

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

Secretariat

**Brussels, 7 October 2013
(OR. en)**

COST 4119/13

DRAFT SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS

Subject: JAF Group meeting¹ held in Brussels on 18 September 2013

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The Group adopted the agenda as set out in CM 4014/13 of 27 August 2013².

2. Approval of Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting

The Group approved the Summary of Conclusions of the JAF meeting of 16-17 April 2013 set out in document COST 4116/13.

3. Working Document COST New Implementing Structure (NIS)

A meeting of the Task Force (TF) “Internal Rules”, open to all JAF participants, preceded the JAF meeting. Two representatives of the DC Chairs (Dr Soulla LOUCA and Dr Dieter SCHINZER) and the CSO external legal support (Mr Vasco VELOSO) were also invited to the meeting.

¹ 34th 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.

As agreed in the 187th CSO Meeting of 15-16 May 2013, the draft of the Internal Rules is based on the comments already formulated by the CSO and on the existing set of COST documents currently in force. A separate document “Open Questions on COST Association Internal Rules” was presented in annex highlighting items on which a CSO decision is needed, as well as including suggestions to ensure a fully operational COST Association, with appropriate financial regulations.

A revised version compiling all comments will be prepared, accompanied by an Open Question document in view of the next JAF meeting on 16-17 October and consequently the CSO meeting in November.

4. Preparation for the election of the CSO Vice-President

The Group took note of modalities³ for the election of the CSO Vice-President which will take place at the CSO meeting on 13-14 November 2013.

The deadline for candidatures is set on the 30 October 2013.

5. Future meetings

The Group took note of the dates of future JAF and CSO meetings:

CSO

2013: 13-14 November 2013 in Copenhagen (DK)

2014: 19-20 February 2014 (tbc)

13-14 May 2014 (tbc)

³ Doc. COST 208/07

JAF

2013:16-17 October 2013

2014:22-23 January 2014 in Brussels

16-17 April 2014 in Brussels

Delegations are invited to host any of the CSO meeting in their countries.

6. Any other Business

- Note of Information concerning the upcoming CNC meeting of 15 October 2013

The Group considered the information note, which recalls the decision⁴ to hold CNC information and working meetings two times a year with the aim to

- foster a common approach to fulfil COST's objectives and share best practices
- inform the CNCs on current COST decisions, rules and procedures
- provide support in their COST related tasks and to
- update the CNCs on recent COST developments.

In the context of the upcoming CNC meeting on 15 October 2013, the German delegate requested to add an item on the state of play of the Trans-Domain Proposals Pilot initiative to the agenda.

⁴ COST 4156/12 Action Plan to increase inclusiveness in COST activities while fostering scientific excellence throughout Europe

- COST Science Night 15 October 2013

The Group took note of the COST Office Director's presentation of the upcoming COST Science Night. The COST Science Night is an event designed to give European policymakers and representatives of the EU institutions, the scientific community and the press the opportunity to meet researchers leading selected COST Actions, who will showcase their cutting edge work in a number of scientific fields and explain how the pan-European science and technology networks supported by COST contribute to addressing key global scientific and societal challenges. It was underlined that Prof Ingrid DAUBECHIES, renowned mathematician, had accepted to be the keynote speaker; Dr Barbara PRAINSACK was invited to present the outcome of two strategic S&T (DC)-driven events on Open Access.

The Belgian delegate proposed to also invite members of Strategic Forum for International S&T Cooperation (SFIC), EUREKA and High Level Group for Joint Programming (GPC).

- Strategic Activities – S&T (DC) -Driven and Policy-Driven activities

The Group took note of the summary tables of the already implemented and upcoming DC-Driven and Policy-Driven Strategic Activities as presented by the COST Office Director.

- Information note on the state of play of COST Targeted Networks

The COST Office Director presented the state of play of the Targeted Networks (TN).

Of a total of four TN, three have already started:

- TN 1201 “Gender, Science, Technology and Environment (GenderSTE)” is already successfully running and has awake extensive interest.

- TN 1301 “Next Generation of Young Scientist: towards a contemporary Spirit of R&I (Sci-GENERATION)” and TN 1302 “The Voice of Research Administrators – Building a Network of Administrative Excellence (BESTPRAC)” which kick-off meetings are expected to take place during the month of October 2013.
- “European Network for innovative natural resource policy and governance – Capacity building in the Western Balkans (CAPABAL)” TN proposal is still under preparation.
- Information note on appointment of an External Advisory Board for the assessment of S&T-driven strategic activities

The COST Office Director presented the newly established External Advisory Board (EAB), aiming for the assessment of the S&T-driven activities. The three appointed external experts of the interdisciplinary board make recommendations on proposals submitted to the COST Office Head of Science Operations, with the aim to improve/enrich the proposals that are subsequently submitted to the CSO President and COST Office Director for approval (following COST doc. 4111/13).

- Information Note on the state of play Task Force 4 “Evaluation Procedures”

The JAF Group took note of a presentation by the Chair of the Task Force "Evaluation Procedures", Mr MERCIER (FR) on the state of play of the TF, which aims to make recommendations to the CSO on the revision of the COST evaluation procedures in anticipation of the next funding period under Horizon 2020. The TF Chair concluded that all CSO members will be kept informed of the developments.

Following the presentation, the CSO President thanked the two members of the Task Force “Evaluation Procedures” and the Head of Science Operations for their excellent work.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CSO President:	Angeles RODRIGUEZ PEÑA	Spain
CSO Vice President:	Primož PRISTOVŠEK	Slovenia
JAF Members:	Friederike BEULSHAUSEN	Germany
	Stefan CAIREN	Sweden
	Antoine MERCIER	France
	Lieve VAN DAELE	Belgium
	Rita WARD	Ireland
Other participants:	Gorm BRAMSNAES	Denmark
	John BARTZIS	Greece
	Josef JANDA	Czech Republic
	Damir JELIČIĆ	Croatia
	Maria UCCELLATORE	Italy
	Monica DIETL	COST Office
	Ursula CASTRO	"
	Michael OBERREUTER	"
	Ulla MESIÄ	Council Secretariat

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Adoption of the agenda
 2. Approval of Summary of Conclusions of the previous meeting
 3. Working Document COST New Implementing Structure (NIS) – Internal Rules
 4. Preparation for the election of CSO Vice-President
 5. Future meetings
 6. Any other business
 - Information on the Task Force 4 "Evaluation Procedures"
 - Information note concerning the upcoming CNC meeting of 15 October 2013
 - Information note on the organisation of the COST Science Night of 15 October 2013
 - Information note on the state of play of the COST Targeted Networks
 - Strategic activities: DC-driven events and policy-driven events
 - Information note on the appointment of External Advisory Board for the assessment of Science and Technology-driven strategic activities
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