



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 of the 3rd Management Committee Meeting, Einsiedeln, Switzerland, (Part I January 10th, 2002)

The meeting was attended by the following: Drs. Nikola Atanasov (Bulgaria), Ann Burnell (Ireland), David Clarke (UK), Jef. Coosemans (Belgium) Giovanna Curto (Italy), Martin Downes (Ireland), Ralph-Udo Ehlers (Germany), András Fodor (Hungary), Lonne Gerritsen (Netherlands), Itamar Glazer (Israel), Fernando Gracia del Pino (Spain), Simon Grenier (France), Jürg Grunder (Switzerland), Solveig Haukeland Salinas (Norway), Bill Hominick (UK), Zdenek Mracek (Czech Republic), Roel Mulder (European Commission), Otto Nielsen (Denmark), Holger Philipsen (Denmark), Yvan Rahbé (France), Markus Riegler (Austria), Cándido Santiago-Alvarez (Spain), Henrik Soenksen (Denmark), Peter Smits (Netherlands), Nadarajah Sriskandarajah (Denmark), Olaf Strauch (Germany), Alper Susurluk (Germany), Agnieszka Sznyk-Basalyga (Poland), Marek Tomalak (Poland), Mike Wilson (UK), Dr. Hubert Winters (Netherlands).

1. Opening of meeting and introduction of delegates

The Management Committee (MC) meeting was opened by the Chairman of COST 850, Dr. Ann Burnell. In the absence of Dr. Christine Griffin, it was agreed that Dr. David Clarke would take the minutes of Part I of the meeting and that the minutes of Part II of the meeting would be taken by the chairman. All delegates introduced themselves briefly.

2. Approval of draft agenda

The draft agenda was revised with the addition of points 6 and 8 listed below. The revised draft agenda was unanimously approved.

3. Approval of the minutes of the 2nd Management Committee Meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the 2nd MC meeting held in Wageningen, Netherlands were unanimously approved.

4. Report from WG4 “Biotic Interactions” meeting in Copenhagen, DK

Dr. Solveig Haukeland Salinas reported that a 12-page report (drafted by Dr. Otto Nielsen) on this meeting would be available soon. Four areas of Interest/Future Work were identified from this meeting:

- a) Safety (use of exotic species)
- b) Persistence/survival in the soil
- c) EPNs: bringing science to practice
- d) Multitrophic interactions

Mention was also made of the production of an educational/information video on EPNs. Dr. Burnell suggested that, as funding for the production of this video would be a problem for any small group, it would be beneficial to all concerned if the COST 850 group could cooperate to achieve the making of this film.

5. Reports of the WG1, 2, 3, 5

WG1: Biological Symbioses

A draft Scientific Programme for the meeting in Crete (July 16-18, 2002) is being prepared.

WG2: Bioactive Molecules

Dr. Fodor reported on the WG2 symposium held at Wageningen on 31 August 2001. Dr. Fodor also reported on recent developments in Hungary with the use of *Photorhabdus* antibiotics in controlling *Erwinia* sp., the causative agent of fire blight in plants.

WG3: Biotechnology

Ralf-Udo Ehlers reported that there would be a meeting/workshop in Debrecen, Hungary (3rd-6th April, 2002). The goals of this meeting would be the taxonomic and morphological characterisation of the recently isolated long dauer juvenile types of EPN. The MC accepted the workshop proposal and agreed to apply for a subvention to cover organisational costs. The latter are justified as laboratory space and equipment has to be provided for this workshop, as well as the technical provisions that have to be available for the presentations.

Dr. Ehlers also reported that there would be a meeting in Poland on control of mushroom pests. This would involve a Polish research group and would be of interest to those people who are growing mushrooms. A major question to be considered at this meeting would be why is technology developed by the COST group not being used by relevant industries. The MC accepted this meeting proposal.

Dr. Ehlers also proposed another meeting dealing with weevil control in hazelnuts. A non-COST funded co-operative have already met for preliminary discussions and will be looking for COST funding for a meeting in April, 2002. The MC also approved this meeting proposal.

WG5: Socio-economics

Dr. Holger Philipsen suggested that as the meeting in Einsiedeln was under the auspices of WG5 there was little point in making a report yet.

6. Administrative aspects of COST

Dr. Roel Mulder pointed out that the 5th Framework would be finishing at the end of December, 2002 and, therefore, it might be difficult to get funding for meetings to be held between September, 2002 and March, 2003. It was not yet clear how COST actions will be administered during the 6th Framework. Dr. Mulder suggested that there might be several options, including the possibility that COST actions will get all their funding in advance to be administered by selected institute or other agency.

Dr. Mulder reported that the budget for COST 850 for the current year 2002 is €75,000 and since the average reimbursement figure of a COST delegate is €800 this means that COST 850 can reimburse not more than 100 delegates per annum. Dr. Mulder noted that not all delegates listed as participants in submissions to the Commission actually attend the meetings. He therefore, requested that delegates inform him in advance whether they would be attending meetings in future. Without this advance notification to the COST secretariat, delegates would not be reimbursed Dr. Mulder said. He also advised that his term of office in the COST secretariat would end in September 2002 (at the end of the 5th Framework). The chairman and MC expressed their gratitude to Dr. Mulder for all his help during this COST action and the previous COST action 819. It was agreed that further discussion on the allocation of delegates to the various proposed meetings be deferred until the MC resumed its meeting on Saturday 12 January.

7. Short term scientific missions (STSM)

Dr. Ehlers reported that there had been three applications for STSMs since the last MC meeting. These were 1) Markus Riegler, Institute of Forest Entomology, Vienna, Austria to visit the lab of Kostas Bourtzis in Crete, Greece; 2) Rivatel Bronstein, Tel Aviv University, Israel to visit the lab of Tina Trenshek in Germany and 3) Damien O'Halloran, NUI Maynooth, Ireland to visit the lab of John Jones in Dundee, Scotland. All of these applications have been assessed by two referees and had been highly rated. The MC agreed that they should be funded.

Dr. Ehlers also reported that there was funding for only one more STSM. The MC agreed to reapply to the EC for more funding for future STSMs.

8. Proposals for next meetings

There was some support from the MC that the next MC meeting should be held following the 4th International Congress of Nematology to be held in Tenerife from the 8th-13th June, 2002. However it was agreed that further discussion of this would be held over until the second part of the MC meeting (January 12th, 2002).

**Minutes of the 3rd Management Committee Meeting, Einsiedeln, Switzerland,
(Part II Meeting on January 12th, 2002).**

The meeting was attended by the following: Drs. Nikola Atanasov (Bulgaria), Ann Burnell (Ireland), Jef. Coosemans (Belgium), Giovanna Curto (Italy), Martin Downes (Ireland), Ralph-Udo Ehlers (Germany), András Fodor (Hungary), Lonne Gerritsen (Netherlands), Itamar Glazer (Israel), Fernando Gracia del Pino (Spain), Jürg Grunder (Switzerland), Solveig Haukeland Salinas (Norway), Bill Hominick (UK), Zdenek Mracek (Czech Republic), Roel Mulder (European Commission), Otto Nielsen (Denmark), Holger Philipsen (Denmark), Markus Riegler (Austria), Cándido Santiago-Alvarez (Spain), Henrik Soenksen (Denmark), Peter Smits (Netherlands), Nadarajah Sriskandarajah (Denmark), Olaf Strauch (Germany), Alper Susurluk (Germany), Agnieszka Szyk-Basalyga (Poland), Marek Tomalak (Poland), Mike Wilson (UK).

8. Proposals for next meetings

The following allocation of delegates was agreed: Debrezen (*Steinernema long* DJ nematode workshop) - 20 delegates; Crete (Workshop on *Wolbachia* and nematodes jointly organised by WG1 and WG2) - 30 delegates ; Poland (mushroom pests) - 3 delegates; Bordeaux (weevil control in hazelnuts) - 4 delegates; Maynooth (preparation of a COST 850 web site) - 4 delegates; Tenerife MC meeting + symposium on Biotic Interactions organised by WG4 - 40 delegates. Dr. Itamar Glazer informed the MC that it was planned to hold the 3rd International EPN Colloquium in Eilat Israel on 14-18 October 2002 (in succession to the previous colloquia which were held respectively in Asilomar and Hawaii). Participation in the Eilat meeting by members of COST 850 would be welcomed by the organisers.

9. Overview of Plenary Workshops *Challenges of Co-operation in Scientific Research - Building Partnerships with other Stakeholders*, held on 11 and 12 January.

The MC agreed that the Plenary Workshops were extremely productive in helping the members of the working groups

- gain an overview of the objectives of each of the five working groups
- refine the aims and short term and long term objectives of each working group
- identify common areas of interest between COST 850 and external stakeholders.

At the final plenary session members prioritised (by voting) the strategic actions to be undertaken by COST 850 in the coming year and three key activities were agreed as follows:

1. Dissemination of information by setting up a COST 850 website and newsletter. Dr. Bernard Blum agreed to investigate whether the members of the Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association might be willing to sponsor this website.
2. Establishing a culture collection database (to be co-ordinated by Dr. Bill Hominick)

3. Setting up national meetings between COST 850 and external stakeholders (farmers, biocontrol manufacturers and politicians). Dr. Giovanna Curto undertook to organise the first such meeting in Italy.

10. AOB

Dr. Burnell thanked the convenors and facilitators (Holger Philipsen, Nadarajah Sriskandarajah, Henrik Soenksen) for their part in guiding the members through the Plenary Sessions and in enabling the group to reach a consensus about the key strategic actions to be undertaken in the coming year. Dr. Burnell also thanked the local organiser Dr. Juerg Grunder for his excellent organisation of the meeting and for selecting a most appropriate venue and accommodation for the meeting.

11. Date of next MC Meeting

It was agreed that the next MC meeting would be held in association the symposium being organised by WG4 Biotic Interactions, Tenerife Spain on 14-15 June 2002.

**Dr. David Clarke,
Acting Minutes Secretary COST 850**

**Dr. Ann Burnell,
Chairman COST 850**

**Dr. Roel, Muldar,
Secretary Cost 850.**