

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 January 1991 in Brussels

<u>Present:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
	Tim Denvir	DTI
	John Dawes	ICL
	Susan Thomas	DEC
	Cliff Jones	Manchester University
	Kees Middelburg	PTT Research
	Kees Pronk	Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands
	Soren Prehn	CRI A/S
	Dines Bjoerner	Techn. Univ. of Denmark
	Jim Woodcock	Oxford University
	A Moya	CEC
	Michael Macan	Airchinnigh
	Maurice Naftalin	Generics & Trinity College Dublin
	Jen Cheng	Stirling University
	Lodewegh Bos	Adelard
	Karl-Heinz Buth	MC-Consultancy
	Hans-Martin Horcher	Chr.-Albrechts-Univ. Kiel
	Hans Toetenel	P-Systems, Kiel
	Nico Plat	Delft University of Technology
	Jimmi S Pettersson	Delft University of Technology
		TFL

Apologies for absence were received from H. Langmaack and D. Andrews.

1. Esprit liason officer

Karel de Vriendt introduced Alexander Moya who is taking over from him as liason officer for VDM Europe.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Soren Prehn added two items to the agenda, namely VDM 91 and VDM Europe future and election of officers.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

These were adopted subject to the following addition: in Section Eight Paragraph Four, add "and referees".

4. For VDM 91

Hans Toetenel reported on this. The programme has been determined and invited speakers have been invited. The details are as in a Call for Papers and Preliminary Programme, a copy of which is attached to the minutes. The conference venue is self contained and includes accommodation. The conference fee will be 1175 Dfl.

Soren Prehn talked about the tutorials. These would be divided into two, introductory and advanced. The conference will start with the invited talks and finish with a closing panel. Tools exhibitors may be required to give a presentation with an abstract in advance to be sent to the programme committee. This will not be as rigorously refereed as the other papers.

Lodeweg Bos said that sponsors were being sought. He asked for names and addresses to be given to him for soliciting sponsorship. His address is on the programme details but the house number is 38 and not 30, please note.

Soren Prehn described the theme of the conference. There will be two parallel tracks. These will consist of papers with a strong theoretical content and project reports. However, this plan depends on the papers received. They plan to have spaces in the programme to allow interaction between delegates. He confirmed that there would be an opportunity for displaying technical posters. Jim Woodcock suggested that there should be a time for educators to meet to discuss educational issues.

5. VDM Europe Planning

It is planned to broaden the scope of the group to cover formal methods in more general terms. A draft charter was distributed and is attached to these minutes. The new group would start with model oriented specification languages and plan to widen its scope later. A different structure is proposed. Formal Methods Europe would be more of an umbrella organisation with bodies underneath it in control of various activities. Some of these would be permanent, others temporary. For example, a body for the production of a newsletter, technical events, formal methods symposia every eighteen months, and perhaps other activities, standards etc.

The full membership of Formal Methods Europe which is expected to be thirty or forty people will meet once a year. It will have a Board of Governors which may meet more often, for example after a technical meeting.

There followed a considerable discussion about the means of operation and the various purposes of Formal Methods Europe. Some of this discussion is summarised here.

The Board of Governors includes three officers that may co-opt others.

Alexander Moya suggested that membership of Formal Methods Europe should be widened to include potential as well as actual users of formal methods.

Dines Bjoerner proposed that Formal Methods Europe has as a technical goal the mathematical foundations of software engineering, to be achieved by means of education, for example.

The question was asked what the commission will do with the advice resulting from Formal Methods Europe. Dines Bjoerner proposed that a clause should be added to Paragraph One of the Charter. Also the words "at least" should be added to Section Two.

Members of Formal Methods Europe would be individuals who show interest in formal methods, rather than organisations. However the possible benefits of Corporate membership will be considered. We would probably wait until the first such application for this.

The mechanism for introducing new members was discussed. In principle the Board of Governors will consult the members regarding applications for new membership.

Cliff Jones recommended generalising Section Twelve to include liason with organisations active in formal methods such as EATCS.

John Dawes proposed that software development in the title should be "Systems Development".

Other possible activities of Formal Methods Europe were discussed. These included establishing a catalogue of formal methods, a register of consultants, advising the commission on projects to carry out such activities etc. No decisions were made on these.

The means of initiating Formal Methods Europe was discussed. The scope and definition of "formal methods" needs to be defined. It was decided that five or more people would be given the task of refining the draft charter and initiating Formal Methods Europe.

6. Election of Officers

The following new officers of VDM Europe were nominated and elected without opposition.

Chairman: Dines Bjoerner
Secretary: Tim Denvir
Treasurer: Kees Pronk.

The treasurer's office will continue until the accounts for VDM 91 are closed. The terms of office of the new VDM Europe offices will end on the last VDM Europe meeting which will coincide with the founding meeting of Formal Methods Europe. The founding meeting of Formal Methods Europe will consist of VDM Europe members and other interested parties.

7. Technical Presentations

Three technical presentations were given. These were:

BSI-VDM Report - John Dawes
Static Semantics Meeting Review - Cliff Jones
VDM Abstract Syntax - Nico Plat

Details of these are given in appendixes to these minutes.

Following the three presentations all associated with BSI-VDM, there was a discussion on what role this committee should play in the VDM standardisation. An ISO meeting was to be held on 17 April. Cliff Jones recommended that the new Formal Methods Europe body should retain an interest in the BSI-VDM but not necessarily via a working group.

8. Next and Final Meeting of VDM Europe

Dines Bjoerner suggested that the last meeting of VDM Europe should be an example of the first technical day of Formal Methods Europe. The subject could be a review of the work of the VDM Standardisation Panel.

Alexander Moya agreed that the commission would fund a meeting to agree the work of dynamic and static semantics and standard. It would fund some five key people subject to a written proposal, but also subject to advice from the chairman of the BSI panel, Derek Andrews. This meeting would be held possibly on 18 April immediately following the ISO meeting. Its membership would be restricted to specific individuals. Dines Bjoerner will convene the meeting. The members proposed are: Bo Stig Hansen, Hans Bruun, Peter Gorm Larsen, Nico Plat, Graeme Parkin, Kees Middelburg.

An ad hoc working group was set up to finalise the draft proposal for Formal Methods Europe. This consisted of Dines Bjoerner, Soren Prehn, Jim Woodcock, Susan Thomas, Ib Holm Sorensen, B P Brinkmeyer, Ed Brinksma. This group will meet on 15 and 22 February. They will present their final version of the proposal for Formal Methods Europe at the last meeting of VDM Europe, which will coincide with the founding meeting of Formal Methods Europe.

It was proposed that the next and final meeting of VDM Europe would consist of a technical event. This will comprise an exposition of six contrasting methods, each lasting about an hour. The methods proposed are VDM, Z, RAISE, PROSPECTRA, LOTOS, B. The meeting will last one and a half days. The founding meeting of Formal Methods Europe will take place on the afternoon on day one and the VDM Europe Technical day on day two. The dates chosen were 23 - 24 May 1991. It may be necessary to charge a fee for this event to cover costs. This will be decided by the group that meets in February to finalise the draft proposal for Formal Methods Europe. The final funding arrangements of this last meeting of VDM Europe and first meeting of Formal Methods Europe will be determined by the commission. This will be known when the announcement is sent out by them.

T DENVIR
27 February 1990