

COST E50

Minutes of Steering Committee held in Potsdam on 12 April 2007

Present: John R. Barnett (chair), Joseph Gril (deputy chair and deputising for working group 3 leader Meriem Fournier), Anne Mie Emons (working group 1 leader), Kurt Fagerstedt (working group 2 leader), Clemens Altener (deputising for working group 4 leader), Ingo Burgert (organiser of Potsdam workshop).

Apologies: Apologies were received from Pekka Saranpaa (deputy chair), Meriem Fournier (working group 3 leader) and Barry Gardiner (working group 4 leader).

1. The meeting opened at 1-00pm and delegates were welcomed by Professor Barnett.
2. The agenda was adopted unanimously.
3. The minutes of the last MC meeting in Montpellier had been posted on the website and were approved.
4. Report by the Action chair:

The chair reported on the DC meeting in Brussels. This had been a positive experience and the report of our Action had been well-received. Our rapporteur, Arnis Tremanis had commented favourably on the progress and management of our Action. He was, however, about to become the chair of a new Action (E54) and would therefore cease to act as a rapporteur. Dr Eva Esping had agreed to take over as rapporteur for E50. She hoped to be able to get to our meeting in Potsdam to meet members of the Action and the MC. Dr Esping is a Forest Officer and Senior Project Manager Wood manufacture in Sweden.

The report by Action E41 was of great interest, as the members of the Action are interested in cell wall structure in fibres. The chair discussed collaboration with the chair of E41, Tarja Tarminen, and it was suggested that we join them for their final meeting in Turku in May 2008. This suggestion met with approval by the steering committee members, the most likely action being that we should hold a small working group meeting during their final meeting.

Clemens Altener reported that registrations for the Edinburgh working group meeting to be held on April 19/20 2007 were still coming in.

Dr Siegel had requested ideas for strategic workshops. The chair had circulated MC members asking for ideas, but so far without success.

Italy had applied for membership of the action.

It was suggested that Denmark might also be interested in joining the Action and the chair agreed to write to Lisbeth Thygesen on this matter.

5. STSM status: Following the release of more funding, four application for STSMs to take place before June had been received.

6. Planning of E50 Workshop in Potsdam: Following lively discussion including email conversations between the meeting and Nic Standaert with respect to invited speakers a draft programme for the workshop was drawn up (appendix). Twenty five abstracts had been received by the organiser and these were sent to SC members ahead of the meeting for assessment. The abstracts were fairly evenly divided between working group themes. The meeting considered which should be oral and which poster presentations. It was emphasised by the chair that adequate time should be left for discussion.

It was decided that each working group should have an oral session with two invited speakers. Of these, three would be from non-EC-member states and would require approval from Brussels.

It was suggested that as part of the working group meetings at the workshop, recipients of STSM grants who were present should provide a report of their mission.

7. Future plans: The draft budget for 2007/8 showed COST E50 holding a meeting in Brussels in the spring of 2008. In fact this meeting had been planned from the kick-off meeting to be held in Slovenia. The chair would write to Dr Siegel to correct this.

8. Book: It was decided that a book on “The Biology of Reaction Wood” would be prepared by the Action with the Chair acting as editor. The themes of chapters were discussed and the chair agreed to send a draft outline of the book to MC members for comment and suggestions for suitable authors for chapters. The chair reported that the MC member for Austria, Rupert Wimmer, had suggested the book might be published by Springer. The ideas for the book were to be finalised at the MC meeting in Potsdam.

9. Time and place of next meeting: The steering committee would not meet again before the Potsdam workshop, where a management committee meeting would be held (see draft timetable).

10. There being no other business the meeting closed at 18-00.

Appendix

Programme Potsdam Workshop September 26th-28th

Wednesday 26th

08:30 -09:00 Registration

09:00 – 09:15 Welcome: Peter Fratzl:

WG1 Biosynthesis and structure of cellulose and polysaccharides

Chair persons: Anne Mie, Uwe

09:15– 10:00 Invited speaker: Markus Pauly

10:00 – 10:25 Neumetzler

10:25 – 10:50 Coffee break

10:50 – 11:35 Invited speaker: Jordi Chan

11:35 – 12:00 Lindeboom

12:00 – 12:25 Shundyak

12:25 – 12:50 Parkin

12:50 – 14:00 Lunch

WG2 Biosynthesis and modification of lignin

Chair persons: Kurt, Katia

14:00 – 14:45 Invited speaker: Kazuhiko Fukushima

14:45 – 15:10 Fagerstedt

15:10 – 15:35 Nolin

15:35 – 16:10 Coffee break

16:10 – 16:55 Invited speakers: Lacey Samuels

16:55 – 17:20 Koch

17:20 – 17:45 Huyskens-Keil

18:00 – 20:00 Poster session: WG1 Yamauchi, WG3 Douet, WG4 Dlouha, WG 4
Aguie, WG 4 Bytebier, WG4 Graf, WG 4 Zimmermann, WG 4
Ander

Thursday 27th

WG3 Formation and induction of reaction wood

Chair persons: Meriam, Geoff

09:00 – 09:45	Invited speaker: Brian Butterfield
09:45 - 10:10	Pilate
10:10 – 10:35	Merela
10:35 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:45	Invited speaker: Jürgen Kleine-Vehn: Auxin in plant development
11:45 – 12:10	Clair
12:10 – 12:35	Goswami
12:35 – 13:45	Lunch

WG4 Relating wood and fibre properties to structure and formation

Chair persons: Barry, Pekka

13:45 – 14:30	Invited speaker: Peter Fratzl
14:30 – 14:55	Assor
14:55 – 15:20	Asgharipour
15:20 – 15:50	Coffee break
15:50 – 16:35	Invited speaker: to be decided
16:35 – 17:00	Gamstedt
17:00 – 17:25	Stevanic

Conference Dinner 19:30

Friday 28th

09:00 – 10:45	Individual working group meetings
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:30	Final session
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Management Committee Meeting