

FORMAL METHODS EUROPE

Minutes of 11th Meeting held at CAP Gemini headquarters, Paris on 16 February 1995

Present :
Angela Alapide
Goran Anger
Dominique Bolignano
Andrew Butterfield
Eric Delalonde
Tim Denvir
Gottfried Egger
John Fitzgerald
Josep Garrell
Marie-Claude Gaudel
Jan Friso Groote
Peter Larsen
Peter Lucas
Maurice Naftalin
John Nicholls
Daniel Noiret
Kees Pronk
Natalie Texter
Joan Viaplana
Jim Woodcock

Apologies: Miguel Bertran, Micheal Mac An Airchinnigh who was represented by Andrew Butterfield, Alejandro Moya, Nico Plat, Hans-Martin Hoercher, Jan Storbank Pedersen, Cliff Jones who was represented by John Fitzgerald, Manfred Broy

The meeting was kindly hosted by CAP Gemini.

1. Chair

Following the previous committee meeting at which Martyn Thomas's resignation from the chair of FME became effective, a nomination for the position of chair of FME was received from John Fitzgerald, seconded by Tim Denvir, for Professor Peter Lucas. A ballot was held by e-mail and post and Peter Lucas was unanimously elected. The committee gratefully welcomed Professor Peter Lucas as the new chair of FME. He therefore replaces Martyn Thomas as a signatory for cheques etc. of the FME bank account.

Action 10/1 KP

2. Minutes of 10th meeting

One correction was noted: Marie-Claude Gaudel is a member of IFIP WG 14.3, not its chair.

3. Matters arising

Action 9/4: Tim Denvir has approached the CEPIS secretariat who will discuss the question of FME being an associate member. Details of CEPIS associate membership were promised but had not yet arrived.

Action 9/5: this is superseded by item 6 below.

4. FME'94

The programme chair, Tim Denvir, reported that the symposium had been most successful technically, with invited and submitted papers of a high standard, nine tutorials and a well populated tools exhibition. The delegates had enjoyed the location of Barcelona and the Ramon Llull university and the organisers were thanked for their hospitality and hard work.

The organising committee, represented by Joan Viaplana and Josep Garrell, reported on the financial result of FME'94 (papers attached). After adjustments, there is a deficit of 2,992 ECUs.

It was agreed that the treasurer is authorised to reimburse the organisers with this sum, after due account is taken of the initial float, etc., subject to such funds not being available from the CEU. Peter Lucas would verify this from Alejandro Moya. Action 10/2 KP, P. Lucas

(It has since been ascertained that funds for potential losses have to be requested in advance, before the conference. It is not possible to obtain such funds retroactively, so the loss from the Barcelona conference cannot be recovered from the commission.)

5. FME '96

Jim Woodcock as organising chair of FME'96 presented a draft budget (attached). Praxis have kindly offered sponsorship in the form of mailing and duplicating of the Call for Papers and Call for Registrations.

It was agreed that the treasurer is authorised to supply a float of the same amount as for previous symposia to the organisers for underwriting the initial costs of the event. Action 10/3 KP

Marie-Claude Gaudel presented a draft Call for Papers (attached). Various suggestions were made on the issues of publicity, targeting the desired audience and choosing application domains.

6. Distribution of FACS Europe to FME members.

A communication had been received from John Cooke of FACS who is responsible for the distribution of FACS Europe. The most recent issue of FACS Europe had been distributed to members of the FME committee but not to all the FME members since, there being no chair until recently, the treasurer did not have authorisation to reimburse FACS with the distribution costs to the whole FME membership.

After some discussion it was agreed to communicate the following suggestion to FACS. The large FME "membership" list (about 600) should be regarded as a mailing list for information and publicity. A smaller list, expected to be more in the region of 100, can be the "real" FME membership. These will comprise those who are willing to pay a subscription for receiving the newsletter but will be supplemented by attendees at the FME symposia, i.e. there will be a year's free subscription to the newsletter as an added benefit of attending the symposium. FME would then reimburse FACS for these newsletter distributions to FME members.

However, FME would reimburse FACS for distributing the newsletter to the whole FME list for two further issues so that the members of the list can be offered the opportunity to subscribe.

It was also suggested that the distribution costs could be eliminated by placing the newsletter on the world wide web. Tim Denvir reported that the FACS committee were already considering how to move towards this.

Tim Denvir was asked to communicate these suggestions to the FACS committee. Action 10/4 TD

7. Dissemination activities.

Peter Lucas reported that Alejandro Moya wished to see more local seminars and such activities. A number of these are taking place but news of them may not be being brought to the attention of the Commission. It was agreed that a periodic report summarising the activities and successes of FME should be prepared and sent to Alejandro Moya. - Action 10/5: TD, KP & P. Lucas

8. Potential new Activities

Peter Larsen and John Fitzgerald suggested that funding could be found under the Framework IV "Best Practice" action for starting some dissemination activities such as Nico Plat's application database, the industrial seminars, production of surveys for industry use, making information available on the web etc.

Peter Lucas reported that Alejandro Moya had urged that FME should take advantage of the Framework IV and ESSI programmes: Best Practice, Trial Projects, Dissemination etc.

It was agreed that Peter Lucas could give approval on behalf of FME to project proposals at his discretion, so that then such project proposals can identify themselves as "FME approved" projects.

9. Martyn Thomas

The committee asked the chair to express its appreciation to Martyn Thomas for his efforts during his time as the previous chair of FME. Action 10/6 P. Lucas

10. Next meeting

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in Brussels at the CEU on 12 May 1995. Peter Lucas agreed to ask Alejandro Moya to arrange a room.

Bids are invited for hosting FME'97.

11. Other business

Goran Anger, the new FME representative from Sweden, reported that he and Joachim Parrow were in the process of starting a national formal methods interest group in Sweden. The committee wish him success in this endeavour.

Jan Friso Groote gave a presentation reporting on his recent experiences of applying formal methods.

After lunch the meeting were taken on a tour of the CNET exhibition and Natalie Texter gave a short presentation on the use of formal methods in the work which CAP Gemini are doing for CNET, using VERILOG for verification of protocols specified in ESTELLE and other activities.

Tim Denvir
secretary FME

21/2/95

Summary of Actions

Brought forward

9/4 seek associate membership of CEPIS for FME TD

New Actions

10/1 Arrange for change of signatories KP

10/2 Reimburse organisers of FME'94 KP, P. Lucas

10/3 Provide float to organisers of FME'96 KP

10/4 Communicate suggestions re FACS Europe distribution to FACS committee TD

10/5 Provide periodic report to CEU TD, KP & P. Lucas

10/6 Express committee's appreciation to Martyn Thomas P. Lucas