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ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS Summary of the 17th meeting held on 7 September 1992

Introduction

D. Toet, Chairman, opened the meeting welcoming H.-A. Gustafsson the new member for Sweden, and those replacing members unavoidably absent.

News from the CERN Management

P. Darriulat speaking on behalf of the Director-General said that no major issues had occurred since the previous ACCU meeting. With the accession of Hungary to CERN in June there were now 18 Member States. CERN had been prompt in expressing its deep concern at the decision of Congress not to fund the SSC. The reversal of this decision by Senate was welcomed, but it is too premature to comment further. The mini-LHC-Evian had had successful visits to Russia and Japan, and contacts at high level had been established. The LHC Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of J.-J. Aubert. Two important meetings are scheduled: SPSLC at Cogne will discuss the future of LEAR, Super-LEAR and the West extraction, whilst LEPC will discuss the timetable for the upgrading of LEP. It is the intention to pay the Eurolep arbitration figure within two years, and part of the money will be found by reducing machine time this year and by delaying some projects scheduled for 1992.

Users' Office News

New Buildings

The Finance Committee has agreed to request a loan from FIPOI to fund the new Office and Laboratory building, and will be asked at its September meeting to accept an increase aimed at including infrastructure costs. Construction is expected to start in spring 1993 and last two years. The proposed plans for a new hostel are well in hand and should be presented to Finance Committee in December. If approved this will allow both buildings to be built simultaneously. ACCU, however, expressed concern about the apparent delays in the procedures for the new hostel, and requested the appropriate bodies to speed up the realisation of this project.

Operation of the new automatic telephone system and billing

This topic was debated at great length. Unanimous criticism was expressed that the system of line-attached PIN codes was inadequate and unacceptable. Nevertheless there was satisfaction with the simplified form of placing outside calls. The method outlined in the weekly Bulletin has not yet been implemented. Of the three alternative billing methods presented at the meeting, one was found to correspond to user needs and is reflected in the first recommendation (below).

ACCU requested the CERN Management not to introduce any changes in telephone charges until scrutinised by ACCU and the Member States. Three recommendations from ACCU, thought to be acceptable to users, were unanimously agreed for presentation to the CERN Management :

1. CERN should continue to pay long-distance telephone calls made by Member State users, along the lines existing before August 1992.
2. The new automatic system does not yet fulfil all essential requirements that arise in practice. ACCU requests that the necessary improvements be studied by the relevant experts, and discussed in ACCU. This includes the introduction of a PIN code not linked to a specific line.
3. In the meantime, in order to ensure a smooth transition, ACCU recommends that some form of adequate operator service be available, even outside working hours.

Payment by Credit Card at the Hostel

The following cards will be accepted from the end of September: American Express, Diners, Eurocard and Visa.

CERN Identity Cards

CERN Identity Cards became standard issue on 1 July 1992, and their date of expiry is linked to that of the individual's CERN documents. Holders of these cards will find advantages rather than inconveniences provided that they re-register before the expiry date. People holding expired cards will not be able to obtain access using their cards, but will remain on the phone

list and mail distribution list for a few months after the expiry date. Group Secretaries are encouraged to help users by warning them in advance before their CERN documents expire.

Fellows & Associates

E. Quercigh, Chairman of the Fellows and Associates Committee, presented the guidelines for selecting non-Member States Scientific Associates which had been approved by the Scientific Policy Committee, Finance Committee and Council in 1985. A copy of the guidelines was circulated to the ACCU Members.

Concerning the worry that there has been an increase in the number of Fellowships awarded to Applied Physicists to the detriment of Particle Physicists, a small group is looking into this and has submitted a preliminary report to CCCR, but it is premature to make any further comments.

Safety at CERN

A description of the obligations of CERN and the Members of Personnel, which includes Scientific Associates, with respect to safety was given by B. de Raad. He recalled that the CERN Bible for safety was the SAPOCO42 document. Since CERN straddles the Swiss/French border, it makes use of the strictest safety rules applicable in the host states in addition to those approved by the European Community.

Asked about the relationship on safety matters

between CERN and other organizations like RAL, B. de Raad replied that there is no formal contact between the bodies. However, informal contact has been established, and there is good co-operation on these matters. In the UK, legal safety responsibility rests with the employer even when the employee works abroad.

M. Höfert highlighted old and new problems concerned with radiation-protection. New users should be encouraged to bring a medical certificate showing their aptitude to work at CERN, not only for radiation reasons. Only 5% currently do this. He reminded the meeting that all radioactive sources and lasers must be registered with the Radiation-Protection group. Transport slips are mandatory for all movements of radioactive sources from any of the CERN sites to another.

Date & agenda for next meeting

The next meeting will be on 23 November 1992 starting at 10.00 hrs, and will continue in the afternoon. Items for discussion would include: Telephone billing, new buildings, Crèche, Academic Training, EPAC, Desk Top Publishing, etc.

CONSEIL D'ADMINISTRATION DE LA CAISSE DE PENSIONS

GOVERNING BOARD OF THE PENSION FUND

The Governing Board of the Pension Fund held its thirtieth meeting on 14 September 1992, at which the Fund's Consulting Actuary set out the results of the latest actuarial study drawn up as at 31.12.1991. This report is produced in obedience to the directive in the Rules and Regulations of the Fund which require such an examination to be made at least every three years. In his conclusions the Actuary found that the Fund could now be regarded as having achieved financial balance despite the revelation of a technical deficit in all the models examined but that 'the existence of this deficit is certainly not at present a cause for anxiety in view of the considerable financial effort to which the parties have agreed in order to ensure the Fund's long-term financial balance'. It should be pointed out that new parameters had been taken into account which had not been considered in the previous examination undertaken in 1988. A new mortality table showing longer life expectancy had been used, the rate of departures after the age of 55 was rising and account had had to be taken of the gradual increase in the overall rate of contributions and the new administrative costs which the Fund was now bearing. The Actuary recommended that the Fund's

bodies give close attention to any difference from the accepted parameters and, should such a situation arise, demanded that the Fund be suitably compensated. He made the special recommendation that proper financial compensation be provided for any decision which deviated from the actuarial assumptions. The actuarial study, together with the Governing Board's comments, would be submitted to the Finance Committee for information.

The Governing Board approved a recommendation by the Investment Committee on the choice of six new external managers. This decision follows the Governing Board's desire to entrust a greater share of the Fund's assets to the discretionary management of specialised European firms. These new managers are to be given similar investment instructions in order to create competition. They are due to start work next year. The Governing Board will still have to appoint a global custodian of securities beforehand.

The Governing Board also gave the go-ahead for the acquisition of real estate in the Netherlands. Although the Board had considered it very interesting, a second