoint a TDP DC Chair and two Vice-Chairs to coordinate the TDP Panel and Pilot procedure.

10. Preparation for the election of the CSO President at the CSO meeting in May

The Group noted that the mandate of the CSO President will expire in June 2013 and therefore the election of CSO President should take place at the CSO meeting in May. The election will take place following the procedure as set out in doc. COST 208/07. The deadline for candidatures was set up to Friday 15th April 2013 and two candidatures have been received, Prof John BARTZIS and Dr Angeles RODRIGUEZ-PEÑA.

11. Proposal for a new JAF member

The President recalled that the mandate of Prof Arif ADLI (TR) would end in June 2013. She thanked him for his valuable contribution to the work of JAF during the past three years replacing his colleague Omer CEBECI. The Group was informed that Ms Eva KLAPER (CH) and Ms Friederike BEULSHAUSEN (DE) have presented their candidatures. Due to the current situation, the President informed the Group of her intention of proposing both candidates, after consulting the Council Secretariat on this possibility, as it would require a modification of CSO working methods.

12. Preparation of the joint meeting with DC Chairs

General data prepared by the COST Office was sent to the Domain Committees. The President informed the Group on the tight timetable of the CSO meeting and the importance to rigorously follow the agenda. An email to DC Chairs will be sent out with the exact timing and order of interventions.

13. Mandate for the assessment of the DC organisation and working methods in view of the role of COST in H2020

Pour memoire (due to time constraints, this item was not discussed).

14. COST CSO documents for COST implementation: COST Rules for CSO approval

The Group congratulate the Task Force Rules and the COST Office for the documents presented. After minor corrections, the Group concluded that the four documents would be presented for approval at the CSO meeting.

15. Draft agenda for the 187th CSO meeting (15-16 May 2013)

The Group examined the draft agenda for the 187th CSO meeting that will be held in Brussels on 15 – 16 May 2013.

16. Future meetings

The Group took note of the dates of the future JAF and CSO meetings (COST 4109/13).

CSO

2013: 13-14 November in Copenhagen (DK)

2014: 14-15 May in Brussels (BE)

JAF

2013: 16-17 October in Brussels

2014: 16-17 April in Brussels

17. Any other business

Information on the non-COST countries participation in COST Actions. The Group took note on the 47 requests approved by JAF written procedure.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CSO President:	Angeles RODRIGUEZ PEÑA	Spain
CSO Vice President:	Primož PRISTOVŠEK	Slovenia
JAF Members:	Arif ADLI Stefan CAIREN Antoine MERCIER Lieve VAN DAELE Rita WARD	Turkey Sweden France Belgium Ireland
Other participants:	Friederiche BEULSHAUSEN Sibilla BOHLMANN Eva KLAPER Gorm BRAMSNAES John BARTZIS Carlo DUPREL	Germany " Switzerland Denmark Greece Luxembourg
	Monica DIETL Ursula CASTRO	COST Office "
	Markku WARRAS	Commission

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Approval of Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting
 3. COST New Implementing Structure (NIS)
 - Final revision of the statutes to be sent to the CSO for approval
 - Revision of internal rules
 4. Presentation of the CSO Roadmap towards a successful end of the Grant Agreement in FP7
 5. Budget presentation of the FP7 II GA
 6. Action related items
 - (a) Proposals for new COST Actions
 - (b) Requests for extensions of COST Actions
 7. COST Strategic Activities:
 - New procedure for approval of the policy-driven strategic networks
 - Recommendation/Approval of the MoUs for new policy-driven targeted networks after assessment of the external experts
 - Update of the science-driven strategic activities
 8. Progress report on the COST Action Plan (COST 4156/12)
 9. Update of the TDP pilot initiative
 10. Preparation for the election of the CSO President at the CSO meeting in May
 11. Proposal for a new JAF member (Prof. Arif Adli's term finishes in June 2013)
 12. Preparation of the joint meeting with DC Chairs
 13. Mandate for the assessment of the DC organisation and working methods in view of the role of COST in H2020
 14. COST CSO Documents for COST implementation: COST Rules for CSO approval
 15. Draft agenda for the 187th CSO meeting (15-16 May 2013)
 16. Future meetings
 17. Any other business
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I. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COST ACTIONS (with no budget implication)

COST Action	Title	Domain	Initial duration (Years)	Initial Expiry date dd/mm/yy	Requested extension	MC approved	DC Approved
TD0903	Understanding and manipulating enzymatic and proteomic processes in biomineralization - towards new biomimetic strategies, the creation of tailored nano-scale architectures and environmental monitoring	CMST	4	16/11/2013	6 months	09/02/13	26/03/13
ES0805³	The Terrestrial Biosphere in the Earth System (TERRABITES)	ESSEM	4	11/12/2013	3 months	16/02/13	19/03/13
ES0905	Basic Concepts for Convection Parameterization in Weather Forecast and Climate Models	ESSEM	4	11/02/2014	3 months	08/11/12	19/03/13
TD0803	Detecting evolutionary hot spots of antibiotic resistances in Europe (DARE)	ESSEM	4	22/09/2013	3 months	22/02/13	19/03/13

³ First extension of 6 months already approved by JAF in the meeting of 17/01/2012 held in Brussels

MP0904⁴	Single- and multiphase ferroics and multiferroics with restricted geometries (SIMUFER)	MPNS	4	1/03/2014	6 months	6/03/13	12/03/13
MP0905⁵	Black Holes in a Violent Universe	MPNS	4	23/03/2014	6 months	17/02/13	12/03/13
TU0902	Integrated assessment technologies to support the sustainable development of urban areas	TUD	4	14/10/2013	5 months and a half	17/02/13	13/03/13

⁴ JAF only granted extension until 1/06/2014

⁵ JAF only granted extension until 1/06/2014