



**Formal Methods Europe  
Minutes of the 43<sup>rd</sup> meeting (Annual General Meeting)  
Held at the BCS, London, UK  
7 February 2007  
[www.fmeurope.org](http://www.fmeurope.org)**

*Present at the meeting were:*

- Bernhard Aichernig [TU Graz]
- Jos Baeten [TU Eindhoven]
- Juan Bicarrequi [Rutherford Appleton Laboratory]
- Tijn Borghuis [TU Eindhoven]
- Derek Andrews [independent consultant]
- Jonathan Bowen [London South Bank University]
- John Cooke [Loughborough University]
- Tim Denvir [independent consultant]
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman) [Newcastle University]
- Stefania Gnesi [ISTI]
- Cliff Jones [Newcastle University]
- Joey Coleman [Newcastle University]
- Peter Gorm Larsen [IHA]
- Dino Mandrioli [Politecnico di Milano]
- Nico Plat (Secretary) [West Consulting B.V.]
- Kees Pronk (Treasurer) [TU Delft]
- Marcel Verhoef [Chess B.V.]

*Apologies* had been received from: Paul Boca, Eerke Boiten, Alessandro Fantechi, Niklas Holsti, Randolph Johnson, Volkmar Lotz, Jan Storbank Pedersen, Bernhard Schätz, Bruce Watson and Yan Zhang.

#### **1 Welcome**

John Fitzgerald welcomed the members present. He thanked Paul Boca and the BCS for hosting and organising the meeting.

#### **2 Agree upon agenda**

The agenda was agreed upon.

#### **3 Minutes of the meeting held in Hamilton, Canada on 24 August 2006**

The minutes of the meeting were approved without modification.

#### **4 Action list**

*Action 39/8: José Oliveira to provide a plan for further activities of the FME Education Subgroup*  
No progress, action continues.

*Action 40/2: Bernhard Aichernig to further promote and provide structure for FME's Wiki*  
See agenda item 16, action continues.

*Action 40/3: Bernhard Aichernig to coordinate discussion on on-line publications by FME*  
See agenda item 16, action continues.

*Action 41/1: Juan Bicarregui to write a text on the motivation to use formal methods for software development*

No progress, action continues. Tim Denvir suggested to use the page "Formal Methods" -> "Choosing a Formal Method" on [www.fmeurope.org](http://www.fmeurope.org) as a source of inspiration.

*Action 41/6: FME Board to make a plan for the coming period*

Done, action closed.

*Action 41/8: Bernhard Aichernig to slim down FME's web site and move material related to formal methods to the Wiki*

Done, action closed.

*Action 41/9: Nico Plat to put forward a proposal to solve the current problems with FME's mailing lists*

Done, action closed.

*Action 42/1: Volkmar Lotz to discuss Industry Day 2008 theme and co-organiser from local industry with the Åbo team.*

Work well underway, action closed.

## **5 Financial report regarding the period 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2006**

Kees Pronk presented the financial report for 2006 (attached to the minutes). The financial position of FME is solid, although FME remains dependent on its income from the symposia. John Fitzgerald thanked Kees for his work as FME's Treasurer during 2006.

The meeting approved the Financial Report *nem con*.

## **6 Report by the Audit Committee**

The members of the audit committee (Derek Andrews and Judi Romijn) had individually checked the FME accounts and found no irregularities. The meeting discharged the Treasurer from his responsibilities during this period. John thanked the Treasurer and the audit committee for their work. Kees Pronk, who will step down as Treasurer, volunteered to serve as member of next year's Audit Committee. His nomination was approved *nem con*. Derek Andrews (as this was his first term as member of the Audit Committee) was asked to serve on this committee again in 2007, and he agreed to do so.

## **7 Sponsorships**

In 2006 FME sponsored the following events (costs for student attendance and invited speakers): VODCA, ICFEM 2006, SBFM 2006 and TFM'06. In addition, two small projects were funded (the "Initiatives Fund"): "JavaMondex" (P.H. Schmitt) and "Establishing EU Contacts" (P.G. Larsen). The membership agreed to continue FME's policy on sponsoring invited speakers for formal methods' related conferences and symposia, and also endorsed the Initiatives Fund in 2007 for € 10.000,- for one or two projects in total.

## **8 Account of activities during the past period**

John Fitzgerald presented the annual report of activities over 2006 (enclosed with the minutes). The members present accepted the report. John thanked all active FME members for their work.

## **9 Report on FM'06**

Stefania Gnesi reported that FM'06 had been a success. Out of 141 submitted papers 31 had been selected with a very good quality standard. It appeared that the papers accepted had a

slightly more theoretical character than had been the case in recent symposia. It was noted that there had been a large number of submissions from China. As expected, many participants had come from Canada. However, with the exception of I-Day, the symposium had not attracted as many US-based participants as might have been hoped. Nevertheless, overall there was a sense of global participation. The level of attendance at workshops and tutorials kept steady. Most members felt that it would certainly be worthwhile to organise the Symposium at a location outside Europe again.

Although the financial books cannot be closed yet in a formal sense, it is expected that there will be a small surplus of approximately € 2.500,-.

#### **10 Board member election**

In accordance with Article 10.5 of the FME Statutes, Kees Pronk (Treasurer) and Bernhard Aichernig stepped down as Board members of FME. Bernhard indicated his willingness to serve a further term. There were no other candidates to take his position so Bernhard was re-elected unopposed. Kees Pronk had already indicated prior to the meeting that he would step down as Treasurer. Marcel Verhoef, the only candidate to take his place, was elected as Treasurer *nem con*. Kees kindly agreed to remain in post during a hand-over period ending in the spring of 2007.

John reflected on the many years that Kees had been active for FME, the wisdom and probity that he had shown in post and the extent to which he had been trusted by successive boards and, indeed, Chairmen. As an expression of the association's gratitude Kees was presented with a gift and card signed by the members present. Kees thanked the members for their goodwill and wished the association success in the future.

*Action 43/1: Kees Pronk and Marcel Verhoef to change Board Member details for FME at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce*

#### **11 Budget for 2007**

Kees Pronk presented the budget proposal for 2007 (attached to the minutes). The association has a comfortable reserve. Kees and Marcel Verhoef also expressed their unhappiness with the quality of service offered by the bank that FME currently has. They will therefore investigate setting up a new bank account, with a different bank.

*Action 43/2: Kees Pronk and Marcel Verhoef to setup a new bank account for FME*

The meeting approved the budget proposal for 2007 *nem con*.

#### **12 Plans for the coming period**

John Fitzgerald presented the Policy Plan for 2007 (attached to the minutes). This was accepted by the meeting *nem con*.

#### **13 Status report on FM'08 and FM'09**

Stefania Gnesi reported on the progress of FM'08. Dates and place have been set (26-30 May 2008, Åbo Akademi University, Turku, Finland). A web site for the event has been created (<http://www.fm2008.abo.fi/>). The PC Chairs and OC have been established. A Call for Papers will be issued next month.

There was a lot of discussion regarding FM'09, given the fact that the ambition is to make this a "World Congress" on formal methods again, ten years after FM'99 in Toulouse, France. This idea is supported by the Steering Committee for FM Symposia.

An idea is to make this a "big" event by co-locating with other formal method related conferences, such as FLoC. The problem here is that we do not have my details regarding their timing, etc.

FM'99 did not co-locate but it was just very well organised, with a lot of effort put into sponsoring, publicity, workshops, tutorials, industrial participation and the tools exhibition. In addition it was organised at a location with a lot of industrial interest in formal methods (Toulouse); the "commercial flavour" is apparently very important to turn such an event into a success. Cliff Jones felt that, therefore, it should be held in the US. Also having a "Champion" (for FM'99 this was Dines Bjørner) is a relevant factor.

Jos Baeten expressed his interest for hosting FM'09 in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. TU Eindhoven has very good connections within the formal methods community and with local industry (e.g. Philips, ASML).

It was decided to issue a "Call for Proposals" to host FM'09, whether it be a World Conference on Formal Methods or just a "large event".

*Action 43/3: Stefania Gnesi to issue a Call for proposals to host and organise FM'09*

#### **14 ForTIA**

Marcel Verhoef presented the annual report of ForTIA's activities over 2006 (enclosed with the minutes). The members present accepted the report. John thanked all active ForTIA members for their work.

#### **15 FME Education Subgroup**

The FME Education Subgroup organised a workshop at FM'06 in Hamilton. Selected papers will be published as part of a special issue of FACJ.

The database with information on formal methods courses has been transferred to FME's wiki. Peter Gorm Larsen has provided help in doing this. A lot of material seems to be outdated however.

*Action 43/4: José Oliveira to provide information on the status of the Education Database including the quality of the information it contains*

#### **16 FME web site/Wiki/Electronic Publications**

Bernhard Aichernig presented the status of FME's website and the FME Wiki (which has been set up last year). The tools database which contains information on tools that support formal methods has been moved to the Wiki. It has to be reorganised and updated, however. Also, links from Wikipedia should be added to our Wiki,

*Action 43/5: Bernhard Aichernig to make links from Wikipedia to the FME website and FME Wiki*

Once again the idea of composing/publishing an annual report on the status of formal methods (including e.g. book reviews and conference summaries) was mentioned. Perhaps this can be funded as part of the Initiatives Fund. John was asked to prepare a concrete proposal.

*Action 43/6: John Fitzgerald to prepare a proposal for an annual report on the status of formal methods*

#### **17 EU Framework Programme 7**

Peter Gorm Larsen presented the work he had done (Initiatives Fund) on finding out the possibilities for FME involvement in FP7 (report attached to the minutes) and establishing relations to EU stakeholders. He thanked the Board for being given the opportunity to do this work.

Possible follow-up to the report was discussed. It is apparent that FME cannot act as an official partner in any project submitted because it has no employees. Employing individuals might additionally raise tax issues in The Netherlands. Of course, FME could use its network of members to seek parties to participate in a FP7 project or aid in other ways with preparing a proposal. Peter Gorm Larsen felt that the latter could better be left to individual FME members.

Another suggestion was to present information on projects on the FME web site or the Wiki. Peter and Juan Bicarrequi volunteered to coordinate the suggested follow-up.

*Action 43/7: Peter Gorm Larsen and Juan Bicarrequi to coordinate follow-up to the FP7 report*

It was decided not to make the report public but to keep it for the FME members. Cliff Jones suggested sending the report to FME's EU contacts though.

*Action 43/8: John Fitzgerald to send the FP7 report to FME's EU contacts, including Jean-Raymond Abrial*

#### **18 Date and place of the next meeting**

It was proposed to have the next meeting in Turku, roughly around May-June 2007. This will also make it possible to inspect the venue for FM'08.

*Action 43/9: Stefania Gnesi to ask the OC of FM'08 to host the next meeting in Turku*

#### **19 Other Business**

Derek Andrews reported that he had recovered a number of paper copies of the ISO standard for VDM-SL, in the form of a Technical Report from Leicester University. John Fitzgerald volunteered to scan the report and to make it electronically available.

*Action 43/10: John Fitzgerald to scan the ISO VDM-SL standard and make it available in electronic form*

## **Summary of actions**

Action 39/8: José Oliveira to provide a plan for further activities of the FME Education Subgroup

Action 40/2: Bernhard Aichernig to further promote and provide structure for FME's Wiki

Action 40/3: Bernhard Aichernig to coordinate discussion on on-line publications by FME

Action 41/1: Juan Bicarregui to write a text on the motivation to use formal methods for software development

Action 43/1: Kees Pronk and Marcel Verhoef to change Board Member details for FME at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce

Action 43/2: Kees Pronk and Marcel Verhoef to setup a new bank account for FME

Action 43/3: Stefania Gnesi to issue a Call for proposals to host and organise FM'09

Action 43/4: José Oliveira to provide information on the status of the Education Database including the quality of the information it contains

Action 43/5: Bernhard Aichernig to make links from Wikipedia to the FME website and FME Wiki

Action 43/6: John Fitzgerald to prepare a proposal for an annual report on the status of formal methods

Action 43/7: Peter Gorm Larsen and Juan Bicarregui to coordinate follow-up to the FP7 report

Action 43/8 John Fitzgerald to send the FP7 report to FME's EU contacts, including Jean-Raymond Abrial

Action 43/9: Stefania Gnesi to ask the OC of FM'08 to host the next meeting in Turku

Action 43/10: John Fitzgerald to scan the ISO VDM-SL standard and make it available in electronic form

**Enclosures**

- Financial report on 2006 and budget for 2007
- FME report on 2006
- FME Plans for 2007
- Annual report by ForTIA
- Report on FP7 possibilities by Peter Gorm Larsen