

ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF CERN USERS

Minutes of the twenty-sixth meeting, held on 4 July 1986

Present : M. Albrow, W. Bartl, W. Blair, H. Boggild, G.J. Bossen (Secretary)
J. Carter, C. Fabjan, V. Gracco, R. Klapisch, T. Mouthuy,
F. Niebergall, G. Sauvage (Chairman), M. Werlen,
H. Zaccone.

Invited : J. de Groot, H. Reitz (item 4), C. Roche.

Apologies for absence : K. Bos, K. Eggert, A. Hallgren, E. Higon-Rodriguez,
P. Jenni, C. Kourkoumelis, E. Lillethun, H. Siebert.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Chairman said that he had received requests to add the following items to the agenda :

- stores plan
- EP pool changes
- library collection of publications
- restaurant opening hours.

It was agreed to add these to the agenda. As to the stores plan, Klapisch remarked that ACCU would at this meeting be informed of a study which could lead to a change of policy. He wished to have first preliminary reactions from the users, and stressed that no decisions had yet been taken.

With these additions and some reordering, the agenda was adopted.

2. Apologies for absence

These were as given above. The Chairman noted that still no nomination had been made for a representative from Portugal and for the second Italian representative.

The Chairman apologized for the late change of the date of the meeting which had contributed to the high number of absences.

3. Minutes of previous meeting (CERN/ACCU/25)

Blair said that, as he had been absent at the previous meeting, he could not judge whether the discussion on item 5 a) Restructuring of CERN had been correctly recorded. However there were several errors in the last sentence of the penultimate paragraph of the minutes on this item, and he proposed to suppress this sentence. It was so agreed.

With this modification the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 18 February, were approved.

spokesmen to ensure a complete preprint collection at CERN, possibly under the control of the secretaries of the experiments committees, and asked Albrow to communicate this view to Jacob.

c) Service contracts

Bartl said that a strike of crane drivers had it made impossible during some 10 days to install experimental equipment. Klapisch explained that these people are not members of the CERN personnel but employed by external firms which had service contracts with CERN. Finance Committee had insisted that such contracts were retendered regularly and this had happened now for the type of work Bartl was referring to. As a result a new contract had been offered to another firm, and CERN had asked the new company to take over staff from the previous one, if possible. This had happened but had led to a decrease of the social security cover of the people involved, which had been the reason for the strike. Blair remarked that the transport services were affected by the same contract. Fabjan supported by Bartl pointed out that from the point of view of users, CERN was not managing as well as it should, as there had been heavy disruptions in the work. He respected the difficulties of CERN management but pointed out that the problem was longstanding and that there was major concern that external people were doing jobs critical to the experiments, safety and experimental equipment being at risk. He wondered whether this had been made sufficiently clear to Finance Committee. Klapisch answered that this had been the case. He asked users to document in detail any inconveniences experienced and to communicate these to F. Ferger, ST Division Leader.

d) EP pool changes

Blair said that the financing of the EP electronics pool was under discussion. The pool contained at present items with a value of 64 MSF (purchase price), of which 11 MSF was on the shelves and the remainder on loan. Virtually all items had in the past been bought from the budget of EP Division which was no longer possible. Taking also into account the different way of funding LEP experiments, the discussions had led to some preliminary conclusions which he wished to communicate for comments :

- a list of standard instruments would remain. Such items would continue to be maintained via the pool, the cost being charged to the users
- instruments on the shelves would be available to all users, and a rental charge would be introduced
- a small (but not zero) rental charge would be applied for items already on loan.
- any new activities would be treated in the projectization framework, i.e. projects would need to contain cash for new pool items.

Blair invited members to contact Willis, the chairman of the Electronics Board, or Righini, the head of the EP electronics pool, if they wished to discuss this further.