

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIELLES

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SUMMARY OF THE 8th MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS 11 July 1990

News from the Director-General

The Director-General referred to the Council decision to introduce an overhead charge of 30% on non-Member State Team Accounts from 1 January 1991. This is consistent with the ICFA recommendation that Machine time is free, but that other resources may need additional funding. The income from charging overheads would be reinvested in improving resources for users of the laboratory. The DG was recommended by ACCU to negotiate global agreements at the highest possible level such that the monies would come from the funding agencies rather than teams. The possibility of full reciprocity between CERN and non-Member States should be sought. ACCU's view was that some form of charging would have to be accepted, but that teams would experience difficulties if overhead charges were introduced in January 1991.

Conclusions of the insurance survey

This indicated that differences exist on the amount of cover throughout the Member States. It is recommended that Institutes should provide a minimum insurance for its members visiting CERN. A presentation made of the proposed short term health insurance with AUSTRIA was endorsed by ACCU. However, concern was expressed about the lack of cover for industrial injuries, and high level negotiations were recommended.

Subsistence survey

It was noted that several completed forms were received at the meeting. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.

Restructuring

- a) Materials and Technology (MT) Division A review was given of the new MT Division with particular

emphasis on the Surface and Materials Group. It was noted that a User Forum was being organized, that CERN workshops should be used for prototype development and not large-scale production, and that a European network of experts was being set up and training and education improved.

- b) The Research Sector A further presentation of the progress made was given with particular reference to the ECP structure.

Fellows & Associates programme

A review of the document presented to the June Council meeting was made. ACCU supported the programme as presented, but expressed the wish that there would be no further reduction in the Associates programme.

Users' Office news

ACCU heard a report of the first year's activities of the Users' Office. At present there is no indication of any easing up of new registrations, when the first and second six months operation are compared. Items for future improvements include Access Cards and updating the Rules for the use of CERN Cars.

Any other business

Brief discussions took place on the new STK telephone system, the use of the computer centre (including the user exabyte facility), office space and the CERN Nursery School and creche.

Next meeting

This is scheduled for 24 October 1990 at 10.00 hrs.