



**Formal Methods Europe  
Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting  
Held at CNR/ISTI, Pisa, Italy  
10 October 2008  
[www.fmeurope.org](http://www.fmeurope.org)**

*Present at the meeting were:*

- Bernhard Aichernig [TU Graz]
- Alessandro Fantechi [Università degli Studi di Firenze]; from the discussion on item 11
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman) [Newcastle University]
- Stefania Gnesi [ISTI]
- Dino Mandrioli [Politecnico di Milano]
- Mieke Massink [ISTI]; up until the discussion on item 5
- Angelo Morzenti [Politecnico di Milano]
- Nico Plat (Secretary) [West Consulting BV]
- Marcel Verhoef (Treasurer) [Chess BV]
- Erik de Vink [TU Eindhoven]

*Apologies* had been received from: Derek Andrews, Eerke Boiten, Raymond Boute, Joey Coleman, John Cooke, Tim Denvir, Tiina Haanila, Anthony Hall, Niklas Holsti, Cliff Jones, Peter Gorm Larsen, Lynn Marshall, Jan Storbak Pedersen, Kees Pronk, Eckehard Schnieder, Bruce Watson, Jan Wessels, Jim Woodcock, Daniel Zimmerman.

## **1 Welcome**

John Fitzgerald welcomed the members present. He thanked Stefania Gnesi for organising and hosting the meeting.

## **2 Agree upon agenda**

The agenda was agreed upon.

## **3 Minutes of the meeting held in Turku, Finland, on 29 May 2008**

The minutes of the meeting were approved. It was noted that Alessandro Fantechi's affiliation should be corrected to Università degli Studi di Firenze.

## **4 Action list**

*Action 44/12: John Fitzgerald to discuss with Jim Woodcock the pros and cons of having an FME award*

Done. A proposal has been formulated which will be discussed within the Board internally first. A proposal will then be presented and discussed by the members at the next FME meeting. Action closed.

*Action 48/1: Nico Plat to put "FME Awards" on the agenda for the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

*Action 45/2: Paul Boca to produce a memorandum of understanding on the collaboration between FME and BCS/FACS on organising a joint annual seminar*

Done. A non-binding statement to this effect has been formulated (attached to the minutes). It will be signed by Nico Plat as a representative of the FME Board. Action closed.

*Action 48/2: Nico Plat to sign the MoU with BCS/FACS.*

*Action 45/10: John Fitzgerald to get feedback from FME's members on the "small projects" approach that has been followed so far*

No progress, action continues.

*Action 46/2: Bernhard Aichernig to select a new CMS for FME's website*  
Done, see the discussion under agenda item 13. Action closed.

*Action 46/3: Bernhard Aichernig to negotiate Jan Klauck's possible role in FME's publications/web site*  
Obsolete, the communication with Jan Klauck has not led to any results. Action closed.

*Action 47/1: Nico Plat to put FME Awards on the agenda for the next meeting.*  
Done, action closed.

*Action 47/2: John Fitzgerald to remind Paul Boca on the MoU for producing a joint annual seminar by FME and BCS/FACS*  
Done, see also the discussion on action 45/2. Action closed.

*Action 47/3: Nico Plat to distribute the CfO for FM'11 via FME's events mailing list.*  
Done, action closed.

*Action 47/4: FME Board to propose a prize for SCORE*  
Done, see the discussion on agenda item 8. Action closed.

## **5 Symposia**

### *FM'08*

Tiina Haanila had intended to report in person at the meeting but, unfortunately, was unable to attend. However, her presentation (attached to the minutes) was sufficiently clear that members could discuss it during the meeting. It was clear that FM'08 had been a considerable success and the team at Åbo Akademi, as well as the Programme Committee, were warmly congratulated on their achievement. It was recognised that the organisation of FM'08 had presented a challenge both to FME and to the organising team. The Chairman undertook to ensure that the lessons learned in this, as in all symposia, are discussed with the organisers of the next event.

FM'08 had been a financial success, generating a surplus of approximately 2.000 Euro. Subject to the clarification of some minor points in the report, and once FME's share of the surplus have been transferred to FME's bank account the Treasurer was authorised to confirm to Åbo Akademi that all responsibilities for FM'08 have been discharged.

Marcel Verhoef suggested that FME Symposia should be evaluated on a consistent basis (e.g. reporting on submissions, accepted papers, etc.) in order to provide a basis for comparison. He was willing to make a proposal for such a standard evaluation.

*Action 48/3: Marcel Verhoef to propose standard evaluation guidelines for FME Symposia*

### *FM'09*

Erik de Vink reported on FM'09 (details and proposed budget are attached to the minutes). Things are running smoothly. Several FM-related events have indicated that they are willing to co-locate with the event. The PC is now complete and the CfP has been distributed widely.

Marcel Verhoef explained the budget structure. The break-even point in terms of number of attendees is relatively high, and Dino Mandrioli asked whether it would be wise to increase the attendance fee. It was decided that this would be left to the discretion of the OC. Consolidation of the budget (planned for next week) will mean that the contracts can be drawn up and signed.

The meeting congratulated the OC and PC Chairs for FM'09 on the considerable progress that has been made to date.

FM'11

Stefania Gnesi reported that she had received two (informal) responses, both positive and interested to host and organise FM'11. Stefania will redistribute the "Call for proposals" before the end of year to encourage more responses.

*Action 48/4: Stefania Gnesi to resubmit the CfO for FM'11 (by the end of 2008)*

## **6 FME bank account**

With a view to the current international financial situation, the Board has reappraised the state of FME's cash assets. We hold a (single) bank account with Fortis Bank in The Netherlands for ready cash, and have some of our assets in a fixed term savings bond. As a result of the recent difficulties the Dutch Government has found it necessary to take over the Dutch part of Fortis, and this part includes FME's account. This suggests that FME's funds are safe at present. Nevertheless, the Treasurer was asked to further analyse the situation and to bring up suggestions that would reduce the financial risks that FME has, e.g. by opening a second account with another (independent from Fortis) bank. It is currently unclear whether the compensation arrangements limiting the exposure of depositors with Dutch banks apply to associations as well. The Treasurer was asked to report on these two issues at the next meeting.

*Action 48/5: Marcel Verhoef to analyse possibilities for reducing FME's risk in the current financial climate.*

Marcel Verhoef announced that he plans to free up some of FME's funds from the bonds FME currently holds with Fortis, to improve association's liquidity in 2009.

## **7 FME's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

John Fitzgerald noted that 2008 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FME's existence as a legal entity<sup>1</sup>. It was decided that the event would be marked in several ways:

- The next FME meeting (the 2009 AGM) is planned to be held in conjunction with a BCS/FACS Evening Seminar. Appropriate attention to FME's anniversary will be given then.

*Action 48/6: John Fitzgerald to arrange appropriate attention for FME's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the next FME meeting to be held in conjunction with a BCS/FACS Seminar*

- One of the invited speakers at FM'09 will, if they and the PC Chairs agree, be designated as the FME 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary speaker. The Symposium Chair (Stefania Gnesi) was asked to coordinate this.

*Action 48/7: Stefania Gnesi to coordinate one of the invited speakers for FM'09 to be the FME 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary speaker*

- A special issue of FACJ would be an appropriate celebration. Such a special issue of the journal will take considerable time to produce. John Fitzgerald was asked to take up this path further, perhaps for a future FME celebration (e.g. 15th anniversary).

*Action 48/8: John Fitzgerald to coordinate a special FME Anniversary issue of FACJ.*

## **8 Sponsorships**

Marcel Verhoef presented the overview of sponsorships for this year so far (attached to the minutes). The Publicity Chair was asked to announce successful sponsorship applications and publish the outcomes of sponsored projects on FME's web site.

*Action 48/9: Bernhard Aichernig to publish outcomes of FME-sponsored projects on the web site*

FME's support of the SCORE competition at ICSE'09 was discussed. Dino Mandrioli reported on the state of SCORE, and suggested that FME award the student team making the best use of formal methods with travel costs up to 2.500 Euro for travel to ICSE in Vancouver next year. The

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<sup>1</sup>The Secretary noted that the activities of FME and those of its predecessor VDM Europe started over 20 years ago.

members present agreed upon this proposal.

## **9 FME Awards**

See also the discussion on action 44/12 under agenda item 4. The basic idea is to have one award for outstanding achievements in the field of formal methods, and a separate award for significant contribution to the formal methods community. Discussions on the details of both awards are ongoing, first within the FME Board. A proposal will be put forward at the next meeting.

## **10 Small Projects**

The status of the four small projects that have been awarded by FME this year was reported:

- Joe Kiniry & Dan Zimmerman ("JML Reloaded"). Difficulties exist with respect to the transfer of funds but these are of an administrative nature and will be dealt with by the Treasurer. The "specathons" that are supported by FME will take place in 2008 and 2009.
- Stefan Gruner. No report had been received.
- Peter Gorm Larsen et al. ("Tools Repository"). The project has been finished but the question now is how and where the repository can be hosted, and how it will be maintained. Bernhard Aichernig will investigate if this can be done at Minho University in Portugal.

*Action 48/10: Bernhard Aichernig to investigate the possibilities for hosting the tools repository at Minho University.*

- Angelo Morzenti ("Zot"). The project has been completed. A detailed report was presented at the meeting and will be placed on the FME web site

*Action 48/11: Bernhard Aichernig to put small project outcomes on the FME web site*

## **11 ForTIA**

It was noted by the meeting that, despite repeated requests for reports from ForTIA, no response has been received and it seems that this subgroup is currently inactive. Unless an acceptable report and plans are received before FME's AGM in 2009 the AGM will be invited to consider the discontinuation of ForTIA as an FME subgroup.

*Action 48/12: Marcel Verhoef to inform the ForTIA Board on the current views of FME on the existence of ForTIA*

## **12 Education Subgroup**

The Education SIG is preparing the first Call for Papers for the education conference that it plans to hold at FM'09. The email thread on this topic in the group will be resumed next week. The PC may be extended to include groups not previously involved (e.g. see the Japanese Centre for Global Research in Advanced Software Science and Engineering, part of the Japanese NII: <http://www.grace-center.jp/en/index.html>).

## **13 Web site/Wiki**

Bernhard Aichernig presented the pilot version of a new web site for FME that he recently developed using the content management system WordPress. Overall reactions by the members present were positive. Bernhard was asked to proceed with the migration of the old web site to the new web site.

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

FME's next meeting will be in London, UK, in February or March 2009. This will be the AGM for 2009.

**15 Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Summary of actions**

Action 45/10: John Fitzgerald to get feedback from FME's members on the "small projects" approach that has been followed so far

Action 48/1: Nico Plat to put "FME Awards" on the agenda for the 49<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Action 48/2: Nico Plat to sign the MoU with BCS/FACS.

Action 48/3: Marcel Verhoef to propose standard evaluation guidelines for FME Symposia

Action 48/4: Stefania Gnesi to resubmit the CfO for FM'11 (by the end of 2008)

Action 48/5: Marcel Verhoef to analyse possibilities for reducing FME's risk in the current financial climate.

Action 48/6: John Fitzgerald to arrange appropriate attention for FME's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the next FME meeting to be held in conjunction with a BCS/FACS Seminar

Action 48/7: Stefania Gnesi to coordinate one of the invited speakers for FM'09 to be the FME 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary speaker

Action 48/8: John Fitzgerald to coordinate a special FME Anniversary issue of FACJ.

Action 48/9: Bernhard Aichernig to publish outcomes of FME-sponsored projects on the web site

Action 48/10: Bernhard Aichernig to investigate the possibilities for hosting the tools repository at Minho University.

Action 48/11: Bernhard Aichernig to put small project outcomes on the FME web site

Action 48/12: Marcel Verhoef to inform the ForTIA Board on the current views of FME on the existence of ForTIA