

**Minute of Meeting ESO Chile Committee
March 22, 2017**

Participants:

- Chile: Felipe Barrientos (FBA), Ezequiel Treister (ETR), José Luis Prieto (JLP), Sebastián López (SLO)
- ESO: Tim de Zeeuw (TdZE), Fernando Comerón (FCO), Claudio Melo (CME), Steffen Mieske (SMI)

Absents:

- Chile: Verónica Motta, Sandro Vilanova
- ESO: Andreas Kaufer

Agenda:

1. News and update from ESO
2. Request to review the criteria for the allocation of funds of the ESO-Chile committee
3. ESO Support to the development of instrumentation for La Silla telescope, particularly travel and lodging
4. Operation of Bochum telescopes on Armazones
5. Status of MASCARA and Chilean participation
6. AOB

1. News and updates from ESO - Director General Presentation

Taking advantage of the presence of TdZE, he started the meeting with a brief presentation with an update on ESO matters and its projects (reminder of Supernova, discovery of seven exoplanets, developments at the observatories, MUSE, ESPRESSO, GRAVITY, upgrade of Paranal infrastructure).

ELT

FBA inquired about the increase of personnel for it, and is expected to be around 20%.

TdZE confirmed that the first stone ceremony will take place on May 26th with the presence of the President of Chile.

ALMA

TdZE informed that the handover of the Residence to ALMA will be on April 19th; the building is under the warranty of the constructor, and was "tested" by the weather, and repaired accordingly

PUBLICATIONS STATISTICS

The publication statistics of all the major observatories are prepared by ESO on a yearly basis. It can be found at ESO's website.

LONG TERM PLAN FOR ESO

Is published in the last issue of The Messenger, covering the next 15 years, with a short retrospective setting strategies for what we want to do, updates and what will happen next.

2.Request to review the criteria for the allocation of funds of the ESO Chile Committee

MOONS

FBA commented that he received a letter inquiring about the funding of the MOONS instrument through the Joint Committee. The Committee has refused to fund MOONS arguing it is already funded by ESO through the allocation of guaranteed time.

FCO → same discussion twice in two consecutive years at the Joint Committee; ESO is funding MOONS. All institutions participating are paid by guaranteed time, which is the currency ESO uses to pay to instrument consortia. ESO is not funding any other institute that builds instruments other than in guaranteed time.

FBA and ETR insisted that the fund derive from a negotiation with the Chilean Government, so is Chilean money to be used for payment, besides of the guaranteed time.

TdZE clarifies that the ESO member states are the ones who puts the money.

TdZE → ESO gives guaranteed time for the contributors for MOONS, and the institute is asking for the money, what is double dipping.

FCO comments that any other institute may come up with the same argument, meaning that they have resources of funding and ESO can be one of them, and they could even argue more strongly, being member state.

TdZE → ESO pays for the hardware of the instrument, and member states institutes find money for the staff efforts, for which ESO repays in guaranteed time, and what FBA and ETR are asking is for ESO to give guaranteed time and payment for the contribution, which is double payment and not accepted.

The main point is that is NOT a Chilean fund; it is ESO members' states money.

ETR suggested to clarify this point with the Joint Committee because for Chile, these are Chilean funds, regardless of the origin.

TdZE → we want to help develop the technical capabilities of astronomy in Chile, and that could be good use of the mix committees' money but it would not guarantee time, because they will be double dipping, and they cannot have it both.

FBA wanted to know if the proposal would be acceptable if it were to give up guaranteed time.

CME states that even if the above is accepted, the money is not enough if they want to build instrumentation, which is the key issue.

FCO, regarding trading guaranteed time for money, is not an option for any instrument builder in the consortia of the members' states.

The discussion is transferred to the Joint Committee, where this matter will be considered again.

3.ESO Support to the development of instrumentation for La Silla telescope, particularly travel and lodging

PUCHEROS AND FIDEOS AT LA SILLA

FBA commented that Leonardo Vanzi had reported that the instrument is completely funded by his institution, but going to La Silla and doing engineering is quite expensive because it is being charged for everything, and he is asking to have similar treatment as a Chilean astronomer.

FCO indicates that there is a fundamental difference, since the agreement states that they have to be treated like an astronomer of any member state. He reminds that the first difference is that the telescope to be operated is not an ESO one anymore; it was given to Universidad Católica del Norte, in compensation of the telescopes they have had to remove from ARM and is fully administrated by them; ESO only provides the ground there. So, neither ESO nor any institute in an ESO member state has access to the telescope or the instrument.

TdZE confirms that this is an internal problem for the Chilean community to deal with.

FBA agrees and says that the reason why he brought this issue is because the instrument is installed in La Silla, and he considers that Chileans should not pay for the bus that goes there almost every day but the DG does not agree with him.

FBA is just presenting this situation, since instrumentation is starting in Chile and he considers that this kind of small problems are an issue.

FCO considers that can contemplate to support this, but pointing out the difference that this is a Chilean instrument that goes to a Chilean telescope that will be offered only to Chilean community. In addition, visitors who do not go for science mission or observing are requested to pay for the transportation. TdZE added that astronomers from member states who go to observe with national telescopes, also pay.

4. Operation of Bochum telescopes on Armazones

FBA commented that Bochum on cerro Murphy, has not been offered to the Chilean community for several months.

FCO reports that this has been investigated by ESO. The PI of the telescope, Rolf Chini, was contacted and his reply was that Bochum does not have funds to run full time, and this was explained to CNTAC with full details that made clear that Chilean access to 10% of the time would be respected. However, it was the CNTAC who decided not to offer this telescope.

FBA wanted to know if the telescope is working and if he can contact directly Rolf Chini; FCO replied that he does not have the detailed schedule of operating time of the telescope, and that FBA can contact Rolf Chini, within the limits, remarking however that Ricardo Muñoz is the official contact point as chair of the CNTAC.

SLO wanted to know if it possible to discuss the transfer of the management of Chilean time from the CNTAC to perhaps CONICYT, because this is consuming resources at Universidad de Chile.

FCO commented that this was previously discussed with Luis Campusano. It was the University of Chile who had offered to host the CNTAC and proposed to allocate the time at national telescopes through it. If the Chilean community decides to change this model and transfer the administration to CONICYT, ESO has nothing to oppose and only needs to be informed about the new contact point.

TdZE added that for ESO is rather important that there is a single point of contact where to discuss this, so if they want to change how to internally organize for Chile, is fine, but that there should be a single contact point for all national telescopes.

ETR commented that as his understanding, Ricardo Muñoz is not always recognized as an official spokesperson by the administrators of national telescopes.

FCO indicated that as far as ESO is concerned the chair of the CNTAC is the contact point for national telescopes, and this is so indicated in the agreements between ESO and the institutes managing them. If the committee is aware of some case in which the PI does not recognize the CNTAC as counterpart, they let us know and ESO will go back to the PI and make sure that is clear to them.

5. Status of MASCARA and Chilean participation

FBA refer to the presentation of MASCARA, instrument coming to La Silla (not there yet), and wanted to establish the 10% observing time.

FCO considers that it does not make sense to talk about the 10% (or its equivalent) because the agreement between ESO and the MASCARA team provides for some flexibility in that; he read the phrasing of the document:

“The MASCARA project undertakes to support the Chilean community in making available up to 10% of the scheduled observing time for Chilean projects or an agreed equivalent that shall be established with

the representatives of the Chilean communities to the satisfaction of the said Chilean parties. Such agreed equivalent might be in the form of a collaboration with members of a Chilean scientific institution”

FBA said that he does not know who the MASCARA PI is. FCO said it is Ignas Snellen, which TdZE confirmed. FCO will provide his contact information by email.

FCO commented that the first thing to know is who in Chile is interested in participate and in which way, and the proposals can be submitted to this committee, to see if this is considered as a fair participation, equivalent to the 10%.

SLO wanted to know who should issue this call for participation and FBA replied that the last time CNTAC did it.

6. Any other business

FBA informed about the following news:

- Sochias changed president, being now Ezequiel Treister.

- Two awards given to Chilean astronomers; Hernán Quintana (American Astronomical Society’s Education Prize 2017) and María Teresa Ruiz (she was announced last year, but tomorrow will receive the honour L’Oreal UNESCO 2017 for Latin America).

- The project for the Ministry of Science was presented to the Congress in January for its discussion. Related to it, SMI wanted to know if there will be continuity for this project on the next government, which is expected, and maybe will replace Conicyt. FCO wants to know who is going to be the ESO counterpart in this new configuration, and FBA replies that he believes it will still be the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but he is not sure because it has not been discussed yet.

- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Valparaíso called for two positions for astronomers, and at Universidad Autónoma, the call was for a half position.

- Antofagasta has been selected as the see for the LARIM 2019 (Latin American Regional IUA Meeting), upon proposal by SOCHIAS.

- FCO informed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will take place at the end of March, the target deadline for applications will be July, and the results will be informed in September. From this year on, a progress report will be required, to keep track. SLO inquired who composes the committee, and was informed that members are:
 - One representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a representative of Conicyt, and the former president of Sochias, for Chile; and, A.Kaufer, C.Melo, and F.Comerón for ESO.
 - TdZE clarifies that FCO is not in the committee as an astronomer, but representing him, as counterpart of Ambassador Rodríguez from the ministry of Foreign Affairs.

- One last issue that FBA wants to mention is that the fourth year ESO post docs is an excellent program but expensive, and should be funded by application to the ESO committee. FCO explains that this is the way it is now; and commented that the question is if it should be taken from the Joint Committee, explaining that going through this committee would be a competitive process and it would show some commitment from universities, not and that they have to prioritize with regards to other applications. The funding is 100% ESO, half of it comes from the Join Committee funds, and the other half is directly paid by ESO. CME explained that due to bureaucratic reasons

ESO pays in practice the full salary, and therefore the host university does not receive money from the Joint Committee for that purpose.

To close the meeting, FCO informed that the next meeting will take place after September, with the new ESO Director General.