

Cost E50 Business Meeting, Potsdam, 28/9/07.

14-00-1600

Minutes

1. The chairman welcomed delegates to the meeting and extended a warm welcome to three of the invited speakers who were present: Brian Butterfield (NZ), Lacey Samuels (Canada) and Frank Telewski (USA).

2. The Agenda was adopted.

3. Minutes from the meeting on 27th March 2007 were approved.

4. Report from Scientific Officer

G. Siegel explained how institutes and expert individuals from certain non-EC countries can be invited to participate, with non-COST institutes. This requires approval from the COST administrators prior to participation. New Zealand and Australian institutes may apply to participate. Funding to take part in COST activities will be available from their Academies of Science. Canadian participation is possible with Canadian financial support.

The next Ministerial Conference will discuss broadening of the COST Programme.

Proposals for new COST actions can be submitted at the end of September and the end of March, with lead time of 6 months to agreement. Guidelines for evaluation are available on the COST website. Strategic Workshops on specific subjects are another possibility, on subjects with political implications and the potential to influence policy. Lead time for these is approximately one year

5. Budgeting has been complicated by transition from 6th to 7th framework programmes. The COST E50 budget totals £78k Euros to end of May 2008. A detailed allocation will be decided in October 07. This will be devolved in following year and the University of Helsinki has been approached about this. This means that financial planning for last meeting will have to be done in advance. The overhead rate payable to the handling institution may be up to 15%.

6. STSM applications: Three STSMs are due to take place in the autumn. One was completed last year, but has been charged against the 2007/8 budget. There are financial resources for 2 or 3 more in the financial year. The working group 2 meeting has suggested two possibilities.

7. Annual report to be updated in December. Information on publications etc will be requested in October. A book on biology of reaction wood is planned. J. Gril suggested a book structure approx 4 parts with chapters from individual research groups: 1. General knowledge required .2 Formation and induction including genetics 3. Properties of reaction wood in the tree. 4 Synthesis on structure and properties. Contributing groups to send a 1-page chapter summary to editorial group for harmonisation. Commercial publisher to be consulted. Will be a COST publication but with contributions from non-EC authors. There was some discussion concerning

scope and readership, and the question how many authors should contribute to each chapter. To go to print December 2008.

G. Siegel pointed out that wider, non-scientific dissemination was encouraged, and that the COST Office would like to receive copies. Possibilities to raise wider awareness of outcomes at end of the Action should be considered.

8. The final conference will include the final evaluation and should therefore reach out to a larger audience. The final meeting (2009) will be in Wageningen, a location which is central and should ensure a large audience. The possibility of holding an autumn workshop in 2008 in French Guyana was raised. G. Siegel pointed out that it could be limited by availability of funding for non-COST participants and that it should not take place in a location that is not participating fully in the research. J Gril confirmed that the research located in French Guyana was of high quality and had already contributed significantly to the E50 programme, but that the possibilities could only be fully appreciated at the location. Biodiversity of tension wood had been the topic of the first-prize poster at this meeting. Cost would be E700-E800 extra (fare from Paris) offset partly by lower accommodation costs. Practicable minimum stay 4 days. Possibilities to create links to Latin American wood scientists. Depending on the timing (e.g. early October) there could be extra participants who are there for training courses. However, because this would come into the same budget year as the final Wageningen meeting it was pointed out that it would not be financially feasible, at least not on the scale originally suggested.

T. Zimmerman had suggested a workshop on cell-wall applications and nanoscience in Switzerland, and had offered to contribute to the organisation. This might be a suitable WG activity –WG1+2 - but was also suggested as an alternative location for a 2008 annual workshop. Assuming it was simply a WG meeting, there would be a management committee meeting to arrange this at the Slovenia meeting.

9. No requests had been received for new members

10 Barry Gardiner is constantly updating the website. He will be asked to include WG meeting reports from this meeting and PDF file of abstracts. More web information has been requested by the new Rapporteur, Eva Esping.

11. WG Progress report. Covered in 12 and 7.

12. Ljubljana Workshop. Will be 11-12 April 2008, not May, 1.5 days. The title is “Wound reactions in trees and wood quality”. It will be mainly relevant to WG3 and WG4, with some interest from WG2. An abstract deadline for abstracts of late November was suggested.

13. G. Siegel indicated that reimbursements for some delegates from WG1 and WG2 could be available to enable them to attend the E41 final meeting in Tuurku in May 2007.

14. Dates were suggested for the final meeting. Anne Mie Emons felt that the meeting would be best on 17-19 October 2009, but this would require an extension, which might not be forthcoming. The most likely date will be 17-19 June.

15. A draft proposal was made by Alberto Battistelli for a strategic workshop on climate change. This draft would be forwarded to MC members for comment.
16. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 16-00.