

**Formal Methods Europe
Minutes of the 23rd meeting
held at Industrilogik, Stockholm, 13 May 1999**

Present at the meeting were:

- Göran Anger
- Dines Bjørner
- Tim Denvir
- René Jacquart
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Peter Lucas (Chairman)
- Jose Oliveira
- Jan Storbak Pedersen
- Nico Plat (Secretary)
- Svetovar Serafimovski

Apologies had been received from John Fitzgerald, Kees Pronk and Jan Tretmans.

Peter Lucas thanked Göran Anger and Industrilogik for hosting and organising the meeting. After lunch two presentations were given: one by Göran Anger and one by Svetovar Serafimovski. Göran spoke about the company, its objectives and its philosophy. Svetovar gave a technical presentation on the formalisation of Council regulation (EEC) 3820/85 that applies to truck drivers. Their formalisation concerns the part on required rest periods. The material is documented in Technical Report L4-98/371 (Göran Anger may be asked for copies). Both presentations were very interesting and were much appreciated.

1 Agree upon agenda

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon.

2 Minutes of the meeting held in Berlin on 23 February 1999

The minutes were approved without modifications.

The status of outstanding actions was discussed:

- Action 20/9: Dines Bjørner has approached Ukraine groups in Novosibirsk and in Kiev but found no interest. Action closed.
- Action 21/3: Dines Bjørner has approached Andrew Butterfield on several occasions but got no response from him. Most likely FM'99 will not have "7 Magic Minutes" sessions. Action closed.
- Action 21/4: No progress. Action continues.
- Action 21/5: No progress. Action continues.
- Action 22/1: Tim had analysed the 5th framework and came to the conclusion that it was so large and diverse that it was very hard to come to hard conclusions on which kind of project would be suited and which kind would not. Tim proposed that we would approach this problem the other way around: given some FME supported project proposal, he would then see if this proposal fits the requirements of the 5th framework. Action closed.
- Action 22/2: See action 21/3. Action closed.
- Action 22/3: Done. Action closed.
- Action 22/4: Done. Action closed.
- Action 22/5: Done, but some minor adjustments were suggested by Tim Denvir (see agenda item 3). Action continues.
- Action 22/6: Done in the form of an e-mail sent to René Jacquart and the responses to this e-mail. See also the discussion under agenda item 4. Action closed.
- Action 22/7. None received: these suggestions should, by the way, be sent to René Jacquart not to Dines Bjørner. Action continues.

- Action 22/8: No progress. Action continues.
- Action 22/9: Some have done this (in particular: Peter Lucas). Action continues.
- Action 22/10: Done. Some potential members have reacted, others have not. The FME mailing list (now: fme@mailbase.ac.uk instead of fme-cte@mailbase.ac.uk) will be cleaned up. Action closed.
- Action 22/11: Nico had made an attempt to organise such a meeting right after this FME meeting but there had not been enough interest. Action continues.
- Action 22/12: No progress. Action continues.
- Action 22/13: Wolfgang Reisig had reported to Peter Lucas that in principle he would be willing to organise FME'2001 under the following conditions:
 - There would be no financial commitment from either he or his organisation
 - There would be no more than 150 participants
 - He would be free in determining the time of the conference (within limits)
 These conditions were considered to be too strict and Wolfgang's statement was interpreted as a gentle "no". Peter Lucas will inform Wolfgang Reisig.

Action 23/1: Peter Lucas

- Action 22/14: In retrospect this should be considered as an on-going activity for the chairman: Peter Lucas. Action closed.
- Action 22/15: Dines Bjørner had contacted Alex Poigné and apparently FemSYS is very uncertain what the situation will be like for themselves in 2001. The action was, therefore, considered to be closed.

3 Financial report by the treasurer

Kees Pronk had sent in a written financial report prior to the meeting, reflecting FME's financial situation w.r.t. the previous meeting. The report shows an analysis of FME's required income, given the amount of money spent on travel reimbursements. The report was accepted and the concern implied (i.e. that FME needs a certain income to cover for the travel reimbursements) was noted. Kees had also sent in a new proposal for a travel reimbursement policy (see action 22/5), which was generally accepted. Tim Denvir showed some concern w.r.t. the strict application of the rules: he had managed to get a cheap flight to Stockholm which left, however, very early so that he had to take a taxi (which is not reimbursed). This was considered a bit unfair, given Tim's apparent effort to save FME some money. It was proposed that Tim would formulate a change proposal to accommodate such situations.

Action 23/2: Tim Denvir

4 FM'99

Dines Bjørner reported quite extensively on the state of affairs with respect to the organisation of FM'99. Some highlights: 92 very good papers from 20 countries were accepted in total, which means that the proceedings will consist of two volumes. 26 Papers were selected for poster sessions. Including user group sessions etc. there will be 9 parallel tracks at some points during the conference! Some user group sessions are candidates for cancellation because there has been no response from the organisers so far (Petri Nets, Coq). The Call for Papers will be a poster, not a glossy brochure. Deadline is end of May. René Jacquart has suggested two more industry tutorials: one on requirements engineering and one on testing.

René Jacquart clarified the budget of 5 May, which has been circulated amongst the members already. The budget is based on 350 participants (which seems rather safe at the moment) and on maximised costs. The PC costs were higher than expected because abstracts of all papers were copied, bundled and sent to all PC members by fully paid staff, which turned out quite expensive.

The fees for participation have been increased to 1500 FF (approximately 230 EURO) for students, to 4200 FF (approximately 640 EURO) for early registrations and to 4800 FF (approximately 735 EURO) for late registrations. All fees include VAT and other taxes. There will be no discounts for FME members. Group discounts will be possible (e.g. Prover Technologies

intends to bring the entire company to the conference!), to be decided upon at the discretion of René Jacquart.

It was decided to give invited speakers a per diem grant and to book air tickets and hotel accommodation for them, so that greater control over the total costs can be achieved.

It was decided to order 500 copies of the proceedings from Springer. Dines informed the meeting that superfluous copies (in case the conference had less than 500 participants) could probably be returned to Springer.

René's report on the budget was accepted.

Nico Plat reported on the progress in the organisation of The Exhibition. So far, 12 different organisations have actually registered for the event, most of which are from academia. A number of organisations are known to be very positive w.r.t. participation. Nevertheless, the number of registrations is below expectation although it was noted again that the pricing policy is far from excessive (e.g. at the DASIA conference a fee of 3500 EURO must be paid for 3 days!). Nico proposed that organisations that had indicated that the cost of participation was too high would be offered the possibility to share a stand with others (i.e. to use the complete stand but only for one or two days instead of the full five) for a proportion of the price. This proposal was accepted. In addition, all exhibitors will have access to a few small rooms (shared) which they can use for meetings, formal presentations, etc. Nico presented an overview of all possible candidates (120 in total) for participation, including a status overview and white spots. All members were asked to study the overview at the meeting and give their suggestions for contact names, etc.

The meeting agreed to proceed with the organisation of FM'99, in accordance with clause 9 of the contract with Onera.

5 FMERail

This FME meeting was held in conjunction with the 4th FMERail workshop. Peter Gorm Larsen reported on the progress of the FMERail project. The first workshop was held in Breukelen, The Netherlands on 8 and 9 June 1998. The second workshop was held in London and had attracted 65 attendees, mainly academics from the UK. The 3rd workshop was held in St. Poelten (Austria). The 4th workshop was held in Stockholm right before the meeting and had attracted 65 attendees, many of which were from industry and many of which were 'local' (i.e. from Sweden). The 5th workshop will be held in Toulouse, France, during FM'99.

6 FME industrial activities

As is often the feeling by FME members: most time and energy of the members and most time at meetings is devoted to the FME symposium, in this case: FM'99. Göran Anger noticed that in this respect there is tension between the aims of FME as written down in the statutes and its actual activities: these activities should be more targeted towards industry. Dines Bjørner suggested that FME looks for industry inspired, project oriented activities and that three members would be asked to give three (different) presentations on FME's future. Göran suggested that FME could be effective in the area of providing help to standardisation bodies in IT areas (see also Svetovar's presentation). It was decided that the entire topic should get more attention at our next meeting and perhaps also through e-mail discussions.

7 Membership issues

FME currently has 38 members. An overview, including a brief analysis of member's background and geographic location, was circulated during the meeting.

9 Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held during FM'99, 20-24 September 1999 in Toulouse, France. Exact date, time and place to be decided upon.

10 Other business

There was no other business.

Summary of actions

Action 21/5: Andrew Butterfield to set up the FME Internet web site.

Action 22/5: Kees Pronk to adjust FME reimbursement policy according to comments made at the 22nd meeting.

Action 22/7: All: send suggestions for appropriate mailing lists to send the FM'99 call for participation to René Jacquart.

Action 22/8: Nico Plat to bring the matter of the outdated FME web site to the attention of Míchéal Mac An Airchinnigh.

Action 22/9: All: select and approach potential new FME members.

Action 22/11: Nico Plat to organise the next FME industrial subgroup meeting.

Action 22/12: Peter Lucas to seek members for the FME conference subgroup (to be formed).

Action 23/1: Peter Lucas to inform Wolfgang Reisig that his offer to organise FME'2001 was rejected.

Action 23/2: Tim Denvir to formulate proposed adjustments to the FME travel reimbursement policy.