



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



## **COST Action 850 “Biocontrol Symbiosis” (Symbiotic Complexes for Biological Control of Pests)**

Minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> Management Committee Meeting, Salzau Castle, Kiel Germany May 23-24, 2003.

The meeting was attended by the following:

Austria:	Dr. Herman STRASSER
Belgium:	Prof. Jozef COOSEMANS
Bulgaria:	Prof. Nikola ATANASOV
Czech Republic:	Dr Zdenek MRACEK
Denmark:	Dr Otto NIELSEN
Finland:	Prof. Heikki HOKKANEN
France:	Prof. Noel BOEMARE, Dr. Jean Francois CHARLES
Germany:	Dr Leo EBERL, Dr. Ralf-Udo EHLERS, Dr. Kerstin JUNG, Dr. Sebastian KIEWNICK
Ireland:	Prof. Ann BURNELL
Israel:	Dr Itamar GLAZER, Dr. Daniel SEGAL
Italy:	Dr Giovanna CURTO, Dr. Oreste TRIGGIANI
Norway:	Dr Solveig HAUKELAND SALINAS
Poland:	Dr Marek TOMALAK
Spain:	Dr Fernando GARCIA DEL PINO Dr. Ana MORTON
Switzerland:	Dr. Bernard BLUM, Dr. Jurg GRUNDER
The Netherlands:	Dr Lonne J.M. GERRITSEN
United Kingdom:	Prof Rolo PERRY, Dr. Michael WILSON,
European Commission:	Dr. Boutkje STOL

### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chairperson of COST 850, Dr. Ann Burnell.

### **2. Approval of the agenda**

The draft agenda was unanimously approved.

### **3. Approval of the minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> Management Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> MC meeting were approved.

#### **4. Overview of the Administrative Restructuring of the COST activity**

Dr. Boutkje Stol, the new COST secretary, reported on the organizational changes taking place in COST. COST actions will no longer be administered by the European Commission and a new agency the European Science Foundation has been proposed. Funding for COST activities will only be available after the contract with the proposed new agency (ESF). The following points were made:

- ESF has made a proposal to the EU (deadline 15<sup>th</sup> May 2003) to administer the COST programme
- The proposal is being evaluated by external experts
- The proposal will be on the agenda of the next Ministers Conference in Dubrovnic to be held next week and it will also be discussed at the COST CSO meeting
- If the proposal is accepted contract negotiations between COST and ESF will start in late summer 2003
- The COST secretariat will be based in Brussels as before
- With good luck COST may get a budget by the end of this year
- The present meeting was made possible with “leftover money” from the EU Fifth Framework Programme, there is still 12 000 Euro available for COST 850 this year.
- There are no funds for Short-Term Scientific Meetings this year.

#### **5. Election of new Chairperson of COST 850**

Ann Burnell the present COST 850 Chairperson called for the nominations for a new chairperson. Ann has done an excellent job in getting the present action started and running and has decided to step down. There were two nominations Ralf-Udo Ehlers and Itamar Glazer. A private vote was organized. The majority of votes were for Ralf Udo-Ehlers who was elected new chairperson of COST 850.

#### **6. COST Website and promotional leaflet (Brochure)**

Jurg Grunder and Bernard Blum reported that the website is almost ready and the website will be hosted by the Swiss Federal Research Station in Wädenswil. A meeting will be held after the MC meeting regarding the final procedures.

Solveig H. Salinas reported that the promotional leaflet (brochure) is ready, with few adjustments, and the MC decided to go ahead with printing as soon as possible. The brochure will also be put on the website.

#### **7. Reports of the working groups**

WG1 & WG2: Noel Boemare reported about the meeting in Crete (Greece) 6-7 July 2002 on *Wolbachia* and nematodes and symbiosis. Abstracts from the meeting will be in the annual report for COST 850.

WG3: Ralf Udo-Ehlers reported that there had been no activity since Tenerife last year. A book from the meeting in Hungary Debrecen April 2002 is being prepared for publication.

WG4: COST 850 & COST 842 will hold a joint working group meeting : “Safety and Risk Assessment” at Salzau Castle on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2003.

WG5: Proceedings of the meeting in Italy (see minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> MC meeting) are being prepared for publishing in Italy (in Italian) and in association with the Italian Society for Nematology.

### **8. Short Term Scientific Missions**

Ralf-Udo Ehlers reported: 7 STSM have been completed, reports have been sent to the COST 850 chairperson. There is no funding for STSM this year, and further missions will have to wait until 2004.

### **9. Dissemination of Information**

COST 850 has 12 000 Euro available this year which can be used for publications. A list in order of priority was made:

1. Annual report (100 copies) - Softback
2. "Quality control book" (3-500 copies) - Hardback
3. Promotional leaflet (Brochure) (5 – 10 000 copies)

We agreed to defer the publication of the Debrecen proceedings until the ESF funding or other sources become available.

### **10. Prolongation**

As much time was lost due to the reorganisation of COST and the contract negotiations with the ESF, a successful accomplishment of the objectives is not possible. Therefore, the MC decided to solicitate for a prolongation of COST Action 850.

### **11. Date of next MC Meeting**

The COST chairperson is authorized to hold small expert meetings this year out of the current budget for the development of the action under ESF.

### **12. Proposals for future WG meetings**

Meetings can be planned for next year, but no meetings were proposed at this time

### **13. Any other Business**

Discussions on the finalization of the website (Bernard Blum and Jurg Grunder) and Brochure (Solveig H. Salinas) will take place at a special meeting convened on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> May. A summary of this meeting is attached. Dr. Burnell thanked Dr. Boutkje Stol for facilitating the holding of this meeting.

09. June 2003

Solveig Haukeland Salinas

Dr. Boutkje Stol  
Secretary Ag-Biotech

Dr. Ralf-Udo Ehlers  
Chairperson COST 850