

Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Frankfurt Airport Conference Centre
Friday 13th January 2006**

NOTES

Participants: David Vernon, Fred Cummins, Markus Vincze, Tom Ziemke, Christoph von der Malsburg, Bill Sharpe, Juergen Jost, Peter F. Dominey, Matthias Scheutz, Eva Benova.

Apologies: Erik Hollnagel, Guy Tiberghien, Andreas Engel.

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

Membership Application Form

- Amend the 'criteria for membership' tabled at the meeting to include computer vision and/or computer science as additional examples.
- Add this text to the Application Form and the website.
- Also add a note to say that the applicant should express his or her interests in cognitive systems explicitly.
- Add a note to make it clear that negative assessment for membership is not a judgment on the quality of the applicant or his/her work but rather an assessment of the perceived match between his/her interests and those of the network.

Inaugural Meeting Agenda

- Include in the overview presentation an item on staff/student exchanges and visits:
 - to alert members to the possibility,
 - to emphasize that it is intended to promote linkages and collaboration that might not otherwise happen,
 - to explain the eligibility criteria and assessment process, and
 - to emphasize that the applicant must make clear the expected benefits.
- Re-schedule Day 2 to put operational procedures before the coffee break
- Re-schedule Day 2 so that all three areas (scientific outlook, outreach, and education) are addressed in each of the three parallel sessions, implying that nine rapporteur summaries will be presented in the feedback session.
- Note that the Commission will make a short presentation in the Welcome and Introduction session on Day 1.

Network Action to Support Participation of Ph.D. Students at the Inaugural Event

- Fred Cummins kindly agreed to write and submit a network action proposal to this effect.
- It will be advertised within a week and applications will be made using a form on the website.
- Fred Cummins will be responsible for making the selection of students to be supported, subject to the final approval of the Executive Committee.
- Successful applicants will be required to participate in a dedicated brainstorming session on Day 2 (before the morning coffee break); possible topics include: "How would you test whether a system is cognitive or not?" and "What are the most likely applications of cognitive systems?" In addition, they will be asked for

their views on what form of website they would find most useful, what features it should have (e.g. blog, wiki), and whether they would be willing to contribute content.

Website

- Re-work the home page: more graphics, less text, three key questions:
 - what is euCognition?
 - Why should you join?
 - Who is it for?
- To be implemented with a text pop-up text box when the cursor hovers over the question.
- Add linguistics to the areas relevant to cognitive systems on the home page.
- Introduce an input box to allow people to enter their favourite definition of cognition and cognitive systems
- euCognition Matrix of *Areas* and *Activities*
 - It was decided that the *Areas* dimension (underlying paradigms, scientific development, topical issues), which was intended to span the domain of cognitive systems, should be removed since it doesn't really help people in understanding the multi-faceted nature of the discipline. Several other possible characterizations of *Areas* were discussed and discarded as every decomposition asserts some value-system.
 - The website will now be navigated through menus on the basis of activities (scientific outlook, outreach, education) with events and resources sub-menus. Menu items will be added as they event and resource materials become available.
 - Background material (e.g. the euCognition Introductory Presentation) is also to be updated accordingly.

Email lists

- Two email lists will be set up in the new future, one for all members, and one for the Executive Committee.
- Both lists will be moderated by DV so that only approved emails will be forwarded to the relevant recipients.
- Regarding the Executive email, it was agreed that not every email on Executive business has to be sent via the mailing list. Direct communication between members is also acceptable. Executive members should decide for themselves whether to send an email to the entire Executive Committee.

Request for reimbursement of costs

- Add a note to make it clear that original receipts should be submitted in a form that makes photocopying easy (e.g by pasting them to an A4 sheet of paper).

First Six-Monthly Meeting

- This will be held on Monday, 3rd July.
- The venue either Milan or Vienna.