



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
RESEARCH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate B : European Research Area: structural aspects
COST



COST Action 850 "Biocontrol Symbioses (Symbiotic Complexes for Biological Control Pests)"

Minutes 1st Management Committee Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, March 5-6, 2001

The meeting was attended by

Austria	Markus Riegler
Belgium	Jozef Coosemans
Czech Republic	Zdenek Mracek
Denmark	Holger Philipsen
France	Noel Boemare
Germany	Leo Eberl
	Ralf-Udo Ehlers
Hungary	Andras Fodor
Ireland	Ann Burnell
	Christine Griffin
Israel	Daniel Segal
Italy	Giovanna Curto
	Eustachio Tarasco
Norway	Solveig Haukeland Salinas
Poland	Marek Tomalak
Spain	Fernando Garcia del Pino
	Candido Santiago Alvarez
The Netherlands	Lonne Gerritsen
United Kingdom	Richard French-Constant
	Paul Richardson
COST	Roel Mulder

Apologies for absence: Moens (Belgium), Nielsen (Denmark), Rahbe (France), Budai (Hungary), Glazer (Israel), Triggiani (Italy, replaced by Tarasco)

1. Welcome to participants

Roel Mulder welcomed the participants to the 1st Management Committee Meeting of COST Action 850. He introduced himself and also mentioned that he would be the scientific secretary to this Action for the first 1.5 years of this Action.

This 1st MC meeting is the official start of the Action. He explained that part of the meeting has to focus on the more administrative side of a COST action and after the election of the chairman the more scientific part would be discussed.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted, with the addition that the request of the University of Bethlehem to be included as non-COST country co-operating institute will be discussed with any other business.

3. Brief introduction of the delegates

All delegates presented themselves and gave a short overview of their research interests.

4. General information on COST and possibilities for funding of activities

The relevant documents were discussed. In the annexes a short description is given of the funding possibilities, the necessary documents needed from the Action participants and the deadlines to be respected.

5. Status of COST Action 850

At present 15 countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain, The Netherlands, United Kingdom) have shown the intention to sign the memorandum of understanding. This is of importance as only experts from those countries who have signed the MoU can officially be re-imbursed by COST. In addition Short Time Scientific Missions cannot be given to experts from countries that have not signed. Laboratories and institutes in those countries cannot receive experts for this type of mission.

Within 12 months after the acceptance of the Action by the CSO (Oct 2000) other countries can join without official procedures. After that time the MC has officially to accept them during their meeting or by written procedure.

6. Agreement on the internal rules of procedure for COST Action 850 Management Committee and decision on secretariat

This document was discussed together with the "Rules and Procedures for Implementing COST Actions".

General remark: Decisions by the MC regarding meetings, workshops, subventions, Short Time Scientific Missions etc, should be clearly stated in the Minutes of the MC meeting.

Article 11: Only correspondence in relation to the organization of meetings, names and addresses of experts (MC and working groups) to participate will be sent to the COST Secretariat.

Participants agreed on the internal rules of procedure.

7. Election of chairperson and vice chairperson

Ann Burnell (Ireland) was elected unanimously chairman.

Three vice-chairmen were elected: Noel Boemare (France), Ralf-Udo Ehlers (Germany) (STSM) and Christine Griffin (Ireland) (minutes).

After this election Ann Burnell chaired the remainder of the meeting.

8. Working plan for the implementation of COST Action 850

Objectives and working programme: Ann Burnell outlined the objectives of the new Action, particularly the scope of each of the five working groups as presented in the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and invited comments and discussion. The scope of the working groups was agreed. The meeting felt that there was insufficient representation from the *Wolbachia* scientific community. Markus Riegler undertook to inform them of the new Action.

Election of working group leaders:

Working group 1: “Symbiosis biology”. Proposed convenor: David Clarke (United Kingdom). Others named: Nelson Simoes (Portugal has not yet shown the intention to sign), Yvan Rahbe (France) and Markus Riegler (Austria).

Working group 2: “Bioactive Molecules”. Proposed convenor: Richard ffrench-Constant (United Kingdom). Others named: Andras Fodor (Hungary), Mark Blight (France).

Working group 3: “Biotechnology”. Proposed convenor: Ralf Ehlers (Germany), Others named: Marek Tomalak (Czech Republic), Denis Wright (United Kingdom).

Working group 4: “Interactions with Field Biota”. Proposed convenor: Martin Downes (Ireland). Others named: Solveig Haukeland Salinas (Norway), Paul Richardson (United Kingdom).

Working group 5: “Socio-economics”. Proposed convenor: Giovanna Curto (Italy). Others named Holger Philipsen (Denmark), Itamar Glazer (Israel).

Roel Mulder asked to pay attention to an even distribution of convenors and other leaders over European countries, which is not reflected in the choices above. As additional countries may yet show the intention to sign the MoU of the Action it was agreed that leadership of the WGs would be reviewed in a year.

Liaison with other relevant bodies

- IOBC: Ralf Ehlers will liaise with the IOBC/wprs Working Group on Insect Pathogens and Insect Parasitic Nematodes;
- SIP: Itamar Glazer will liaise with SIP (Society for Invertebrate Pathology).
- Other COST Actions. Working group convenors will liaise with COST Actions relevant to the WG, as outlined in the draft MoU (Section J). It was noted that three of the MC members are also members of other COST action MCs, and could assist with liaison: Ralf Ehlers (Action 830); Candido Santiago (Action 842); Christine Griffin (Action E16).

Web site: Ann Burnell will be in charge of the web-site for COST 850. This web-site facilitates contacts with other scientists in the individual countries, and will be housed on the CORDIS website.

Recommendations related to the content of the COST Action 850 are welcomed and should be sent to Dr Burnell.

Promotional pamphlet: COST 850 will prepare a pamphlet to promote the Action. The MC agreed to ask the Commission to print this pamphlet. Ann Burnell will send a copy of the COST 819 pamphlet to WG convenors as a template, and request proposals for text and photographs which should be sent to Ann Burnell before March 30, 2001.

Short Time Scientific Missions. E-nema, Kiel, Germany (Ralf-Udo Ehlers) offered to be the contract holder for the STSMs. The applications should be sent to Ehlers, who will distribute them to two experts for evaluation. The decision on application for missions will be taken by the MC, and should be balanced between Working groups and countries. Missions should not start before the STSM contract with Brussels has been signed.

9. Next meetings

- There was a discussion on having meetings connected with larger conferences. Meetings can be held in all countries having signed the MoU and should clearly have a COST character, which means a separate and clearly identified COST activity. Meetings should not be held during conferences, but before or after.

It was decided to have the 2nd MC meeting together with the kick-off meeting for working group 2 in Wageningen, The Netherlands, August 30-31, 2001. Lonne Gerritsen, Danny Segal and Richard French Constant will organise. French Constant will prepare the scientific programme for the WG2 meeting.

A small group meeting for WG 5 (with WG 3) will be held in Kiel (Germany) May 26-27, 2001. Other plans to be discussed at the 2nd MC Meeting.

10. Any other business

- The UNESCO Biotechnology Educational and Training Center (BETCHEN) at the University of Bethlehem, Palestine, requested to become a non-COST country institute in this Action. The MC accepted as they could clearly see the benefits for the Action, as there also are clear benefits for the Palestinian researchers. Ann Burnell will write a letter to the COST secretariat to confirm the decision of the MC.

-The method of approving STSMs was briefly discussed. It was agreed that the decisions will be officially accepted during the MC meeting, rather than by e-mail. However, the method of evaluation and approval can be reviewed by the MC. The request to evaluate by written procedure an STSM already foreseen for July 2001 was not accepted.

11. Closing

Ann Burnell
Chairman

Roel Mulder
COST Secretariat

Christine Griffin
Vicechair