

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 29, 1982 at 14.30 in the Director-General's Conference Room (sixth floor, Main Building).

Draft Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda
2. Membership of ACCU in 1982/83
3. Minutes of previous meeting (CERN/ACCU/12)
4. Matters arising from the minutes including
 - a) Summary of ACCU activities and resulting actions in 1980/81
 - b) The CERN economies programme
 - c) Operation of the PS and SPS
5. Any other business
6. Items for the agenda of the next meeting
7. Date of next meeting

W. Blair
16.2.1982

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS (ACCU)

Minutes of the twelfth meeting, held on December 7, 1981

Present : A. Bamberger, F. Binon, W. Blair, P. Borgeaud (part-time), J.-J. Blaising, K. Böckman, M. Buhler-Broglin, A. Filippas, P. Grafström, J.D. Hansen, D. Imrie, R. Klapisch, E. Lillestøl (Chairman), R.N. Milligan, P. Rancoita, M. Regler, L. Rosselet, H. Schopper (part-time), D. Schotanus, H. Suter, J. Thompson.

Invited : G. Brianti (Item 7), H. Reitz (Item 5d)).

Apologies for absence : P. Dalpiaz, A.-M. Perrin, A. Vitale.

The Chairman welcomed the Director-General to his first meeting of ACCU.

1. Opening remarks by Director-General

Schopper observed that ACCU had not existed when he had been at CERN in 1973. At that time the number of CERN users was around 800, however in the meantime this had increased to over 2000. Scientific problems were dealt with by the various Experiments Committees, however with so many users there were practical problems which were not directly scientific. Van Hove had realised the need for an interface between users and CERN management to deal with such problems, and had set up ACCU at the end of 1977. Schopper confirmed that he considered the activities of this Committee to be very important.

Schopper explained that he could not attend ACCU meetings regularly due to the new structure of the CERN Directorate, with only one Director-General. However Directors now had executive responsibility, and he had asked Klapisch to deal with problems regarding CERN users, and represent the CERN Management at ACCU meetings. In addition, if at any time the Chairman felt that there were major problems, he would be happy to discuss with him.

Schopper said that the present meeting was special in that the last of the founder members were about to retire from ACCU. He wished to thank all ACCU members, especially those retiring now, for their part in the success of the Committee. He expressed particular appreciation to Lillestøl, Chairman of ACCU for its first four years, for his skill in guiding the Committee so successfully through its formative years, and remarked that this had led to a much better understanding of each others problems by users and CERN management.

2. Adoption of agenda

After interchanging two items, the draft agenda was approved.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (CERN/ACCU/11)

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on September 4, 1981, were approved.

4. Summary of ACCU activities and resulting actions in 1980/81

The Chairman presented a draft report on ACCU activities and resulting actions in 1980 and 1981. It was agreed that as on the previous occasion two years ago, a revised version would be circulated with these minutes (see Annex I), and would also be attached, with the updated list of members, to Research Board minutes.

In his oral presentation the Chairman laid particular emphasis on the relaxed atmosphere of the meetings, which made it possible to discuss problems that could be based on misunderstandings on either side, and expressed the hope that the meeting would continue to function in this way. He considered that the most important single issue discussed in this period had been that of short-term accommodation for users, and felt that it was an achievement of ACCU that the new Hostel was now under construction. He reminded members that the fact that some Unpaid Associates had financial problems when at CERN had been drawn to the attention of the CERN Council by Van Hove in June 1980, and that CERN had advised users with specific problems to take them up with their national authorities. He said that this advice remained valid. On the subject of links between users and the CERN Staff Association, he said that the question of user representation on the CERN Staff Council had been discussed, and reminded members that ACCU had agreed to help find candidates for nomination.

The Chairman thanked CERN management for contributing to the success of ACCU by being willing to listen to the problems and complaints of users. In his opinion ACCU would be even more important in the future, since both CERN and users would face increasing financial problems in the context of LEP. He asked future new members to gather input from their colleagues, and to be reasonable in presenting problems. He asked CERN management to continue to take ACCU seriously as a channel of communication to help users understand management problems, and vice versa.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Extension of CERN Hostel

Milligan reported that the site had been excavated, and work was on schedule for the new building to open early in 1983. The plans were unchanged apart from two details; firstly there would be four, not three, common rooms, and secondly a second heating plant would be installed, in the form of a heat pump, covered from the basic CERN budget, not the Housing Fund.

In response to a question from Imrie about the expected room rates, Milligan agreed to report at the following meeting.

b) Air travel costs

The Chairman asked members to report on progress since the previous meeting, and said that both SAS-Scandinavia and SAS-Norway had given a negative reply.

Filippas said that there was no likelihood of any reduction on Olympic Airways flights.

No information was available on the situation in Italy or the Netherlands.

There was a brief discussion on possible actions to obtain reductions in air fares, and it was agreed that if any member had positive information he should at once inform the Chairman or the Secretary, since this information might be very important for discussion in other countries.

c) Restaurant No. 3

Milligan said that since the previous meeting he had received no complaints about this restaurant. His impression from various sources was that there had been an improvement in the standard of food and cleanliness.

Binon remarked that it was still the case that many users preferred to drive from the North Area to Restaurant No. 1 because of low standards in Restaurant No. 3.

d) The CERN Stores

Reitz informed members that the stores inventory had been completed. As a result all three self-service stores were now open normally and would remain so at least until the end of 1982.

The Chairman expressed the satisfaction of users with this information and with the stores arrangements in general.

e) Membership of ACCU in 1982/83

Klapisch said that the final decisions on new appointments had not yet been taken. He thanked members for generating suggestions as discussed at the previous meeting, and commented on a request from the U.K. user community to have the right to nominate members. He explained that there were two reasons for CERN not to accept this. The first was a question of balance in that it was not desirable to have members from different countries belonging to the same collaboration. Secondly in some countries there was more than one body which could speak for users. However he added that CERN management would be able to find the right balance in membership from the suggestions made in the autumn, without going elsewhere for names.

Imrie said that there had been a strong feeling in the U.K. CERN Committee that they should nominate the U.K. representatives, since unlike in the case of the CERN Experiments Committees, where members were appointed as individuals, the ACCU member was a national representative. Thompson added that it was not clear to users how CERN chose.

Klapisch explained that the Director-General chose on the basis of the recommendations made by users and taking into account the question of balance indicated earlier. The Chairman felt that in the circumstances this was a fair procedure. Imrie said that the explanation was acceptable, although it should have been given earlier.

There followed a discussion on the question of the next Chairman, during which various possibilities were mentioned. Klapisch pointed out that this too was a matter for the Director-General to decide.

Böckmann believed that ACCU would become even more important in the next few years in maintaining good relations between CERN users and

management, and felt that the new Chairman had to be capable of building on the good work of Lillestøl.

Regler said that the Chairman should be committed to a CERN experiment but also involved in university teaching, and thus be able to see all aspects of the problems of users. He should be an established scientist with enough experience to debate with management and to moderate the meeting.

Klapisch thanked members for their views, and said that to ensure the transition it was probable that Lillestøl would be asked to chair the first meeting of 1982.

Binon said that his term of office as user member of the Library Committee was almost at an end, and agreed to serve until the next ACCU meeting, when a successor should be appointed.

6. The CERN economies programme

Klapisch said that Council had approved the construction of LEP subject to a constant budget figure for five years (apart from indexation for inflation) which was however rather low, and meant that economies were inevitable. CERN management had proposed to Council in April three different levels of budget for LEP, all in 1981 prices - 669 MSF, 649 MSF and 629 MSF. The minimum level of 629 MSF had consisted of 302 MSF for Personnel and 327 MSF for Materials (Operation and Capital expenditure), and management had foreseen an annual increase in the Personnel Budget to cover aging and promotions. In June, Council had asked management to consider a still lower budget figure, 617 MSF, derived by reducing the Materials Budget to 315 MSF, which, with a constant Personnel Budget, meant a reduction of 60 MSF in 1981 prices over the five year period. Management had said that if necessary this could be achieved by a) delaying LEP to save 20 MSF and b) reducing operational costs by 4 MSF per year to save 20 MSF and c) reducing funds for new projects over the five year period from 120 MSF to 100 MSF. In October Council had approved that budgetary scheme.

On the question of reducing operational expenditure, it was proposed to reduce SPS running time to 5000 hours in the year by stopping at the beginning of December. The theoretical maximum figure was 6000 hours, and actual SPS operating hours had been 5600 in 1977, 5400 in 1978, 5300 in 1979, and 2700 and 4000 in 1980 and 1981 due to the shutdown to prepare for $\bar{p}p$. A useful rule-of-thumb figure was that stopping all accelerators for one week saved 1 MSF. It was important to note that funds saved in this way would go back to physics in the form of support for new equipment for experiments and for the accelerators. Despite this it was inevitable that CERN would have to be more selective in funding new projects involving expenditure of the order of 0.5 - 1 MSF.

Klapisch pointed out that all of the figures which he had given were in 1981 prices and did not take account of inflation, which was currently 6% in Switzerland. He closed his presentation by saying that CERN management was very worried about the implications for the present CERN activities of proceeding with LEP on the approved budget, which was less than minimal. He appealed for the cooperation of users as well as CERN staff in making and accepting the necessary economies.

There followed a long series of questions, suggestions and comments from

users, which may be summarized as follows.

Hansen pointed out that the proposed annual saving of 4 MSF in operating costs meant a reduction of 10% in CERN's physics output, and asked how much LEP would be delayed if this saving were not made. Klapisch said that it was an illusion to believe that money could be gained by further delays to LEP. There was no contingency for further delays in the present LEP planning and budgeting, and such delays might even increase costs. The Chairman reminded members that ACCU was concerned with practical matters, not major policy, which was the domain of the Scientific Policy Committee and Council. Klapisch commented that the Management was nevertheless willing to explain and discuss anything relevant to this topic.

Böckmann quoted experience at his home institute on the change with time of the merits of contract labour as opposed to staff recruitment, and asked whether on a long-term basis it was not better to have staff rather than contract labour. Klapisch pointed out that the CERN staff total was laid down by Council. Brianti said that this matter had been studied in depth at CERN, and had several aspects:-

- i) contract labour was not more expensive than hiring more staff;
- ii) the SPS had been planned as a fixed target machine, and a significant amount of labour was needed only during the construction period;
- iii) the $\bar{p}p$ work came along at a time of severely limited staff recruitment, so contract labour was again used;
- iv) more generally, a number of tasks such as cleaning, changing bulbs, cabling, etc. were more flexibly done by contract labour than by staff;
- v) the number of contract labour employed at CERN had been reduced by several hundred in 1981;
- vi) CERN was the only big employer in the local area of France, and major changes in contract labour numbers or policy could cause problems;
- vii) SB Division, which was responsible for site services, had suffered a reduction of 20% of its staff in the past seven years, although the floor area of CERN had effectively tripled in that period.

The Chairman said that until now users had received considerable assistance from CERN in such areas as electronics, stores, mechanical work, computing, etc. While restrictions seemed inevitable, care should be taken to ensure that users did not suffer unduly, and it was important to explain to users when changes were proposed.

Imrie expressed concern about two possibilities, firstly that CERN might reduce staff available to support experiments, and secondly that CERN might charge more for existing services. He accepted that economies would have to be made, and that there would be less staff available, however it would be very difficult for U.K. users if they had actually to pay more for services than was justified by inflation, since national budgets had been cut. Klapisch said that in future CERN would have to devote less money to new experiments and instead of paying two thirds or all of the cost of new experimental facilities, would probably contribute no more than one third. He added that CERN would no longer cover the full cost of film for future bubble chamber experiments. CERN management was considering a variety of ways of saving money, even to the extent of setting a time limit on official telephone calls.

Buhler-Broglin observed that as far as EP divisional services were concerned there would be no discrimination between staff and users, and as far as possible services would be maintained at the present level. However everyone would have to accept that the budget constraints would mean less flexibility, and a greater need for fixing priorities and planning work in good time.

Imrie said that many users were worried about the double attack on CERN's budgets, firstly the budget reduction itself, then the problems each year in granting the cost variation index. He would prefer to see Council set the budget at an agreed level, and then award the full cost variation index.

Hansen agreed with this procedure as far as the Materials Budget was concerned, but not the Personnel Budget, and instanced academic salaries in Denmark which systematically lagged behind inflation. Klapisch stated that it was unreasonable to compare CERN employment conditions with academic salaries in one member state. The bulk of CERN staff were engineers, technicians, programmers and operators, and CERN employment conditions were currently such that it was very difficult to recruit new staff from countries other than France or Switzerland. LEP could only be a success if built by a highly qualified and motivated staff. Keeping the Personnel Budget constant was only possible by measures such as early retirement and recruiting younger staff. Not giving compensation for inflation was not a good way to motivate staff. Brianti added that the top end of the CERN salary scales had been eroded by 20% in recent years, the inflation index was in any case applied six months after the end of the reference period, and this index had not always been fully applied. The Chairman said that the complex problem of the employment conditions of CERN staff had already been studied extensively by RESCO, and was not a matter for ACCU. Klapisch commented that uninformed remarks that CERN salaries were too high can have a very bad effect on CERN budgets, and hence can harm CERN users.

Blaising reported on contacts with the French user community about economies at CERN. There had been no suggestions other than delaying LEP as an alternative to economies, but there had been a strong feeling that more information was needed about the effects of the economies. CERN was considered as a service to physicists in the member states, and in that context users wished to be informed in good time about changes, which would frequently influence their activities in their home laboratories.

Regler referred to budget problems in Austria and said that while it was unrealistic to try to set a precise timescale now for LEP operation in several years' time, national budget arrangements meant planning the use of funds on a predetermined timescale, and there could be financial problems if there were undue delays in approving LEP experiments. Klapisch observed that this was one reason why letters of intent for LEP experiments were due to be submitted by the end of January 1982, but commented that experience with CERN pp experiments and at DESY showed that it was not always economical to rush decisions.

The Chairman said that there was a clear wish from users for information on economies at CERN, and thus he proposed that Klapisch should have a regular item on this subject on the ACCU agenda. This would give CERN management the opportunity both to obtain user reactions before taking decisions, and to explain why certain decisions had to be taken, and should thus ensure two-way communication of information. Klapisch said that he would accept the proposal, and indicated that his presentation had been at a rather general level. At later meetings he would report on more detailed points, and would much appreciate suggestions from users, for example in reducing CERN's bills for energy consumption and PTT expenditure.

Imrie said that the reduction in operating hours for the accelerators could lead to problems for users with teaching commitments. He explained that due to staff reduction in U.K. universities physicists had now more teaching

to do, and it would be more difficult than in the past to come to CERN in the period October to March. It was desirable to maximise running time during April to September. Brianti said that this coincided very largely with CERN's intentions, due to the higher cost of electricity in winter. The accelerators were now systematically out of action from Christmas to February, and the shutdown would probably also include December in future, unless in the autumn it emerged that the budget situation would permit operation to continue into December.

Filippas asked if the personnel budget could not be reduced. Klapisch reminded members that a constant personnel budget meant a reduction in staff numbers of 2% per year, and that although some compensation could come from replacing older staff who left by new young staff, overall staff numbers had to drop even with a constant budget. Brianti added that the CERN Staff Association had not accepted that the personnel budget remained constant.

Regler suggested that CERN should use more students and less contract labour. He explained that he was not referring to the summer student programme but rather to introducing the possibility of using students to do non-academic work, as in his institute. Brianti said that this was already done partially, and Klapisch added that this suggestion would be borne in mind in the current review of the CERN Student Programmes.

Grafström queried the distribution of the 60 MSF budget reduction over five years as 20 MSF from each of a) LEP construction (delay) b) operational costs c) new projects, and said that Swedish users felt that in the next two or three years there should be no reduction in SPS operating hours, in order to maximise physics output. Klapisch said that it was academic to discuss this now, since these were guidelines for budget planning, not rigid rules, and CERN management would attempt to be flexible within the constraints, as indicated earlier.

7. Operation of the PS and SPS

Brianti said that the performance of the SPS for fixed target physics in 1981 had not been as good as in the past, and he would like to explain the situation and to indicate what was likely to happen in future. Performance statistics over the past five years were as follows:-

	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Efficiency for physics (%)	72	82	79	88	75
SPS down time (%)	28	18	21	12	25
of which PS down (%)	5	4	4	4	10
△ SPS-PS (%)	23	14	17	8	15
Number of protons per scheduled hour ($\times 10^{13}$)	146	323	397	564	303

It was evident that SPS performance had been bad in 1981, and this was a consequence of the long shutdown to convert to collider operation. This conversion had made even greater demands than foreseen on skilled manpower, nevertheless it had been decided to restart in June 1981 as originally planned, since any further delay would have meant disruption over two consecutive summers. Performance throughout the summer had been poor, since most of the technical support was given to completing preparations for antiproton operation, and no machine development time and little preventive maintenance were devoted to fixed target operation. In retrospect, despite major efforts from engineers and technicians, not enough time had been available to prepare

for $\bar{p}p$ running in an optimal way, and fixed target users had suffered.

Turning to future operation, Brianti said that performance in the last SPS period had been much better, and there had been substantial progress in preparation for $\bar{p}p$ operation; the shutdown in January and February would be used for consolidation, with no major new installation of equipment; in future, when there would be continuous changing between $\bar{p}p$ and fixed target operation, the machine development time before a given mode of operation would be used exclusively to prepare for that mode. Brianti closed by saying that the period of major technical change was coming to an end, and apologised for the problems experienced by fixed target users in 1981, adding that there was every reason to believe that SPS operation in 1982 would be much better than in 1981.

Imrie said that in his excellent review of the situation Brianti had answered most questions asked by users. One detail which remained unclear was why the SPS operates much more reliably over the weekend than on a Monday morning. Brianti replied that there were two reasons for this, firstly power supplies were generally more stable at the weekend due to industrial demand being very low, and secondly the Monday morning effect of engineers and technicians returning to work and, with the best intentions, trying to improve matters further.

Binon commented that when there were operational problems, from a user's point of view there were two ways to proceed. The good way was to tell users that the machine would be down for a stated number of days - say 15 - and to fix the problems. The bad way was to struggle on, delivering one bunch every few cycles. In 1979 the first way had been used, while 1981 had seen the second way. Brianti agreed with this assessment, and said that the key to good operation was to have a stable machine without major changes of equipment. The lessons learned in 1981 would be put to good use in future.

8. Other business

The Chairman said that since members were already late for another engagement, non-urgent matters of other business would have to be held over to the following meeting, and asked if there were any items which could not wait.

Böckmann raised the subject of the possible introduction in Switzerland of a special tax disc ("vignette") for cars to use motorways, and said that CERN users should be exempt. The Chairman did not consider this to be a matter for ACCU.

Blaising asked about the availability of test beams to prepare for LEP experiments. Klapisch said that it was envisaged to provide such facilities in the West and East Halls, and that a full report would be made at the open session of the next meeting of the SPSC, in February.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting of ACCU will be held on Monday, March 29, 1982 at 14.30 in the Director-General's Conference Room, 6th floor, Main Building.

W. Blair

1980/1981 REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF CERN USERS (ACCU).

Introduction

The Advisory Committee of CERN Users (ACCU) has now been maturing for nearly four years. ACCU was set up by CERN early in 1978 with the task of advising the Director General on practical problems concerning the utilization of the CERN facilities.

Many problems, both minor and major, have been raised and discussed within ACCU, and the CERN management has willingly proposed solutions whenever possible within the limitations of available staff and budgets.

ACCU provides a direct contact between the CERN management and the CERN users. In the rather relaxed atmosphere of the committee meetings it has been possible to discuss problems that could be based on misunderstandings and/or lack of information. It is the opinion of the chairman that ACCU has led to better understanding both on the user side and on the CERN side. It is hoped that ACCU will continue to function satisfactorily on this basis in future.

It should be noted that ACCU is not discussing questions relating to the scientific programme of CERN.

A brief account of some of the main activities within ACCU in 1980 and 1981 is given in the following. A more extensive record of ACCU's activities can be found in the minutes of the ACCU meetings.

Membership

The chairman and the members of ACCU are appointed by the

Director General of CERN for a period of two years. ACCU has had the following members for the years 1980 and 1981:

Austria	:	M. Regler
Belgium	:	F. Binon
Denmark	:	J.D. Hansen
Germany	:	A. Bamberger K. Böckmann
France	:	J.J. Blaising P. Borgeaud
Greece	:	T.A. Filippas
Italy	:	P. Dalpiaz A. Vitale
Netherlands	:	D.J. Schotanus
Norway	:	E. Lillestøl
Sweden	:	P. Grafström
Switzerland	:	H. Suter
U. Kingdom	:	D.C. Imrie J.C. Thompson
CERN	:	P.G. Rancoita L. Rosselet

In addition R.N. Milligan is a full member of ACCU representing PE Division. The CERN Directorate is represented by R. Klapisch who replaced I. Mannelli from 1.7.1981. M. Buhler-Broglin represents EP Division. The CERN Staff Association has been represented by W. Tejessy, followed by L. Leistam, and from September 1981 by A.-M. Perrin. E. Lillestøl has been chairman. The secretary is W. Blair (CERN).

Meetings

During the years 1980 and 1981 ACCU has held 6 meetings (including the meeting on December 7, 1981). Some of the matters discussed are presented below:

Short-term Accommodation for Users of CERN.

Already in 1979 it was concluded that the accommodation facilities should be extended. This has been the most important

issue in the last two-year term. From the start it was clear that a new hostel should be built.

In the summer of 1980 a new enquiry was conducted among the CERN Hostel users. There was a clear consensus that the new hostel should provide a similar, or a slightly improved standard compared to single rooms in the CERN Hostel, and that the room rate should be kept as low as possible.

The matter is now concluded. The Finance Committee has approved the guarantee of a loan of up to 5 MSF. The CERN management has given the go ahead, and the construction has started. The new hostel will be situated beside Restaurant No. 1 and contain 138 rooms. It is hoped that the inauguration will be early in 1983.

Library Facilities at CERN

Since the autumn of 1979 ACCU member F. Binon has been representing the CERN users in the Library Committee.

At the request of ACCU the Library Committee has accepted to extend the reference collection by adding books proposed by the users. Moreover, the Library Staff has prepared at ACCU's request, a catalogue of all books in the field of physics and mathematics which are at the present time in the reference section.

We would like to point out that the Library Committee has requested more discipline on the part of the users. Too many magazines and books are missing from the shelves.

Financial Problems of Unpaid Associates

Several aspects of financial problems have been discussed. It is a fact that in some cases Unpaid Associates are in financial difficulty when at CERN. The problems vary from one State to another, and range from the general support being inadequate to special cases like for instance school fees not being reimbursed. At the request of ACCU, Van Hove raised this matter

in the Council of June 1980. Users should follow this up and contact their own authorities directly with specific problems.

Car-hiring Arrangements

The demand for cars have exceeded expectations. CERN has now rented 40 cars for hiring to institute. The experience has been satisfactory and the arrangements will be reviewed again next year.

On Site Transport

The navette service has been continuously discussed and improved upon.

CERN Restaurants

The quality of the restaurant service has been focused at several meetings. In particular the users have been concerned about Restaurant No. 3 where both the quality of the food and cleanliness have been criticized. Although the situation has improved, there are still problems to look into.

The CERN Stores

At the request of ACCU it has been arranged not to close all three self-service stores every Friday afternoon for inventory.

ACCU has expressed that the present arrangements for the self-service stores are excellent and could serve as a model for other large laboratories.

CERN Staff Association and Users

ACCU has tried to maintain good contact with the Staff Association. Through its ACCU representative continuous information on the Staff Association has been given. It has been

difficult to find candidates among the Unpaid Associates for the Staff Council, and ACCU is asked to help in the nomination.

Accelerator Scheduling

The problems concerning accelerator scheduling have been discussed in great detail. It is hoped that this has led to a greater understanding between the users and the Accelerator Divisions.

Air Travel Costs

Attempts have been made to obtain reductions on air fares when going to CERN. The various airlines have been contacted by ACCU members. Unfortunately we can not report any positive results.

Housing for Newcomers

The present situation in the Geneva area is difficult and not likely to ease in the near future. The best we can do for the moment is to keep informed and follow the development.

Other ACCU Activities

For other ACCU activities we refer to the minutes of the ACCU meetings.

