

**Formal Methods Europe  
Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting  
held at Copenhagen University, Copenhagen, Denmark, 25 July 2002**

Present at the meeting were:

- Bernhard Aichernig
- Bernhard Beckert
- Dines Bjørner
- Robin Bloomfield
- Tomasso Bolognesi
- Ana Cavalcanti
- Kai Engelhardt
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson
- Alessandro Fantechi
- Manuel J. Fernandez-Iglesias
- John Fitzgerald (Chairman)
- Stefania Gnesi
- Holger Hermanns
- Randolph Johnson
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Yves Ledru
- Peter Lindsay
- Paul Mukherjee
- Stephen Paynter
- Jan Storbak Pedersen
- Nico Plat (Secretary)
- Steffen Schlager
- Peter H. Schmitt
- Jin Song Dong
- Jim Woodcock

Apologies had been received from: Derek Andrews, Eerke Boiten, Raymond Boute, Jonathan Bowen, Michel Chaudron, Stefan Gruner, René Jacquart, Steve King, José Oliveira, Michael Mac an Airchinnigh, Dino Mandrioli, Lynn Marshall, Andrew Martin, Dominique Mery, Markus Montigel, Kees Pronk (Treasurer), Wolfgang Reisig, Jan Tretmans, Marcel Verhoef.

**1 Welcome**

John Fitzgerald welcomed all those present at the meeting.

**2 Agree upon agenda**

The agenda distributed at the meeting was agreed upon.

**3 Minutes of the meeting held in London on 31 October 2001**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without modifications.

**4 Action list**

Action 25/7: Done, action closed.

Action 28/5: Started, action continues.

Action 28/8: Done, action closed.

Action 28/9: There seems to be little interest in this action, closed.

Action 28/10: No progress, action continues.

Action 29/3: No progress, action continues.

Action 29/5: No progress, action continues.

Action 29/6: Superseded by events, action closed.

Action 29/7: This issue has been addressed and was resolved in a satisfactory way for all parties involved. Action closed.

Action 29/8: No progress, action continues.

Action 29/9: No progress, action continues.

Action 29/10: Done, action closed.

Action 29/14: Done, action closed.

Action 29/15: This action has become obsolete, closed.

Action 29/16: This action has become obsolete, closed.

Action 29/18: Done, Manuel Fernández Iglesias has agreed to become FME EU watcher for funding possibilities. Action closed.

Action 30/1: Done, action closed.

Action 30/2: Superseded by events, action closed.

Action 30/3: No progress, action continues.

Action 30/4: Superseded by events, action closed.

Action 30/5: Superseded by events, action closed.

Action 30/6: Done, action closed.

Action 30/7: Done, action closed.

Action 30/8: Done, action closed.

Action 30/9: Done, action closed.

Action 30/10: Status unknown, action continues.

Action 30/11: Done, action closed.

Action 30/12: Done, action closed.

Action 30/13: Done. As of now, FME members can subscribe to FACJ at a reduced rate of about EUR 60 per year. Action closed.

Action 30/14: This was done but Stefan was not present at the meeting and not enough people were aware of the proposal to give at sufficient attention at this meeting. It was decided to include Stefan's publication proposal as a separate item on the agenda for the next meeting. Action closed.

Action 30/15: No progress, action continues.

## **5 Report on FME 2002**

Dines Bjørner (OC chairman) reported briefly on the event which ended just prior to this meeting. There had been 126 registrations. The tutorial on Business Process Modelling had been cancelled due to lack of interest. Due to decisionlessness in the FloC leadership FME had been left hanging a bit in the preparation, but the event itself went without any problems. Dines had also felt that the fact that participants could mingle with participants of the other conferences had been very positive. The success of the tools exhibition had been limited due to the low number of participants and a number of "no shows". The number of non-European participants, especially from Japan and the USA, had increased significantly. This led Dines to suggest that perhaps the name of the symposium should be changed from FME (Europe) to FMI (International).

Lars-Henrik Eriksson (one of the PC chairmen) reported that 31 papers had been accepted from a total of 95 submitted papers (an improvement with respect to the number of submitted papers to FME 2001 in Berlin). Only approximately 25% of these had a mainly industrial character.

## **6 Status report on FME 2003**

Stefania Gnesi and Alessandro Fantechi reported on the state of affairs w.r.t. FME 2003 in Pisa. All rooms have now been reserved for the symposium and an application has been made for a grant by the EU. Acquisition of sponsors has not yet been started but this will happen soon. All dates for the publication of the call for papers etc. have been set. ESEC/FSE will be held the week before FME 2003, perhaps a link can be established. The budget has been prepared taking all the comments previously made into account, the budget will be discussed with Kees Pronk.

John Fitzgerald suggested that the decision to possibly rename FME 2003 into FMI 2003 be left to the OC and PC of the Pisa Symposium.

## **7 FME and ETAPS/FASE**

John Fitzgerald reported that the FME board had been approached by Jose Luiz Fiadeiro, Chairman of the ETAPS steering committee and closely involved with the organisation of the FASE conference, this year to be held in Warsaw. Jose had noticed that the success of FASE (focussing on the less formal side of formal methods, including UML) had decreased over the years and that perhaps this had something to do with a lack of focus and a well-defined target audience. Therefore, as a personal opinion, he had given some thought to the possibility of a fusion between FASE and the FME Symposium, and he was interested to know how FME would look upon an idea like that.

The idea was briefly discussed during the meeting. Although the general feeling was that some form of cooperation with FASE was possible (e.g. co-location) the idea of a complete fusion with FASE was not greeted with enthusiasm. Some members remarked for example that FME is a healthy and well-respected conference that values its independence of action; a close fusion with the ETAPS conferences could be a severe limitation of the flexibility we currently have. John Fitzgerald was asked to report this back to Jose

*Action 31/1: John Fitzgerald to report back to Jose Luiz Fiadeiro on the issue of a fusion between FME and FASE.*

## **8 Subgroups**

The FME subgroups have undertaken very little action in the last year. John Fitzgerald suggested, therefore, to change the mode of working a bit. He proposed to centre the meetings of FME around a theme for each of the subgroups and turn them into working meetings or workshops, if you like. Each meeting could then be composed of a half day business meeting such as this one and a one and a half day focussing on a theme proposed by one of the subgroups. This idea was greeted with enthusiasm. John had prepared a schedule and this was agreed upon:

- September 2002: Board Meeting, Delft
- October 2002: Pisa. Annual General Meeting
- March 2003: Meeting on Education and Training
- June 2003: Meeting on Marketing
- September 2003: Business Meeting, Pisa

With respect to the convenors of the subgroups: Andrew Martin had said he would like to step down as convenor of the subgroup on Education, José Oliveira had been found willing to take his place.

John Fitzgerald reported that Cliff Jones was willing to devote more time to FME in future. Possible roles were discussed and John agreed to take these up with Cliff.

*Action 31/2: John Fitzgerald to discuss future roles with Cliff Jones..*

## **9 FME web site**

Nico Plat reported that students of Raymond Boute had redesigned the FME web site, also increasing its maintainability. In Nico's opinion Raymond's students had done a very good job, and most of the members present agreed with him. Nico had received some comments which will be passed on or will be dealt with by Nico himself.

Stefan Gruner had suggested to announce the "live" date of the site would be announced in advance so that sufficient publicity could be given to it.

On the technical side, Lars-Henrik Eriksson suggested that TidyHTML be used to check the validity of the HTML used.

## **10 Auditing Committee**

Volunteers were asked to step forward to participate in the Auditing Committee that will report on the correctness of FME's book keeping at the upcoming AGM (Annual General Meeting). Jan

Storbank Pedersen volunteered at the meeting, another committee member will be sought by Nico Plat.

*Action 31/3: Nico Plat to seek another member for the Auditing Committee.*

**11 Date and place of next meetings**

The next meeting will be in October 2002 in Pisa.

*Action 31/4: Nico Plat to set a date for the meeting in Pisa.*

**12 Other business**

John Fitzgerald mentioned that Professor Keijiro Araki is in the process of establishing a formal methods association in Japan. John suggested a link be established with this group.

## **Summary of actions**

Action 28/5: John Fitzgerald to coordinate the production of a document on “Best practices while organising a FME symposium”.

Action 28/10: (Convenors of the) FME subgroups to formulate a plan for the coming year.

Action 29/3: John Fitzgerald to inform FME members on the purpose of the subgroups.

Action 29/5: Kees Pronk to make a financial planning for FME for next year.

Action 29/8: John Fitzgerald to include Michael Goldsmith’s remarks in the guidelines document on organising a FME symposium.

Action 29/9: Marcel Verhoef to set up a web-based survey for FME symposium attendees in the past.

Action 30/3: The FME Board to revise the policy plan for 2002.

Action 30/10: Eerke Boiten to inform Marcel Verhoef on software for analysing web-based surveys.

Action 30/15: Nico Plat to find a volunteer to set up a web page with FME members and associated skills.

Action 31/1: John Fitzgerald to report back to Jose Luiz Fiadeiro on the issue of a fusion between FME and FASE.

Action 31/2: John Fitzgerald to discuss future roles with Cliff Jones.

Action 31/3: Nico Plat to seek another member for the Auditing Committee.

Action 31/4: Nico Plat to set a date for the meeting in Pisa.

**Members of the Subgroup on Education:**

- Dines Bjørner
- Eerke Boiten
- Raymond Boute
- Andrew Butterfield
- John Fitzgerald
- Randolph Johnson
- Steve King
- Peter Lucas
- Michael Mac an Airchinnigh
- Dino Mandrioli
- Andrew Martin
- José Oliveira (Convenor)
- Kees Pronk
- Wolfgang Reisg

**Members of the Subgroup on Marketing:**

- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Marcel Verhoef (Convenor)

**Members of the Subgroup on Scope:**

- Dines Bjørner
- John Fitzgerald
- René Jacquart
- Cliff Jones
- Peter Gorm Larsen
- Peter Lucas
- José Oliveira

**Members of the subgroup on the FME symposium:**

- Dines Bjørner
- Lars-Henrik Eriksson
- John Fitzgerald
- Michael Goldsmith
- Stefania Gnesi (Convenor)
- Peter Lindsay
- Paul Mukherjee
- José Oliveira
- Nico Plat
- Kees Pronk
- Wolfgang Reisig