Meeting of the Executive Committee

Travelex Business Centre
Heathrow Airport (Between Terminals 1 and 2)
Friday 12th October 2007

Participants: David Vernon, Bill Sharpe, Tom Ziemke, Fred Cummins, Joanna Bryson, Peter Ford Dominey, Markus Vincze.
Apologies: Jürgen Jost, Christoph von der Malsburg, Andreas Engel, Matthias Scheutz, Erik Hollnagel, Guy Tiberghien, Barbara Caputo.

The following is a summary of the main issues discussed at the third meeting of the Executive Committee.

Update on Focus Areas of Activity: Education & Training, Scientific Outlook, and Outreach.

In the follow up to the network meeting in January and the first few months of the past semester, Bill Sharpe devoted his time to advancing the *Scientific Outlook* area, specifically the research roadmap. Progress is summarized below under the heading of *The Learning Journey / Research Roadmap.*

In *Outreach*, Fred Cummins has continued to drive the enlargement of the cognition briefings on the wiki as well as the resources page on the website. Fred has also implanted in wikipedia many links to the euCognition website and wiki. The planned creation of a series of interviews with senior figures in the cognitive systems community has halted due to some misunderstandings about the funding of associated effort.

There hasn't been a great deal of progress in the *Education and Training* area over the past six months.

Role and responsibilities of Executive Committee & Change in people responsible for activities

It is clear that the original idea assigning responsibility for each of the three areas of Education, Outreach, and Scientific Outlook to members of the Executive Committee on a six-monthly rotation has not worked. Either the time has been too short to accomplish much or the rotation hasn't taken place. Whatever the reason, it was decided at the meeting that for the remaining year or so of the project, we would depend on the individual initiatives of the members of the members of the Executive on relevant topics rather than sticking with the original assignment of responsibility to areas.

Fourth Six-Monthly Meeting: 10 & 11 January 2007, Venice

This is well in hand and is setting up to be a successful event. Approximately 45 members have registered to date.

Fifth Six-Monthly Meeting

It was decided to devote this meeting to *Cognition and Language*. It will be held in the Munich Conference Centre at the end of June. Several potential speakers were identified and DV will now contact them to seek their participation.

Sixth and Final Six-Monthly Meeting

It was decided to devote this meeting to the big questions in artificial cognitive systems: where the discipline has come from and where it is going. Implicitly, we will seek to get views from different research cultures, e.g. in Japan, USA, and Europe. It will be held in December 2008 at the Palais des Congres in Cannes, if it is available, and the Nice Acropolis where the inaugural meeting was held, otherwise. Several potential speakers were identified and DV will now contact them to seek their participation.

Policy on official euCognition workshops

Early in the life of the project, the Executive Committee adopted a policy of supporting the travel costs of members to designated euCognition workshops. However, the policy has not often been implemented and, apart from the six-monthly meetings, only one workshop has so far been designated to be a qualifying meeting. It was decided that now would be an appropriate time to fully implement the policy in order to foster the maximum amount of interaction between members.

In future, any workshop or conference that receives support from euCognition may also apply to be designated an official euCognition event, provided it is open to participation by euCognition members. In turn, any member of euCognition may apply for reimbursement of travel costs to a designated meeting subject to the normal euCognition guidelines on reimbursement of costs and on condition that the person claiming the cost contributes a new cognition briefing to the euCognition wiki. The URL to the briefing must be provided on the submitted claim form and the claim will not be considered unless the cognition briefing has been contributed. Cognition briefings that have been contributed previously, i.e. prior to the designated workshop or conference, will not be eligible and a different briefing must be contributed for each claim. The member is free to choose the topic of the briefing.

Application for membership
Following extensive discussion of the application and supporting documentation, the members voted against the application by Peter Burton for membership.

The Learning Journey / Research Roadmap

As already noted, Bill Sharpe has led the effort in the *scientific outlook* area, specifically on the research roadmap. In this time, we agreed a shift in strategy, emphasizing less the development a full-blown roadmap and focusing more on a series of actions that support the evolution of the discipline through the sharing of viewpoints and increased interaction among the diverse set of stakeholders. This has been encapsulated in a shift from a roadmap to learning journey and it has resulted and

agreement by member of the Executive Committee to organize a series of workshop over the remaining period of the project (approx. 14 months). The provisional titles of these workshops are

1. Peter Ford Dominey: Extracting requirements on a cognitive architecture from research in human cognitive development
2. Jurgen Jost: Information - how fundamental is it to cognition?
3. Christoph von der Malsburg & Andreas Engel: Mechanisms of coordination in a cognitive system
4. Erik Hollnagel & Patrick Courtney: Applications, Requirements, Capabilities
5. Markus Vincze: Attention & Binding
6. Tom Ziemke: Embodiment (to be replaced by new topic)
7. Bill Sharpe: Cognition and Culture: the enactive approach

Key goals for next 12 months (final year)

o Six-monthly network meetings (David Vernon).
o 'Learning Journey' workshops (Various).
o Develop a short illustrated book and associated web resources targeted at a popular audience and young students in particular (Joanna Bryson).
o Provide open resources for education, perhaps including a course curriculum, focusing on making teaching material available on the web and (Joanna Bryson).
o Organize one or more summer schools (Andreas Engel?).

Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held to coincide the Cognitive Systems conference in Karlsruhe on Friday afternoon, 4th April 2008.

POST-MEETING MEETING NOTES!

Most of the attendees continued to discuss matters after the formal close of the meeting and agreed the following.

o That each invited speaker at the Network Meetings should be introduced by a different member of the Executive Committee.

o That we should kick-off each Network Meeting with a short thought-provoking statement by a member of the Executive under the heading "Consider the following …". Fred Cummins has agreed to make the statement at the Venice meeting. Volunteers are sought for the two remaining six-monthly meetings.