

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

Secretariat

**Brussels, 13 September 2013
(OR. en)**

COST 4118/13

DRAFT SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: 187th meeting of the COST Committee of Senior Officials (CSO) held in
Brussels on 15-16 May 2013

The CSO President welcomed the participants¹ to the meeting. In particular, the new CSO delegate Ms Teo GLAŽAR (SI) and Prof Tatiana KOVACIKOVA, the new COST Office Head of Science Operations, who will take up functions on 3 June 2013.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The Committee adopted the agenda as set out in CM 2589/13² dated 30 April 2013.

2. Approval of Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting

The Committee approved the Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting held on 20-21 November 2012 as set out in doc. COST 4166/12.

¹ List of participants in Annex I

² Agenda items in Annex II

3. Information items

The President informed the Committee of her activities as CSO President from 2010-2013 (written document).

The Spanish delegate informed the Committee of the event “Young Researchers direct the way to Innovation in the Forest-based sector – COST Young Researchers Forum at the 8th FPT Conference” held on 11-14 March in Barcelona.

The Czech delegate informed the Committee that Ministry of Education Youth and Sports CR (MEYS) will provide state aid to new COST projects, which will be addressed in the frame of selected COST Actions approved by CSO last year in the amount of 849 560 € in 2013. Overall state aid provided to new and running COST projects in 2013 represents 2 389 040 €. MEYS is prepared to announce a new call for submitting project proposals in the frame of selected COST Actions, approved by 186th and 187th CSO .

The COST Office Director gave a presentation of the situation of the COST Office:

- State of play of the staff changes within the Office, stating that newly vacant positions have been filled: Head of Communications & Conferences will join the Office on 28 May and the Head of Science Operations will join on 3 June. She made a comparison with previous years and informed the Committee that the staff turnover has been stable since the creation of the COST Office. Furthermore, the Director stressed the importance of the COST Office Staff in ensuring the smooth transition and continuation of COST beyond the COST-ESF II Grant Agreement Contract.
- New Organisational Chart was presented;
- COST budget overview and evolution of science activities expenses;
- Annual report (6th periodic report) has been prepared by the COST Office, validated and submitted by ESF to the Commission. Minor comments were received from the Commission and final approval is expected shortly;

- Amendment No.6 has been prepared by the COST Office and it is pending to be validated and submitted by ESF to the Commission once the Annual report has been formally approved;
- ECA Audit 2012. The auditors congratulate ESF/COST Office for a well prepared exercise;
- Development in the Information Systems : Online Travel Reimbursement Form, COST Rules & Vademecum in e-COST, BCT and Iris improvements, preparation for establishment of a Document Management System and TDP Pilot updates;
- Briefing on the last Open Call.

The Commission representative, Mr Markku WARRAS informed the Committee of his retirement stating this will be his last CSO meeting. He introduced Ms Rita LECBYCHOVA, the Head of Unit B.4 (Joint Programming) from DG R&I, whose unit will be responsible for COST affairs within the DG. Once the DG re-organisation concludes, an official to follow CSO and JAF meetings will be appointed.

The President, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr Warras for his valuable input and advice to COST during the past years and expressed her best wishes for an active and pleasant retirement.

4. Report from the Domain Committees represented by DC Chairs

The President welcomed the Chairs of the Domain Committees to the joint session. DC Chairs presented individually their respective Domain Committee reports of the activities related to 2010-2012 and the proposals for new COST Actions submitted to CSO for approval.

A Domain Committees' generic SWOT analysis report prepared by the DC Chairs³ was also presented. The main items were summarised by Mr. CABALL on behalf of the DCs in a powerpoint presentation format which was distributed amongst delegations.

³ DC ESSEM stated that it had not been involved in the preparation of the SWOT Analysis

After the questions and answers part and subsequent discussion, the President thanked the delegations and the DC Chairs for their valuable contributions.

5. COST Roadmap and possible scenarios for the transition from FP7 to the next Framework Programme “Horizon 2020”

Ms Eva KLAPER (CH) member of the Task Force Budget made a presentation on this exercise.

The roadmap sets the tasks and timeline for the transition. There are still on-going discussions between the Commission and ESF on the possibility of running two agreements in parallel and in finding solutions concerning the guarantee fund. In order to address potential cash flow problems at the beginning of the agreement with the new implementing structure (NIS) during Horizon 2020, contacts with the European Investment Bank have taken place with positive signals. The importance of having the NIS operational as soon as possible was highlighted.

The COST Office Director pointed out the importance of clarifying the scenario for the transition between ESF and the Commission, as this may have consequences for COST Actions and other activities as well as for the COST Office staff.

All these items will be discussed in the COST-ESF High Level Group meeting which will be held on 14th June 2013 in Strasbourg.

6. NIS Statutes and revision of the draft version of the Internal Rules

The CSO Vice-President made an exhaustive presentation on the specific changes in the Statutes of the NIS in comparison with the previous version. The main points highlighted:

- Preamble: COST Member countries by alphabetical order, correction of the date of the 1971 Ministerial Resolution, specification of the European values;
- Art. 6, (1) and 7 (1) on COST membership, open to every State adequately participating in COST activities

- Art. 8, (1) CSO full power and discretion for membership and its type;
- Art. 12, (1) Definition of the bodies of the association (CSO, EB, President and Director) and (2) with explicit mentioning of Scientific Committees;
- Art. 13, (2) clarification of the powers of the CSO;
- Art. 15 limitation of mandate of the Presidency;
- Art. 17, (2) possibility to invite observers at the CSO meetings (including Scientific Committees), (3) possibility of proxy, (4-5) uses “present, represented or participating”
- Art. 19, (2) powers of the Executive Board;
- Art. 29 Financial resources (contributions to the COST Fund and subsidies received from the EU);
- Clarification on the CSO within the NIS versus the CSO created in July 1970 allowing the new entity to replace all existing arrangements;
- Clarification on the mandate of the Presidency through the transitional articles
- Clarification on consensus: The CSO working methods are maintained when possible and when suitable. The JAF has proposed to abandon entirely the consensus principle due to its new role and responsibilities as EB of the NIS.

Ms Wirtz, the legal adviser from Osborne Clarke explained how the COA would become the COST Association (CA) through the transitional articles and how these articles provide a legal solution to continue the Presidency mandates. She recalled that only Article 3 (Objectives) of the NIS Statutes is legally exempt from being changed.

The approved NIS Statutes will be sent to COA (period of three months). COA will schedule a General Assembly during September 2013 and adopt the NIS Statutes with the presence of a notary. During the third week of September, the COA will endorse the change of its Statutes and the CA will be established with its current members (Israel as Cooperating State). Every COST country will be requested to join the CA by letter to the CA President and it is expected that all COST Member countries will have joined by December 2013.

The DE delegation opened a discussion on the involvement of Israel as a full member. It was concluded that this discussion requires an in-depth analysis and consultation of national ministries. Ms Wirtz explained that if there will be a future agreement on the membership of Israel, the Statutes can be changed accordingly.

There was no revision of the first draft of the internal rules due to time constraints.

7. Proposals for new COST Actions (OC-2012-02)

The Committee examined the proposal by the JAF Group to fund the 41 proposals that were presented by the DC Chairs.

The AT Delegation raised a question concerning two proposals:

- ES1305 “European Network for the Radar surveillance of Animal Movement (ENRAM)”. As military radars are going to be used on the Action, it was requested that a revised MoU should be presented stating the exclusively peaceful purpose of the Action.
- IC1303 “Algorithms, Architectures and Platforms for Ambient Assisted Living - AAP for AAL” As there is already an existing programme AAL, the title and content of MoU needs to be changed in order to avoid confusion.

At the end of the discussion the Committee approved 41 new COST Actions to be funded from the collection OC-2012-01 (Annex III), noting that the Memoranda of Action ES1305 and IC1305 need to be modified following the comments made by the AT delegation.

8. Proposals for a revised procedure of the policy-driven Targeted Networks (revision of doc. COST 4107/12)

The proposal for a revised procedure of the policy-driven Targeted Networks was approved, and is set out in doc. COST 4111/13.

Ms Ines SANCHEZ DE MADARIAGA, Chair of the Targeted Network "Gender in Science and Technology and Environment" made a presentation of the progress of the initiative. This included the supporting EC policy on Gender and Science, the selection of best international practices addressing Member States, institutions and other stakeholders, working groups and participation of the network.

9. Proposal for approval or information on the new Targeted Networks

The Committee discussed the two proposals for Targeted Networks “The voice of research administrators” and “Next generation of young scientists: towards a contemporary spirit of R&I”. Several delegations expressed their views and requested to increase the visibility of countries, whose scientific communities need to be reinforced, as well as to better clarify the objectives of the proposals. The MoUs will be revised accordingly and presented for approval by written procedure. The President requested delegations to send their comments in writing by the 24th May.

10. Proposals for COST CSO Documents for COST implementation

- Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities
- COST Action Proposal Submission, Evaluation, Selection and Approval
- COST Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment of COST Actions
- COST International Cooperation Rules

The COST Office recalled the rationale for proposing a set of documents on the implementation of COST rules with the aim to provide consistency and coherence of rules among all documents. After an exchange of views the Committee approved the set of rules which will enter into force as from 1 June 2013. Final versions are set out in documents COST 4112/13, 4113/13, 4114/13 and 4115/13.

11. Appointment of a new JAF member

Following the proposal by the CSO President (doc. COST 4108/13) the Committee appointed Mr Friederike BEULSHAUSEN (DE) as a new JAF member to replace Prof. Arif ADLI (TR) whose mandate expired in June 2013. The appointment of the new member is effective for three years from June 2013, until June 2016.

12. Election of the CSO President

This item was chaired by the CSO Vice-President, who recalled the election procedure as set out in doc. COST 208/07. The Committee noted that the mandate of the current President would end on 21 June 2013 and the mandate of the Vice-President in November 2013.

The Secretariat had received two candidatures for the CSO Presidency: Prof. John BARTZIS (EL) and Dr Angeles RODRIGUEZ-PEÑA (ES). The Committee noted that each COST Member State has one vote and the election would be carried out through a secret ballot. Each candidate would have 7 minutes for presentation, followed by questions by delegations.

After the presentations by the candidates the Committee proceeded to a vote. The votes were counted and the result was announced by the Secretariat: 21 votes for Dr RODRIGUEZ PEÑA and 11 votes for Prof BARTZIS⁴.

The Committee re-elected by majority Dr Ángeles RODRIGUEZ PEÑA as the CSO President for three years as from 22 June 2013.

⁴ Out of the 35 countries 3 countries were not present and had not submitted a written vote prior to the meeting.

13. Proposal for the NIS Statutes

The NIS Statutes were approved by consensus.⁵

The Secretariat pointed out the status of the Ministerial Declaration, where responses from nine delegations were still missing. Once all COST Member Countries have pronounced themselves, the Secretariat will issue the Ministerial Declaration on a formal final document.

14. Proposal for a budget appropriation from the COST Fund for legal advice and support

Following the JAF Group recommendation, the CSO approved the budget allocation of EUR 75 000 from the COST Fund to be used for legal advice and support (doc. COST 4110/13).

15. Progress reports⁶ on

(a) Action Plan to increase inclusiveness in COST activities while fostering scientific excellence throughout Europe

COST Office Policy Officer for Inclusiveness and Excellence presented the progress made since the approval of the COST Action Plan one year ago. The Committee congratulated the COST Office for the timely report, in particular the Commission representative, who indicated that all this information will be addressed in the final evaluation of COST at the end of the FP7.

(b) TDP Pilot Evaluation and Selection Procedure

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 Committee welcomed the report and congratulated the SOs for this excellent work.

⁵ Two abstentions (MT and IT delegations) and one vote against (AT).

⁶ All presentations have been made available to delegations on the CSO website.

16. Future meetings

The Committee took note of the list of future JAF and CSO meetings as set out in doc. COST 4109/13. The next CSO meeting will be hosted by the Danish delegation in Copenhagen on 13-14 November 2013. The Swiss delegation informed the Committee on the possibility of hosting the CSO meeting of 14-15 May 2014 in Switzerland (pending confirmation).

The Committee had an exchange of views on where to organise future CSO meetings during Horizon 2020. A rolling calendar will be established, building on a list of COST Member Countries who have organised a CSO meeting. It was noted that the organisation of the CSO meetings could not have a mandatory character.

17. Any other business

TDP Chair and Vice-Chairs: The President informed about the appointment of the TDP Chair Prof. Jaime REINART (ES), and the TDP Vice-Chairs Prof. Knut FAGRI (NO) and Prof. Levent ONURAL (TR) to coordinate the TDP Panel and Pilot procedure. It was noted that as it is a pilot procedure, the functioning of the TDP may differ from the COST domains.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

List of participants

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <u>PRESIDENT</u> | : | Ms Ángeles RODRIGUEZ PEÑA |
| <u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u> | : | Mr Primož PRISTOVŠEK |
| <u>AUSTRIA (AT)</u> | : | Ms Helga MIELING |
| <u>BELGIUM (BE)</u> | : | Ms Lieve VAN DAELE |
| <u>BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (BA)</u> | : | <i>regrets</i> |
| <u>BULGARIA (BG)</u> | : | Ms Albena VUTSOVA |
| <u>CROATIA (HR)</u> | : | Mr Damir JELICIC |
| <u>CYPRUS (CY)</u> | : | Ms Constantina MAKRI Ms Sepou KALIPSO |
| <u>CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ)</u> | : | Mr Jaroslav CIHLAR Mr Josef JANDA |
| <u>DENMARK (DK)</u> | : | Mr Gorm BRAMSNAES Ms Anne Birgitte KLITGAARD |
| <u>ESTONIA (EE)</u> | : | Ms Ülle MUST |
| <u>FINLAND (FI)</u> | : | Ms Marja NYKÄNEN |
| <u>fYR of MACEDONIA (MK)</u> | : | <i>regrets</i> |
| <u>FRANCE (FR)</u> | : | Antoine MERCIER |
| <u>GERMANY (DE)</u> | : | Ms Friederike BEULSHAUSEN Ms Vera STERCKEN |
| <u>GREECE (EL)</u> | : | Mr John BARTZIS |
| <u>HUNGARY (HU)</u> | : | Orsolya TOTH |

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|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| <u>ICELAND (IS)</u> | : | Ms Ásgerður KJARTANSDÓTTIR |
| <u>IRELAND (IE)</u> | : | Ms Rita WARD |
| <u>ISRAEL (IL)</u> | : | <i>regrets</i> |
| <u>ITALY (IT)</u> | : | Ms Maria UCCELLATORE |
| <u>LATVIA (LV)</u> | : | Ms Maija BUNDULE |
| <u>LITHUANIA (LT)</u> | : | Ms Andreus ŽVICAS |
| <u>LUXEMBOURG (LU)</u> | : | <i>regrets</i> |
| <u>MALTA (MT)</u> | : | Ms Claire BELLIA |
| <u>NETHERLANDS (NL)</u> | : | Ms Yvonne SCHAAP |
| <u>NORWAY (NO)</u> | : | Ms Trude DYPVIK |
| <u>POLAND (PL)</u> | : | Mr Marek ZDANOWSKI |
| <u>PORTUGAL (PO)</u> | : | Ms Fernanda SOUTO-SEPULVEDA |
| <u>ROMANIA (RO)</u> | : | Ms Elena DINU Ms Mihaela Cristina CIOBANU |
| <u>SERBIA (RS)</u> | : | <i>regrets</i> |
| <u>SLOVAKIA (SK)</u> | : | <i>regrets</i> |
| <u>SLOVENIA (SI)</u> | : | Ms Tea GLAŽAR |
| <u>SPAIN (ES)</u> | : | Ms Almudena AGUERO |
| <u>SWEDEN (SE)</u> | : | Ms Birgitta BOMAN Mr Stefan CAIREN |
| <u>SWITZERLAND (CH)</u> | : | Ms Eva KLAPER |
| <u>TURKEY (TR)</u> | : | Mr Mehmet Arif ADLI |
| <u>UNITED KINGDOM (UK)</u> | : | Ms Wendy SIMPSON |

COMMISSION
DG Research & Innovation : Mr Markku WARRAS

COST OFFICE : Ms Monica DIETL
Ms Ursula CASTRO
Ms Erika BRADY

COUNCIL SECRETARIAT : Ms Ulla MESIÄ

AGENDA

Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Approval of Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting
3. Information from
 - CSO Presidency
 - Delegations
 - COST Office
 - COST Secretariat
 - Commission

Items for discussion

4. Report from the Domain Committees represented by the DC Chairs
5. COST Roadmap and possible scenarios for the transition from FP7 in the next Framework Programme "Horizon 2020"
6. NIS statutes and revision of the draft version of the internal rules

Items for approval

7. Proposals for new COST Actions (OC-2012-02)
8. Proposal for a revised procedure of the policy-driven targeted Actions
 - revision of doc. COST 4107/12
9. Proposal for approval or information on the new Targeted Actions
10. Proposals for COST CSO Documents for COST implementation:
 - Rules for Participation in and Implementation of COST Activities
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 - COST Action Management, Monitoring and Assessment of COST Actions
 - COST International Cooperation Rules
11. Appointment of a new JAF member
12. Election of the CSO President

13. Proposal for the NIS statutes

14. Proposal for a budget appropriation from the COST Fund for legal advice and support

Items for information

15. Progress reports on

(a) Action Plan to increase inclusiveness in COST activities while fostering scientific excellence throughout Europe (COST 4156/12)

(b) TDP Pilot Evaluation and Selection Procedure

16. Future meetings

Any other business

NEW ACTIONS APPROVED

| Domain | Action Number | Proposal Title | Proposal from |
|---------------|----------------------|--|----------------------|
| BMBS | BM1303 | DSDnet: A systematic elucidation of differences of sex development. | DE |
| BMBS | BM1302 | Joining Forces in Corneal Regeneration Research | DE |
| BMBS | BM1301 | ADMIRE - Aldosterone and mineralocorticoid receptor: Pathophysiology, clinical implication and therapeutic innovations | FR |
| BMBS | BM1305 | Action to Focus and Accelerate Cell-based Tolerance-inducing Therapies (A FACTT) | ES |
| BMBS | BM1304 | Applications of MR imaging and spectroscopy techniques in neuromuscular disease: collaboration on outcome measures and pattern recognition for diagnostics and therapy development | UK |
| CMST | CM1302 | "European Network on Smart Inorganic Polymers" (SIPs) | DE |
| CMST | CM1301 | Chemistry for ELectron-Induced NANofabrication (CELINA) | DE |
| CMST | CM1304 | Emergence and Evolution of Complex Chemical Systems | NL |
| CMST | CM1303 | Systems Biocatalysis | IT |
| ESSEM | ES1302 | European Network on ecological functions of trace metals in anaerobic biotechnologies | ES |
| ESSEM | ES1305 ⁷ | European Network for the Radar surveillance of Animal Movement (ENRAM) | UK |
| ESSEM | ES1303 | TOPROF: Towards Operational ground based PROFiling with ceilometers, Doppler lidars and microwave radiometers for improving weather forecasts | UK |

⁷ A revised MoU will be issued where clarification by the Action Chair on the exclusively peaceful purpose of the Action should be stated

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| ESSEM | ES1301 | Impact of Fluid circulation in old oceanic Lithosphere on the seismicity of transform-type plate boundaries: new solutions for early seismic monitoring of major European Seismogenic zones – FLOWS | PT |
| ESSEM | ES1304 | European network on invasive parakeets (ParrotNet): Understanding invasion dynamics and risks to agriculture and society | UK |
| FA | FA1302 | Large-scale methane measurements on individual ruminants for genetic evaluations | NL |
| FA | FA1303 | Sustainable control of grapevine trunk diseases. | FR |
| FA | FA1301 | CephsInAction - A network for improvement of cephalopod welfare and husbandry in research, aquaculture and fisheries | IT |
| FPS | FP1301 | Innovative management and multifunctional utilization of traditional coppice forests - an answer to future ecological, economic and social challenges in the European forestry sector (EuroCoppice) | DE |
| FPS | FP1303 | Performance of bio-based building materials | SE |
| FPS | FP1302 | WOOD MUSICK | FR |
| ICT | IC1301 | WiPE - Wireless Power Transmission for Sustainable Electronics | PT |
| ICT | IC1302 | KEYSTONE - semantic keyword-based search on structured data sources | IT |
| ICT | IC1304 | Autonomous Control for a Reliable Internet of Services (ACROSS) | NL |
| ICT | IC1303 ⁸ | Algorithms, Architectures and Platforms for Ambient Assisted Living - AAP for AAL | PT |

⁸ Title and content of MoU needs to be changed as there is already an existing programme with that name.

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| ISCH | IS1305 | ENeL: European Network of e-Lexicography | NL |
| ISCH | IS1304 | Expert Judgment Network: Bridging The Gap Between Scientific Uncertainty And Evidence-Based Decision Making | UK |
| ISCH | IS1306 | New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe: Opportunities and Challenges | UK |
| ISCH | IS1302 | Towards an EU research framework on Forensic psychiatric care | NL |
| ISCH | IS1303 | Citizen Health through public-private Initiatives: Public health, Market and Ethical perspectives | IT |
| ISCH | IS1301 | New Communities of Interpretation: Contexts, Strategies and Processes of Religious Transformation in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe | NL |
| MPNS | MP1304 | NewCompStar: exploring fundamental physics with compact stars | DE |
| MPNS | MP1302 | NanoSpectroscopy | DE |
| MPNS | MP1303 | Understanding and Controlling Nano and Mesoscale Friction | IT |
| MPNS | MP1301 | New generation biomimetic and customized implants for bone engineering | BE |
| TDP | TD1302 | European network on Taeniosis/Cysticercosis | BE |
| TDP | TD1303 | EURNEGVEC - European network for neglected vectors and vector-borne infections | RO |
| TDP | TD1301 | Development of a European-based Collaborative Network to Accelerate Technological, Clinical and Commercialisation Progress in the Area of Medical Microwave Imaging | PT |
| TDP | TD1304 | Zinc-Net: the Network for the Biology of Zinc | UK |

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| TUD | TU1301 | "NORM for Building materials - Network" | BE |
| TUD | TU1303 | Novel structural skins: Improving sustainability and efficiency through new structural textile materials and designs | BE |
| TUD | TU1302 | SaPPART (Satellite Positioning Performance Assessment for Road Transport) | FR |