

COST ACTION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

21 October 2006

Warsaw Agricultural University

Attending: John Barnett, Barry Gardiner, Joseph Gril, Geoff Daniel, Ingo Burgert, Anne-Mie Emons, Jaroslaw Oktaba, Kurt Fagerstedt, , Günter Siegel, Katia Ruel, Pia Stieger, Paul Ander, John Moore, George Jeronimidis, Stig Bardage, Arnis Treimanis, Caroline Cifuentes, Mike Jarvis, Jean-Paul Joseleau, Kaisa Marjamaa, Lennart Salmen, Tanja Zimmerman, Barbara Hinterstoisser, Delphine Jullien

Apologies: Pekka Saranpää, Uwe Schmitt, Primoz Oven, Peter Fratzl

1. Welcome to the participants:

Welcome by John Barnett

2. Adoption of the agenda:

Accepted

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted

4. Report of Scientific Officer

a. News from the COST Office

Encouraged to put forward new ideas for future COST actions

b. Status of Action

Encouragement to use WEB page. Presented the value of Strategic Workshop such as that on Bioenergy that was held in Norway on 13th and 14th September 2006. Call will end on 31st March 2007. Appealing to action to make submissions before the very last minute. Can be submitted earlier and then changed subsequently so long as the title remains the same. Need to have 7 (better 10) countries with names of collaborators in each country. Don't have to coordinate with other proposed action. The next call will have funding for an increased number of COST actions.

c. Number of Signatories

Attending current meeting. Finland, Sweden, France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, UK, Latvia, Poland

- d. Budget Status, budget allocation process
Budget is good this year with €80,000.

5. Year Budget planning

Can be reimbursed for arrival the day before a meeting and departure the day after the meeting.

Steering Group Meeting in Florence in May 2006.

Planning meeting in Brussels in July 2006.

Working Group 3&4 meeting in Stockholm in August 2006.

Workshop in Warsaw in October 2006.

Will be WG1 meeting in Wageningen in December 2006.

Need to spend €45000 before end of April 2007 including STSM. Will then continue again in middle of September so cannot finance costs during summer.

6. STSM status, applications

John Barnett has 1 application currently. These are approved by Steering Committee. STSMs will need to be completed by end of May 2007 and report has to be submitted by middle of May. Can find information on COST action web site where there is a WEB tool for making the application. Reimbursement after report is received. Minimum 5 days and maximum 3 months. Maximum €2500. Has to be from a country in the action to another country in the action. Doesn't have to be a citizen of one of the countries in the action.

7. Publications, annual report

Good time to discuss a publication strategy.

Important to have progress report in place by 6th January 2007.

Request for copies of leaflet. Some mistakes need rectifying (update to management committee meeting, 3 members from Germany and end date should be 2009 and not 2008). John Barnett will also produce a new poster.

Need to have extended abstracts of presentations within 2 weeks (Monday 6th November). Jarik Oktaba will provide a template by beginning of next week.

Discussion on the possibility of producing a book on a particular topic. Not good for individual scientists profile but books can have long-term impact. No agreement on whether to take this forward at the moment.

8. Evaluations

Monitoring is carried out through progress report. Not sure if there will be a mid-term evaluation but there will be a final evaluation. Information in the Secretariat Note provided at the meeting about the evaluation process.

9. Request for new member countries

If there are groups that it would be useful to have within the action they should be asked to approach their National COST coordinator. Italy, Spain, Portugal, Ireland and Norway should be approached and then inform the chair of the action (John Barnett)

10. Non-COST participations

A list of non-Cost countries qualifying for support was provided in the Secretariat Note. Monies have been set aside specifically to support researchers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Federation and Ukraine.

11. Web news

Presentations from Warsaw workshop will be put on Web page in pdf format. Delegates would like a chat page here they can post questions and ask for answers.

Request for delegates to inform Barry Gardiner about any other meetings that would be of interest to members of this COST action.

Cell-Wall Meeting 12-17th August 2007 in Denmark

12. Progress report of working groups

WG1: Workshop in December. Will be discussing cellulose and nanotechnology and possibilities for collaborative research. In collaboration with Tuula Teeri. Investigating possibilities of using nanotechnology to mimic how cellulose is constructed.

WG2: Planning some new ventures in Europe about fundamental work on lignin biosynthesis. Will have a meeting to discuss the very latest understanding in this field and to discuss potential funding for a new research programme in this area. Probably will have meeting on 15th February 2007 with around 6 people.

WG3: Workshop in Stockholm in August which had 2 guest speakers

WG4: Joint workshop with WG3 on Modelling: Models available, data available, validation, model species. 19/20th April 2007.

13. Long-term planning

Next workshop is in Potsdam. Will be in 2nd half of year, probably end of September (provisionally 26th-28th September with alternative 17th-19th October). Planning meeting will be in Potsdam on 22nd January 2007. Working title is "Structure and Function of the Primary and Secondary Cell Wall". Need to have rigorous advertisement of the conference.

WG 2/3/4 Meeting in Montpellier on 15th/16th March 2007 on "Mechano-Reception and Reaction Wood Formation"

Date and time of a larger meeting in Spring 2008. Provisionally 2-4th April 08.

Autumn meeting: Provisionally 24th-26th September 2008

27th-29th May 2009 meeting is in Wageningen, Netherlands

14. Time and place of next meeting

See above.

15. AOB

New COST Action: E54 "Characterisation of fine structure and properties of

paper making fibres using new technologies”. Only working with paper-making fibres. Micro structure of fibres used in making paper. 6 countries have signed. Finland, Sweden, France, Latvia, Slovenia, Latvia, Romania, Germany will be involved. First management meeting will be in middle of December 2006.

ACTION Web Page: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/CEMARE>

COST Web Page: <http://www.cordis.lu/cost>

Barry Gardiner 21 October 2006