

Minutes from President's Advisory Committee Meeting
Maison de la Chimie, room 354
28 rue St Dominique, Paris
9 July 2019

Present

Roman Bender (RB)	Scientific Secretary
Pascale Bridou Buffet (PBB)	Paris Office (PO)
Julija Bugajeva (JB)	Treasurer (London Office)
Wolfram Fürbeth (WF)	STAC Chairman
Gareth Hinds (GH)	London Office (LO)
Hélène Illaire (HI)	Managing Officer
Philippe Marcus (PM)	Paris Office (PO)
Arjan Mol (AM)	President
Marjorie Olivier (MO)	Belgian Administrator
Tomáš Prosek (TP)	Administrator
Jörg Vogelsang (JV)	Vice President

Partially present

Willi Meier (WM)	Frankfurt Office (FO)
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Excused

Damien Féron (DF)	Past President
Ines Honndorf (IH)	Frankfurt Office
Fátima Montemor (FM)	Administrator

Minutes

1 EFC Strategic plan (AM)

The PAC members agreed on the necessity for the EFC to have a Strategic Plan.
JV (Chair), RB and WF agreed to team in a Task Force on EFC Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

Action 1: JV (Chair), RB and WF to present a draft of the new EFC Strategic Plan to the next PAC meeting in December 2019.

2 EFC Digital Strategy (WM)

WM informed that DECHEMA is currently intensely working on the new websites of the [EFCE](#) and of [DECHEMA](#), and that actions related with the EFC website such as sending the specifications to EFC offices were delayed. He also informed that DECHEMA has a long-term view of its digital systems and the services they will provide, because of the new possibilities of internet and the consequent changes in behaviours, such as the observed decrease in the attendance of e.g. ACHEMA and ACHEMAAsia which is attributed in part to the availability of interaction tools, talks and courses online.

WM presented the new websites of EFCE and DECHEMA. They include (or will soon include) a login area where users can indicate their interests, manage the information they want to receive, overview their publications and the activities of the Working Parties they are active with, search for people using keywords and interact with them, among other things.

WM explained that the EFC website would be coupled with the database of EFC (including EUROCRR participants) and that users would have a single login to submit their abstract to EUROCRR and to log in their personalised area. Keywords for each user would be assigned on the basis of published papers, as DECHEMA's experience showed this to be an efficient approach. WM indicated that the Conference Management System for EUROCRR would remain unchanged.

PAC members questioned whether it is necessary for the EFC website to have an account and personalised area for its users. Also, they questioned what would happen if the website is designed and managed by another organisation than DECHEMA. WM indicated that in this case, the EUROCORR Database and Conference Management System would also be transferred to this other organisation. Further details on such transfer would still need to be subject of discussion and evaluation in the TF on EFC Digital Strategy.

PAC members agreed on the following course of actions:

- Before 22 July: WM to send specifications to the Task Force on EFC Digital Strategy
- Beginning of September: Task Force to send feedback, WM to implement it in specifications
- Mid-September: WM to provide final specifications, EFC offices to send them to companies for quotation
- Mid-October: companies to provide quotations, to be discussed within the TF on EFC Digital Strategy and forward a selection proposal to EFC BoA to decide

WM indicated that in case DECHEMA provides the EFC website, it is important that it is implemented before the end of 2019, as budget will not be sufficient otherwise. DECHEMA would need about 2,5 months to implement the EFC website. Implementation of the EFC website can be quick since DECHEMA can build upon previously designed websites for EFCE and DECHEMA.

Action 2: WM to send specifications to the Task Force on EFC Digital Strategy latest on 22 July, and to supervise the subsequent actions described above.

3 EFC Endorsed Corrosion Education

TP informed that in Czech Republic, members from industry need training with certification, and some of the courses are not covered by the Czech Member Society. NACE is starting to propose courses and could take over the European market within a few years if EFC does not act. A scheme at European level, established by EFC with well-defined rules, would be very helpful.

TP proposed that EFC could start a reduced portfolio of courses, and to expand progressively the content of the portfolio.

PM informed that CEFACOR has been working on certification at national level and have now a certification and an education department. He underlined that it is important to separate certification and education activities, and that due to regulations in each country, certification may be a cumbersome process. Provision of an EFC label or endorsement would be easier to implement in a first step.

The risk of competition between Member Societies was discussed. PAC members deemed that the risk of competition is limited if courses are held in the native language of each country - although this reasoning does not hold for UK. Also, synergies can be found between the courses proposed by the Member Societies.

PAC members underlined the need for a committee in charge of the endorsement, labelling and in the end possibly certification. The committee could include people already in charge of certification in the relevant countries, in order to build upon their knowledge, and to further limit the risk of competition between Member Societies.

WF indicated that Working Party 7, chaired by Daniela Zander, has been working on the topic and that a meeting took place during the spring, although the status of the work was not known to him. PAC members agreed that a Task Force EFC Corrosion Courses led by Daniela Zander should be set up and should include representatives of the EFC offices as well as TP and HI.

Action 3: WF to contact Daniela Zander and liaise with Working Party 7

Action 4: GH, RB, PM, to propose representatives of their respective EFC Office to be included in the Task Force; Daniela Zander to propose people for the Task Force as relevant

Action 5: Task Force to organise a meeting during EUROCORR 2019 and to propose a plan to the next PAC meeting in December 2019

4 European directory (Mr. Assant)

Mr. Assant, with the help of his interpret, presented his project of European corrosion directory. He indicated that he is planning to sign a contract with the specialised company [Europage](#), which would perform a dedicated search for corrosion-related companies on the basis of the list of professions provided by DF.

JV expressed that it is important that EFC should not influence or modify the competition in Europe, thus all companies (including small ones) should be included in the directory and advertisement should be only on a voluntary basis. Mr. Assant replied that all companies will be listed for free, with advertisement on a voluntary basis. Also, he expressed his confidence that Europage will list all companies; however, he could not provide details or guaranty on how Europage is able to achieve this result. Based on a first evaluation of Europage during the meeting, PAC members were not convinced that Europage would be able to provide a (majority) of the relevant industries involved in corrosion engineering and technology in Europe.

PAC members pointed out that EFC Member Societies have the capacity to provide better information than Europage. A discussion ensued on the following options: to include members of Member Societies only vs. to include all European corrosion-related companies in the directory. The expected benefits for EFC were also discussed. HI pointed out that an important request of exhibitors and Affiliate Members to EFC is to have increased business opportunities, including lists of e.g. coating-related companies in a given area. TP indicated that his Member Society could provide information in exchange of financial return on income generated by advertisement. Other members, however, expressed that a directory including members of their Member Society would be in direct competition with their already existing national directories.

Mr. Assant expressed that he can rely on EFC instead of Europage in order to obtain accurate listings of all corrosion-related companies in Europe, and that in this case he would be ready to contact companies to ask them their consent for having their information included in the directory, in order to ensure compliance with GDPR. Also, he expressed that he is planning to include a presentation of EFC and its Member Societies in the directory. PAC members reminded him that he had agreed during the PAC meeting on 26 November 2018 in London to prepare an issue “zero” of the directory without the EFC logo and endorsement.

PAC members' conclusions were as follows:

- they were not convinced that Mr. Assant could prepare a European corrosion directory with complete and accurate information of all corrosion-related companies, especially if relying on Europage;
- they deemed that it is not worth for the EFC and its Member Societies, at this stage, to invest in providing the information that would be necessary to prepare a directory including all corrosion-related companies in Europe;
- they deemed that a directory of members of Member Societies would compete with national directories, and thus is not desirable;
- if Mr. Assant decides to prepare an issue “zero” of the European corrosion directory, this issue will be without the EFC logo and endorsement; there is no guarantee that EFC will subsequently partner with this project.

Action 6: HI to inform Mr. Assant about the decisions of the PAC members, with DF, AM and JV in copy.

5 International activities and collaborations

5.1 Task Force on EFC-NACE Strategy (GH)

During the PAC Meeting which took place in London on 26 November 2018, GH informed that NACE is contacting targeted EFC Member Societies in Europe regarding the Global Partnership Agreement they propose worldwide, and expressed that the EFC should need a common strategy and policy for its members regarding NACE actions. GH informed on the activities of the Task Force on EFC Strategy regarding NACE which he is leading, see **Appendix 1**.

Action 7: **TP** to contact people in China regarding the possibility to organise an event on Automotive corrosion in China, and **HI** to include this topic in the Agenda of the EFC-CSCP meeting during EUROCORR 2019.

Action 8: **WF** to contact Elisabeth Szala and ask her to search for possible local partners/conference organisers in the USA who could help setting up a topical event on Automotive corrosion in the USA in conjunction with EFC.

Action 9: **GH** to informally contact Member Societies (with the help of relevant people) and inform them on the recommendation of EFC not to sign the Global Partnership Agreement proposed by NACE.

Action 10: **GH** to find out about events planned by NACE in Europe in 2020 and 2022

Action 11: **RB** to plan for a one-hour EFC-NACE meeting during EUROCORR 2019, including representatives of the EFC offices.

5.2 Possible future collaborations in Russia (AM)

PAC members agreed that a 30 minutes meeting between EFC and Russian officials will be held during EUROCORR 2019, including from EFC side DF, JV, AM, WF, and if possible, WP chairs of the Working Parties on Oil and Gas and on Cathodic Protection.

Action 12: **DF** to prepare an agenda for the meeting between EFC and Russian officials to be held during EUROCORR 2019; logistics and invitations to be arranged by HI

5.3 Possible future collaborations in Singapore (HI)

Dr. Sudesh Wijesinghe informed that what is of most interest to local companies is the possibility that EFC provides services (courses, events etc.) tailored to their needs. Companies try to compare with NACE; NACE has courses, certification etc., which is well recognized by industries.

Also, Dr. Sudesh Wijesinghe thinks it would be much more effective that officials from the Federation talks about EFC to Singapore industries and request to form a EFC-Singapore section. An informal meeting between EFC officials (AM, DF, JV, HI) and Dr. Sudesh Wijesinghe will be organised during EUROCORR 2019.

GH informed that iCorr will soon provide courses in Singapore.

Action 13: **HI** to ask Sudesh Wijesinghe to provide more information about the needs of local companies, and to organise a meeting during EUROCORR 2019.

5.4 Activities in China, including the ICCPA Conference (TP)

Tomáš Prošek reported progress regarding the [EFC-China 2019 1st International Conference on Corrosion Protection and Application](#) (ICCPA).

Action 14: **TP** to prepare advertisement (e.g. slide to be shown during plenary sessions) of the ICCPA Conference during EUROCORR 2019.

5.5 Any other business related to international activities and collaborations (AM)

AM presented the roadmap for the Qatar branch updated by FM. Next steps include a closed event and several meetings organised by QZF (Qatar Free Zone) during EUROCORR 2019. It is planned that QZF becomes an EFC member during 2020. FM will report on the status of activities to the BoA in September 2019.

6 Financial matters (JB)

6.1 Final results for 2018

JB presented the final results for 2018. EFC finished year with a surplus of €3,399, which is a good result considering we were budgeting for a deficit of €11,700.

A total income of €83,006 excluding VAT was generated during the year with EUROCORR levy accounting for €30,853.

6.2 Proposed budget for 2020 (and beyond)

JB presented the proposed budget for 2020. On the expenditure side,

- Small increase was applied to support for working parties (from €2,000 to €4,000)
- Website development costs were removed until options are reviewed and decision is made
- Small inflationary increases applied to regular expenditure items.

As a result, EFC is budgeted to have a surplus of €2,285 in 2020.

PAC agreed that a separate budget for strategic actions such as EFC website redevelopment and development of standard for corrosion courses is needed. As a result, €45,000 were added to 2020 budget to cover expected strategic expenditure.

PAC members thanked JB for the clear proposed budget, which will be presented to the BoA in September 2019 for approval.

6.3 Update on membership subscription

2019 subscription invoices were sent out in May and JB presented the status of collections to date. Member societies will be reminded that payments will need to be made before the GA date, especially.

PAC member decided to keep the level of subscription fees unchanged for 2020.

7 EUROCORR matters

7.1 Task Force on the Evolution of EUROCORR Organisation (HI)

HI indicated that since the BoA meeting in April 2019 in Seville, she focused on actions related to membership increase (visibility of EFC and EFC memberships, implementation of offer Exhibition booth & EFC Affiliate Membership), and consequently did not work on the Task Force on the Evolution of EUROCORR Organisation. TP reminded that it is important to ensure the good organisation of future EUROCORRs by local organisers. HI replied that her possible future work on the Task Force will depend on the clarification of her duties, to be discussed before the next BoA meeting in September 2019.

7.2 Management of EUROCORR papers (WF, RB)

RB informed that statistics for the last decade indicate that the percentage of full papers in EUROCORR proceedings has decreased from 60% to only 20% in 2019.

PAC members agreed that this corresponds to a general trend in academia. In industry, papers are, often, still considered as an important source of information.

TP informed that in East Europe, many congress participants are required to publish in proceedings with an ISBN number.

PAC members discussed that the current half-to-one page abstracts submitted to EUROCORR could be insufficient in this context and that authors will then be given the

choice between sending a two-pages or full paper to the EUROCORR proceedings, and that EUROCORR proceedings should be allocated an ISBN number.

Action 15: **RB** to include the above proposal for discussion in the agenda of the STAC meeting in September 2019.

7.3 Any other business related to EUROCORR matters (AM)

None.

8 EFC membership

8.1 EFC visibility (RB)

RB proposed that rather than to pay for a booth and associated costs during various conferences, EFC could increase its visibility by encouraging Member Societies to distribute EFC promotional material (e.g. EFC and EUROCORR flyers, list of publications, pens etc.) during their events.

Action 16: **RB** to prepare a package of EFC promotional material to be presented during the General Assembly in September 2019, and to include a request in the application form to EFC event number that organisers should spread EFC promotional material during their event.

8.2 Report on actions related to visibility and membership (HI)

HI reported on the status of actions undertaken to improve the visibility of the EFC and EFC membership and to recruit Affiliate Members, including the update of the EFC flyer, articles to be published in the EFC Newsletter in September 2019, and the implementation of Loyalty Programme and of the offer Exhibition booth & EFC Affiliate Membership.

9 Elected membership STAC (AM, WF)

PAC members agreed that elected STAC members are no longer required because the number of Working Parties has greatly increased, so that additional brain power is no longer necessary. Further, elected STAC members are putting a significant burden on the EUROCORR budget.

Since the call for nomination has already been sent by the Frankfurt Office, STAC elections will take place as planned during the STAC meeting in September 2019, and STAC elected members will be in function for a 3-years mandate. However, as the new Bye-Laws will be submitted to the approval of the General Assembly in September 2019, the opportunity can be taken to suppress the group of elected STAC members in the relevant section of the Bye-Laws before this General Assembly, subject to approval of the BoA and GA. This modification, if approved, will result in no elected STAC members from January 2023 on.

Action 17: **PBB** to prepare the Working Papers for the BoA and the GA meetings in September 2019 in order to propose the suppression of the group "Elected STAC members" from the relevant section of the Bye-Laws.

10 Publication of EFC "Green books" as e-books (RB)

RB informed the PAC that he has been contacted by Elsevier in USA which proposes to publish EFC Green book as e-books, and that Elsevier in Europe has already initiated such publication.

11 Contract of the Managing Officer (AM, HI)

The contract the Managing Officer for the year 2020 was discussed. PAC members agreed to increase the yearly fees of HI to compensate for inflation in the period September 2018 – December 2019, and to allocate a bonus of €200 per new Affiliate Member registering in the period September 2019 (start of the offer Exhibition booth & EFC Affiliate Membership) – December 2020.

JV pointed out that the Managing Officer position was created with the intention to generate additional income for the Federation, and asked HI how much income she has generated since her start as EFC Managing Officer in September 2015. HI underlined that a significant part of the duties included in her contract is related to missions that do not generate direct income, e.g. administrative tasks and responsibilities related to EUROCORR organisation and to PR activities. PAC members showed clear understanding on this and discussed the possibility to focus the future duties of the Managing Officer on responsibilities that can generate direct income. However, clearly, besides these duties, also a significant administrative task is to be fulfilled by the EFC offices including HI. HI will investigate whether some of her current administrative tasks can be fulfilled by any of the other EFC offices; if not, the EFC BoA/PAC Members should understand and recognize that this will remain part of HI's daily duties (even at the cost of the income generation) and should be taken into account in the evaluation as an important fulfilment of HI's duties as such also.

Action 18: AM, JV, DF and HI to discuss and update the schedule of services included in the contract of the Managing Officer for the year 2020, to be presented to the BoA in September 2019 for approval. HI will start with a first proposal on the range of duties.

Action 19: HI to search for administrative work which she could shift to EFC offices in order to give her more time for income generation.

12 Any other business

BoA and STAC election in September 2019: PBB informed that following the call for nominations issued by IH, there are only 8 candidates for the 8 positions of elected administrators; and only 4 (possibly 5) candidates for the 6 positions of elected STAC members. PAC members agreed that the rules for the elections should be defined and announced before the elections. Also, they agreed that possible suitable administrators should be proactively contacted in the future.

Action 20: IH/PBB to define rules for the STAC and BoA elections taking place in September 2019.

Promotional material: HI proposed that the Frankfurt Office will be responsible for managing the promotional material of the EFC. RB agreed on this proposal. New EFC pens are needed for the EFC booth at EUROCORR 2019.

Action 21: RB/Frankfurt Office to order promotional material for the EFC booth in EUROCORR 2019 and for other future events as needed.

Date next PAC: PAC members agreed on the date and place of the next PAC meeting: 17 December 2019 in Frankfurt.

Action 22: HI to ask absent PAC members (DF, FM, IH) if the proposed date of the next PAC meeting is suitable for them. If ok for all, an agenda invitation will be sent to all invitees by HI to save the date.

UPDATE REPORT
Task Force on EFC-NACE Strategy
PAC meeting, 9th July 2019

Members: Gareth Hinds (Chair), Damien Feron, Roman Bender, Philippe Marcus

The first meeting of this Task Force took place at the NACE conference in Nashville, on Tuesday 26th March 2019. Philippe Marcus was not able to attend but EFC President Arjan Mol was present. The following is a summary of the issues discussed:

1. Good relationships with senior NACE officers have been established over several years, primarily through regular formal and informal meetings at the EuroCorr and NACE conferences. This will continue, with a view to maintaining a positive relationship.
2. NACE has an increased focus on coatings and is in advanced talks with SSPC over a merger. This has been proposed several times over the years but now looks like it might actually happen.
3. EFC has received clear acknowledgement from NACE that they will not organise events in Europe with a general corrosion theme. According to Bob Chalker, this was the original idea behind the Genoa conference in 2018 but the Italian section acted independently and NACE eventually withdrew support. In principle the EFC could ask for this undertaking to be included explicitly in the joint agreement – this should be discussed at the next BoA meeting.
4. A new NACE European Area Manager, Stuart Bond, has been appointed with an office in Cambridge, UK. His remit is to develop NACE representation and relationships at higher level fora (standards, EFC, national associations). He has a background in oil and gas corrosion and his technical expertise will be key to NACE due to a lack of volunteer bandwidth. Stuart is well known to GH from his former roles at TWI and Element and is also an active member of ICorr, which will be useful in maintaining a constructive relationship going forward.
5. Over the past couple of years, NACE has been attempting to set up a Global Partnership with like-minded societies across the world, which they propose would include individual EFC member societies. It was agreed that the formal EFC position would be that individual member societies should not sign the NACE Global Partnership Agreement and that all dealings with NACE on this issue should be via the EFC in order to maintain a strong and unified position.
6. There is some concern that NACE may target the smaller EFC member societies for expansion within Europe and it is imperative that EFC has a strategy in place to combat this. This could involve roll-out of EFC member society courses in these countries (perhaps with a discount) and a reduction in EFC subscription fee for smaller member societies in the longer term.
7. There is appetite from both NACE and EFC to collaborate where possible in areas of mutual benefit. Potential areas for collaboration that have been identified so far are young people, ISO standards, influencing organisations such as IMO, joint oil and gas symposia at EuroCorr/NACE conferences and common themes such as materials sustainability.

Following the first meeting of the Task Force, further information became available through the publication of the second edition of the NACE Europe newsletter in April 2019. A new European Area Director, Amir Eliezer, has been appointed to replace Tom Ladwein. NACE Europe conferences planned for 2020 and 2022 are mentioned briefly in the newsletter and GH will take this up with Stuart Bond.

The next meeting of the Task Force will take place during the EuroCorr conference in September.

Gareth Hinds
Jul 2019