ACCORD
A Consortium for COnvection-scale modelling Research and Development

8th ACCORD Assembly
Wednesday 3rd July 2024
9h-13h CEST (UTC+2)

Online

Minutes

1. Opening and welcome

Daniel (Chair) opened the 8th ACCORD Assembly meeting. Daniel welcomed the delegations (see Appendix I) and the ECMWF observer, Andy Brown.

He also welcomed specifically newcomers:
- Hildigunnur H. H. Thorsteinsson as the new DG of IMO in Iceland;
- Robert Czerniawski as DG at IMGW-PIB, in Poland
- Ahmed HMAM as DG and Sid Ahmed HAMMADI in ONM-Algeria
- Jaime Rey Vidaurrázaga, new Director of Production and Infrastructure in AEMET, in Spain
- Jozef Csaplár at SHMU in Slovakia
- Ivan GÜTTLER as DG DMHZ in Croatia

And wished a welcome back in our community to Petteri Taalas DG at FMI in Finland

2. Adoption of the agenda

Daniel asked if there is any comment on the agenda, any AOB.

No comments.

Daniel declared the agenda adopted.

3. Management positions

Daniel gave the floor to Claude for the presentation.

Claude listed the recent changes in governance and management positions.

- Daniel Gellens (RMI) is (elected Vice-chair and) acting Chair of the Assembly
- Taimar Ala (ESTEA) is a new member of PAC (HIRLAM). Thank you Taimar.
- Jana Sánchez-Arriola (AEMET) is the Documentation Officer. Claude precised that Jana already started to work in ACCORD and she is now investigating new tools on documentation and communication. He thanked AEMET and Hirlam for having made this nomination possible.
- Cécile Loo (MF) and Rimvydas Jasinskas (LHMS) are new LTMs

Claude informed the Assembly that regarding the renewal of positions in STAC and PAC, an inquiry has started in order to renew (confirm or replace) the Committee members for the last year of ACCORD/MoU1 (i.e. for 2025). Claude will follow the progress of the renewals with the Bureau.

Claude gave back the floor to Daniel for comments.

***Marianne**: For Hirlam I confirm that Sami and Saji will continue in STAC. Xiaohua Yang will be replaced by Javier Calvo (AEMET).*

***Florinella**: The topic was discussed also in the LACE Council and the PAC representatives expressed their wish to continue for another year. So I confirm the LACE PAC representatives.*

***Claude**: The purpose is that we have a full proposal for both committees to show at the Assembly in December.*

***Daniel**: Thank you very much to all the participants in these organs. The Committee positions will continue to play an important role in the future.*

4. Manpower and budget figures

a. Approval of cumulated manpower

Claude presented the 2023 manpower figures.
He reminded that the figures are based on the quarterly registration by the LTMs, and a cross-check by the MG.
The preparatory document "4.a.Manpower" contains on page 2 the cumulated manpower for the full year 2023

***Daniel**: It is time to validate the manpower and the figures. Is there anyone against it ?*
No one.
***Daniel**: Is there any abstention ?*
No one.

The Assembly unanimously:

- **Approved the 2023 realised manpower figures (Appendix II).**
- **Took note of the cumulated figures since 2021 and since 2018.**

b. Budget 2023-2024

Claude explained that usually the mid-year Assembly is not the time to talk about the budget. He reminded the Assembly members that the budget was approved last December, at the last Assembly meeting. In ACCORD, the budget is implemented via a financial mechanism organized by Météo-France, and based on the exchange of compensations between the members (taking into account the actions decided, those realized and those not realized).
The Météo-France financial services use the approved minutes of the Assembly as the reference document, including the Assembly's decisions on the budget, for issuing invoices and reimbursements.

However in the minutes of the 2023 Assembly meeting, a few rounding errors and typos occurred. They have no practical impact for ACCORD in 2024 because only correct figures were used for our management (among those approved in December 2023).

Nevertheless, the fully corrected Tables of the budget figures need to be approved again by the Assembly to allow the MF financial services to proceed with the financial exchanges. Therefore, Claude asked the Assembly to re-approve these Tables. They will be added as an Annex to the minutes.

***Radmila**: I see in the table that the regulation is -4 715€ for LACE. Does "Minus" mean that it will be reimbursed ?*
***Anne-Lise:** Yes it does.*

***Daniel** asked if anyone is against the approval of the corrected figures?*
No
Is there any abstention ?
No

The Assembly approved the corrected figures. They will be put in Appendix III.

5. Outcomes from STAC-7

a. Preparation of next phase scientific strategy

Claude presented the key points of the preparation of the next phase of the scientific strategy.

The workshop outcome:
- 21-24 May in Toulouse
- 25 participants
- very intense and productive days, high level of motivation and involvement by the participants
- a draft strategy document has been produced, in a multi-handed editing format, which is now submitted to STAC
- the participants have expressed their strong motivation to stay active in the preparation of the updates (next steps) of the strategy document

Content outline:
- Header: general goals, what does it mean for ACCORD to be in an "ecosystem of collaborations", subsection on "explanation of the main scientific goals"
- Forecast model including coupling: continue improve the physics and the dynamics of the 3 CSCs for very high resolution modelling, use more realistic surface model options and more accurate VHR surface properties, coupled modelling with reasonable ambitions (aerosols and their use in the models)
- Data assimilation including coupled DA: importance of OOPS as a main code backbone for flow-dependent algorithms, variety of surface DA algorithms, continuous progress on new observations (MTG, EPS-SG, Eumetnet-based etc.)
- Probabilistic forecasting and EPS: R&D on increased spatial resolution EPS, improve the use of ensemble output by users, computer-efficient EPS

- MQA: develop significantly more physics-based validation (metrics, observations, use cases), continue develop metrics and tools suitable for verifying VHR models, continue organizing user feedback
- Codes and System: continue modernize code management (code integration process), pursue our efforts on code adaptation to new HPCs (focus is on the forecast model), common scripting (co-developed with DEODE), design some common infrastructure for R&D in ACCORD (2 scenarii are suggested)
- AI/ML for NWP: organize efforts at the interface with the European initiatives (a dedicated WG is proposed: monitor the progress on AI/ML, design a validation benchmark - metrics, NWP datasets -, …)

PM's preliminary analysis on the potential impact on resources:

- identify new (or re-organize) staffing especially for MQA and system aspects such as scripting
- strengthen and further organize staffing for code management (code integration process)
- specific dedicated staffing might be required for data management, as well as for administration and system support (eg on common infrastructure)
- financial resources for pay-plan solutions for common infrastructure might have to be addressed

Outline of procedure (next steps)

- STAC reviewing and consultation within the families from June until the end of August.
- STAC to discuss and make comments for the drafting team, in its meeting on 5 September
- the drafting team will be organized with the workshop participants and according to the outcome of STAC
- drafting team to work on the comments in Sept-Oct and make a revised version of the strategy document
- STAC re-reviewing 6-7 November
- the Bureau will be kept informed of the progress and analyze any difficulty
- presentation of the full scientific strategy document to the A/A in December

Claude specified that the procedure is presented to the Assembly for informative purposes and it had been thoroughly discussed during STAC (who agreed to it). The Assembly is invited to take note of the progress regarding the preparation of the ACCORD phase 2 scientific strategy and on the proposed next steps.

Daniel thanked Claude for summarising the steps on this important work and stressed that there isn't any decision to be taken now, but the floor is open to comment or questions.
Daniel explained that the Assembly is explicitly agreeing with the composition of the drafting team and asked if there is still the possibility to volunteer to the drafting team.
Claude would rather wait the outcome of the STAC reviewing and then see if it would be wise to add the one or other expert to the drafting team.

Marianne*: thank you chair and Claude for the rapport on the progress. First I'd like to express agreement with the chair. This work is really important for the development of ACCORD. I want to thank you Claude, and MF for organising it. Even before reading the document I heard that the workshop had been successful. Thank you for the bottom-up way to begin this work.*

I'm pleased to see that the drafting team will be from the participants of the workshop. It's a strong team.
Concerning the content, I think the scientific themes are very relevant. I'm very curious to see how the strategy will connect with the vision of our collaboration.
Again I want to make emphasis on our societal benefit and also stress our end ambition of having an impact for European citizens. I know that's not what we're discussing at the moment, but we just have to keep that in front of us and in our minds all the time.
To Claude: when you talk about resources and budgets and the need to make changes in how we organize our staffing, are these things that you will do now or with the new strategy ?

***Claude**: thank you very much Marianne for your support and your question is very relevant.*
For some of the bullets on the resources we will have to take them up after the strategy is approved and some additional instruction has been done (on the possible choices, on the estimation of these resources and how to organize them).
Regarding for instance the strengthening and the further organizing of code management, the formulation for now is rather "generic" and not yet very concrete. But we will have to make it more concrete during the transition from phase 1 to phase 2 (or at the beginning of phase 2).
For some specific items of the list, we might start discussing them in MG before starting the next phase of ACCORD. For other aspects I think we have to wait until the strategy is approved and even some additional instruction has taken place.

***Daniel**: So it's a question that will come back during the next Assembly, I think. And with some decisions to be taken according to the MoU.*

***Claude**: yes. It might be useful or wise to think of some of the resource aspects during the drafting of the memorandum.*

***Marianne**: Thank you Claude for your reply. Two comments. Firstly, we should keep our activities within the budget for 2024.*
Secondly I think that it is important that we think about the budget resources and the organization in parallel with the strategy and the development of the MoU. It's a sort of strong way to look at all these aspects all over the time and see, are we organized and do we use the resources we have in the most efficient way? Leading us up to reach the goals we have in front of us. So thank you for opening this discussion. I look forward to having that discussion when it's matured.

***Radmila**: I have two comments: I could see the first draft. It's very tremendous work for the people involved. However I'm not very sure whether the participants were explained what was expected from them. At the moment the document is very heterogeneous. I hope it will improve with time.*
My second remark is about resources. You mentioned that we might need more resources, but you have to take into account that financial possibilities are not really easy to increase and human resources are limited. So my message is that you should also think in terms that simply don't require that we put more money, and that we would have to work with such a scenario.

***Daniel**: Thank you very much for this important comment you are making about the resources and the budget, but we have to think about it with the next MoU, see how the strategy can be adapted to reach some targets. We will have to choose some of them and give some priorities.*

***Claude**: I can confirm the tremendous work on the draft strategy. I am glad to see that Assembly members acknowledge this.*

About resources, I take note of what is being expressed by Assembly members now, nevertheless I am not prepared to have more discussions on the topic today than what is on the slides.
Regarding the heterogeneous aspect, the drafting occurred during the strategy meeting with different editors for different sections. I would recommend to Assembly members who have remarks to contact their STAC representatives to share their comments and share proposals on how to improve the readability of the document.

***Sami**: Thanks Claude for the presentation, I agree totally with Marianne that the outcome of this strategy workshop was really good. All participants from FMI were very happy about it.*
I also agree with the process of reviewing this strategy.
I welcome the level of ambition in the area of the common development environment and common scripting because I truly believe that this really enables us to work more together and strengthen our ability to collaborate across ACCORD. Especially related to the DEODE scripting system .

***Roar**: Thank you Daniel and thank you Claude for the work so far on the strategy.*
I have a couple of comments along the lines of Marianne and Radmila.
I think it's good that the strategy contains a lot of ambitions and directions in all the areas we are working on, but I'm not sure we should plan for additional resources. As Marianne and Radmila said there are other ways to do things like prioritising; you could produce a summary of where we should reduce activity and where we should increase it year by year as an exemple.
I'm open to all approaches, but as others I think we have to plan within the resources we have.
Related to the strategy period we are in now, Claude, do you plan to evaluate the work on the present strategy ? And if so, how do you intend to do that evaluation ?

***Claude**: What we did so far is the evaluation of the implementation of the current strategy, with an iterative process between the MG and the STAC.*
We produced a Roadmap, where we formulated in a simple manner goals and milestones per area, and we formulate what is achieved, in progress, not started yet, or sometimes we have to fully reformulate a milestone. This MG/STAC review has been done twice so far.
During the preparation of the new strategy, both in the TTs and in the workshop, the outcomes and the achievements per area have been taken into account (it was asked to the TTs) and then used for drafting the next phase strategy.
Otherwise we have not really planned to make any specific evaluation of the achievements with respect to the current strategy. Not in a specific separate format at least.

***Daniel**: Back to the proposal of the evaluation, it would be interesting to have this kind of summary during the next Assembly, before the presentation of the new strategy,*
Make an evaluation of the achievements of the current strategy. I would propose in this case, if you agree, that the STAC would make this exercise for the next assembly. What do you think about that, Claude? Saji?

***Saji**:I think that it would be a very useful exercise but we should also be mindful regarding the timeline of the strategy document preparation. We should definitely take up this exercise of evaluation and some of this has already been done in different forms with the MG-roadmap and also within the task teams when they analyzed what we have achieved, what are the gaps, what we should be doing further and so on. So the material is already there, but we'll have to put it together and prepare a formal evaluation report.*

***Daniel**: The report should not be too detailed otherwise it's a too long investment in time. The purpose is just to have an overview.*

***Claude**: When we discussed this in MG, we noticed that a very detailed evaluation would indeed be time consuming. The MG makes regularly updated evaluations of realizations for itself (in the context of the RWP) and for STAC (MG-roadmap). My proposal then would be to use the MG to prepare a summary on the achievements using the material we already have, and present it to STAC.*

***Marianne**: About the evaluation, I would like to add another comment.*
Thank you Saji for your reply that some elements of evaluation have already been made.
What about the form ? The evaluation is to understand where we succeed and where less. Evaluation should be on our way to work, the organization, and everything without being time consuming. It should be the starting point for our new strategy.

***Claude**: Regarding the scope of the evaluation, should we then focus on achievements and lessons learned in general, in addition to focusing on the activity and the scientific strategy of the current phase ? Regarding the organization, such an evaluation could be done during the preparation of the next MoU.*

***Daniel**: We are talking about the current strategy here, this is the scope for this evaluation. The MoU will come later in the discussions. Both have to be done in parallel.*

Daniel concluded by thanking Claude and the drafting team for their huge involvement because it is very important to have this bottom up approach for the new strategy.
He thanked Saji and welcomed his proposal to come at the December Assembly with some highlights on the past strategy and the targets reached.

Note: **from the discussion, it is understood that the PM is tasked to make an evaluation of the achievements of the current strategy, in a simple, short manner, focussing on highlights, in collaboration with the chair of STAC. It will be presented at the next Assembly.**

b. Link of DEODE phase 2 work plans with ACCORD

- Based on a preliminary analysis by the PM, STAC discussed the DEODE work packages that are relevant for ACCORD (activities of common interest)
- DEODE-funded manpower of such WPs can be registered for the ACCORD CMR (it does not enter voting rights though)
- STAC recommends to consider the work performed in the DEODE WP9.1, WP9.3, WP10 and WP11.[1-2] as eligible for registering DEODE-funded manpower in the ACCORD Common Manpower Register. The teams working on these WPs are strongly invited to share results from their work across ACCORD by contributions to the Newsletter or to the ASW, provided no (DE-)confidential information is disclosed.

After Claude's explanation, Daniel opened the floor for reactions.

***Radmila**: Thank you Daniel and Claude for preparing this document. I'm not sure about the relevance of WP9.1. Isn't it pure DEODE ?*

***Daniel**: That's a very technical question. Saji, can you answer this question ?*

***Saji**: It has been discussed in STAC. It's about system porting to the HPC.*

***Claude**: The work in WP9.1 is of the same nature as what could be done by an ACCORD team who ports the NWP system on its home machine.*

***Radmila**: But then the HPC machine is very different from our usual platforms. It is with GPU, and our codes are not yet really adapted to it. Will this effort bring any new knowledge to ACCORD ?*

***Claude**: Yes indeed, precisely it brings knowledge about our current ability, and the progress we make, on adapting our codes to these machines. It is what SPTR is aimed for in ACCORD.*

***Radmila**: Agree. So then I also agree with counting WP9.1 for DEODE-funded ACCORD manpower.*

***Marianne**: Getting back to the previous point on the agenda (5.a). Sami mentioned the very positive developments in the strategy concerning the possibility of a common scripting system. Welcomes the use of DEODE developments. Do we intend to build it with some timetable or calendar in mind, for moving toward this common scripting system ?*

***Radmila** (chat): rather not*

***Claude**: We can explain it is an important target and motivate the teams to join this effort. However I'm not much in favour of a very specific timeline. Perhaps assess in the course of the STAC revision process if any sketch of a timeline or a roadmap should be done.*

***Marianne**: Thanks Claude for the answer. No expectation of precise planning. Suggests to write in the next MoU that ACCORD will develop common scripts. A simple statement could be sufficient.*

***Piet**: I fully agree with Marianne. We had this discussion before in ACCORD, and then DEODE came into the picture. It is a very challenging task, but it is also felt very important.*
The scripting system is really a milestone. We as ACCORD have to take ownership of it.

***Marianne** (chat) thank Piet for your clever intervention. Full support.*

***Ben**: Support the remarks by Piet.*

***Daniel** asked if anyone is against the proposed definition of the DEODE-funded ACCORD manpower ?*
No
Is there abstention ?
No

The Assembly approved:

- **The list of DEODE WPs relevant for the ACCORD CMR: WP9.1, WP9.3, the full WP10, WP11.1, WP11.2.**
- **That the work performed in these work packages is eligible for registration as DEODE-funded manpower in the ACCORD CMR. The teams working on these WPs are strongly invited to share results from their work across ACCORD by contributions**

to the Newsletter or to the ASW, provided no (DE-)confidential information is disclosed.

6. Preparation of MoU2

Claude presented the timeline for the preparation of the next MoU (below is a brief, shortened version from the one included in the preparatory document).

- ACCORD Assembly 3 July (today): discuss timeline and MoU2-WG
- MoU2-WG to start in mid-October
  - regular iteration with the Assembly to assess progress
  - the proposal is to make a first iteration with the Assembly in December 2024
  - then agree to hold two extraordinary half-day Assembly online meetings in March and in May 2025
  - approve the new MoU in June/July 2025

The proposal is to start from a modernized version of MoU1 (see preparatory document for the details on this version).

Suggested composition of the working group:

- The PM, the CSS
- 1 STAC member, 1 PAC member
- 1 Assembly representative (the chair of PAC has agreed to be a member of the WG)
- For their role as Programme Managers in sub-groups of ACCORD, the HIRLAM PM and the LACE PM
- 1 MF and 1 Aladin-MoU5 representative
- The composition should be reasonably balanced across the families. The size should be 8-9 persons maximum.

WG tasks and organization:

- (...) Consultation with the Members would be via the Assembly meetings, unless timing pressure would require other ways of consulting members (this could be agreed via the Bureau)
- Take into account organizational aspects deriving from the strategy preparation
- (...) The Bureau will follow the progress of the MoU2 drafting in between Assembly meetings, and analyze any difficulty arising.

Daniel*: thanked Claude for the very clear presentation on the next steps and gave the floor to the A/A participants for their comments.*

Radmila*: I fully agree that we have to start the preparation early and from the modernized version. Just to be sure, will the modification of the modernized version be made from the strategy ?*

Claude*: no, the "modernized" version will not include changes that might be derived from the strategy (i.e. the scientific strategy in preparation for the next phase). This will come this autumn, once the MoU2-WG will start its analysis.*

***Radmila**: Then in what way will the MoU be modified? What do we expect from the working group ? The WG should have a clear mandate.*

***Claude**: the first task of the Working group would be to make proposals for modification, then iterate with the Assembly.*

***Marianne**: The MoU is our overall framework document. It is a high-level document. We could have several different versions of a (scientific) strategy within the overall framework document.*
We could express our intention to develop a common scripting system but only as a simple, general statement. We should identify policy decisions to be taken by the Assembly.

***Claude**: Indeed we could add to the tasks of the WG "to identify issues and make proposals for updates on policy or organizational aspects which require decisions to be taken by Assembly"*

***Marianne** stressed that Hirlam will cease to exist at the end of 2025 and then part of the activity should be taken up within ACCORD. So the timeline now becomes more constrained. There might also be administrative bottlenecks in various Institutes for the signing process. The question is "how long does it take for various Institutes to be able to sign?"*

***Claude**: Regarding the timeline, I'm not sure we could accelerate it much. We could ask all ACCORD Members via their A/A representatives to inform us about their internal procedure and the delay they expect to require for internal check & signing.*

***Marianne** (in the chat): Agreed.*

Claude thus suggested defining **a task on Assembly members for until the December Assembly: to provide the PM and the Chair information on their internal procedure and delay required for cross-check & signing (of the new MoU). This information will be shared and updated in the next Assembly meeting.**

(note: no other specific reaction here, this task was considered approved)

***Martina**: to take into account the strategy in the MoU might not require big changes.*
The next point on the agenda could substantially change the MoU.

***Radmila**: The legal check will be before signing in each institute. I hope different lawyers won't contradict themselves.*

***Marianne** agreed with Radmila that sometimes lawyers make trouble.*

***Claude**: I had planned that the WG would ask a legal person to review the document, to check that there is no obscure formulation (from a legal point of view) and/or no too strongly binding formulation (ie any clause suggesting a legal binding beyond the legal nature of a Memorandum, which for instance is not a contract).*

***Daniel** suggested reaching a conclusion, and asked if anyone is against the proposed procedure, timeline and WG ?*
No
Is there any abstention ?
No

The following proposals have been approved unanimously (in reference to the preparatory document):

- **The proposed timeline**
- **The drafting of MoU2 is done by starting from a modernized version of MoU1**
- **Creation of the MoU2-Working Group**
- **The Assembly gave a mandate to the Bureau to propose its full composition following the outline of section 2 "MoU2 Working Group proposal" (the formal appointment will be done by Email consultation with the Assembly)**

Assembly members have to check the procedure and the timeline for their signing process for the next Assembly (the PM + Chair will organize the information ahead of the meeting).

7. Membership

a. Expansion of international collaboration

Expansion of international collaboration - Cover note

- Outcome of ECMWF/ACCORD management meeting (22 January 2024)
- Outcome of ACCORD/PAC meeting. PAC recommends the Assembly:
  - to adopt a strategic position paper along the lines outlined during PAC (on 11 June 2024), and including the questions and recommendations for any new candidate
  - to adopt an information and evaluation procedure including
  - an invitation to a candidate NMHS to give an online presentation of its goals and ambitions at the ACCORD Assembly,
  - followed by an application evaluation which can include a written report by the candidate addressing the questions and recommendations formulated in the position paper, and a discussion with an ad-hoc evaluation task force
- that these steps are in preparation of a formal decision by the Assembly to approve either an Acceding Member or an Associate Member

Claude introduced the last steps organized in ACCORD on the question of expanding international collaborations in ACCORD. Following the decisions of the December 2023 Assembly, a joint ECMWF/ACCORD management meeting was organized (ref to the preparatory document 7.a.) as well as a PAC meeting (11 June). Regarding the management meeting with ECMWF, Claude thanked Andy Brown and Fabio Venuti for their availability and good input.

Claude explained that the outcome of these steps was now presented to the Assembly in the form of two main papers: a position paper (with an annexe) and ACCORD-internal material including a suggested procedure for discussing with a candidate.

7.a.1. Position paper

- Ref to preparatory document 7.a.1.
- The position paper states a few elements of understanding from the ACCORD side: intention, careful evaluation of any new candidacy, regularly assess the impact of an expansion on ACCORD, strong link with the EMI

- The Annexe (violet text) is suggested to be added in order to make visible the questions and recommendations that ACCORD will formulate or discuss with any candidate NMHS (below headlines only)
    - resources including infrastructure
    - policy
    - intentions on using the ACCORD codes
    - LBCs are a separate issue from membership
    - training and scientific cooperation

7.a.2. Additional elements on the expansion of international collaboration

- Ref to preparatory document 7.a.2.
- Procedure to organize the exchange of information with the candidate, and the decision-making steps in ACCORD.
    - The procedure includes inviting the candidate to present its goals and ambitions to the Assembly, and asking the candidate to provide an application report which will be analyzed by an ACCORD Application Evaluation Task Force (AETF). The candidate NMHS will receive the position paper and the questions and recommendations to help him draft the report.
- Implication of Foreign Affairs
- ASSOCIATE Membership specific policy aspects
- Estimated (staffing) resources for an ACCORD Support Member; the PM proposes to add a sentence in page 5 (Estimated resources): "and critical components of the DA codes should be excluded from the distribution"
- Overview Table of Advantages versus Disadvantages (as agreed upon by the Assembly on 4 December 2023)

Claude stressed that he had skipped lots of details in the slides. The preparatory documents really should be consulted and referred to since they contain the complete proposals.

***Marc**: The paper 7.a.1 looks good, however I'd like to make a comment.*
In the annex, regarding questions and recommendations, the text is quite focusing on the own capability of the candidate.
The questions also should be focusing on the relationship with partners. Remind the intention of the consortium to welcome new members sharing the same goals and ambitions as ACCORD members on R&D and for mutual benefit.
In a win-win relationship, the new member should emphasise how he intends to organize himself to become an active contributor in ACCORD common R&D activities (developments, codes etc.).

***Marc** (chat): "The candidate should consider describing in a few lines in which scientific and technical areas of the ACCORD R&D it proposes to contribute, explain the motivation and give some hints on the expected staff contribution per thematic"*
possibly also : "How the applicant fits with the scientific strategy."

***Claude**: Marc's suggestions from the chat could be added in the first section of questions in the document 7.a.1.*

***Radmila**: We discussed this at CHMI and to be honest we are a bit afraid about an opening to other geographical locations. Another worry is that we give something (the codes) but we do not really know what we will get in return.*
Our proposal would be to say that Indonesia could be a pilot project and not just open doors to any (unlimited) candidates from outside Europe for instance. We should first see how such a very new kind of membership process works before going further with others.
Other worries noted in CHMI include the questioning whether a Support Member will be able to take up the assistance only with his local manpower and knowledge. A risk is that other ACCORD members will have to help the Support Member in order to fill gaps of expertise. This would mean that human resources in other ACCORD NHMSs would be required.

***Daniel** agreed that ACCORD probably wouldn't be able to provide such additional resources.*

***Gerhard**: quite similar comments to Radmila. The whole process requires some significant efforts both by an ACCORD member and by the candidate. This looks a bit scary. And could we then still say "no" in the end ?*
What about bilateral agreements ?

***Claude**: I am not sure I can comment on such proposals on the spot.*

***Roar**: Regarding the first sentence in the position paper, if we say that WMO countries can apply, that makes about 120 or more NHMSs (minus us). This is huge ! And then we would start a huge procedure each time with an uncertain conclusion. We should avoid creating false hopes. Furthermore, having many new countries increases the risk of blocking decisions when they require unanimity.*
Taking these aspects into consideration, I cannot agree with the position paper.

***Marianne**: I'll start by supporting what Roar was just saying. The policy matter for ACCORD is too profound (in consequences) to be ready for acceptance today. Regarding BMKG (next point on the agenda), we must explain to them that we are not able to accept new members.*
We should again look at the whole issue in the context of the new Memorandum.

***Petteri**: nothing against a new country but I fully agree with what Roar said. Furthermore, how can we eventually say "yes" (or "no") to one country and not another ? We should avoid putting ourselves in front of difficult political decisions to be taken later on.*

***Radmila**: Agrees that we should avoid false expectations. If we ask so many questions, it is not really nice to say "no" afterwards.*
If we are not able to have sufficient support for such new members, we may lose our reputation.

***Daniel**: I fully understand your position, but then what about BMKG ?*
Should we consider them for a "pilot project" ? or tell them we're not ready yet to accept a collaboration with them ?

***Marianne**: The Assembly doesn't yet have a clear position, however we should have one before we proceed.*
We have to tell BMKG that we are not ready yet, we don't have a policy, rules or regulation. We are still establishing ourselves as ACCORD. It is premature to have a pilot project.

The issue should be reconsidered in the new MoU and the new Strategy. I'm afraid we'll have to disappoint our colleagues in Indonesia.

***Martina**: build the idea of the pilot project in the next MoU ?*

***Murat**: Is there the possibility to have another kind of collaboration with other countries ?*

(note: no other reactions here)

b. Request by BMKG

(note: this discussion was in the continuation of Item 7.a. above)

***Siham**: I express the Director General's apologies for his inability to participate in this general Assembly. Morocco has plans to support Indonesia's inclusion in the Consortium and has initiated meetings with the Indonesian team to accurately identify their needs.*

***Claude**: concerning BMKG, they would be applying as an Associate Member, then they wouldn't have access to all the code. Only the code for making forecasts (no DA). BMKG's eventual objective however is to become a full member in ACCORD.*

***Marianne**: We are not able to say "yes", however we don't want to say "no". We are not ready to propose a pilot project either. We should first further discuss how we see the future of ACCORD.*

***Ben** (chat): Agree with Marianne.*

***Claude**: regarding the idea of the pilot project, the same difficulty as was mentioned earlier in the discussion will arise. The pilot project will require some significant efforts by ACCORD and by the candidate, then it will be difficult to say "no" even if we'd have some reasons to do so. We won't answer all opposing arguments expressed today with the pilot project approach. Claude further expressed his impression that the proposals presented today had been based on a fairly comprehensive analysis given the provisions of the ACCORD governance texts (such as MoU1).*

***Daniel**: We have to end the discussion and reach a conclusion. Even if this is felt difficult for us, we have to accept the conclusion that **the Assembly is not approving the proposals of 7.a. and 7.b.** Regarding BMKG, we have to write to them and explain our conclusion. Tell them we will address the issue in the context of the next Memorandum.*

Claude stressed that we should not give BMKG the impression that we will answer their request within the text of the next Memorandum.

Daniel and Claude will work on the draft letter, to be sent by the next elected Chair to BMKG.

For the sake of clarity: **the Assembly has not approved the proposals presented in items 7.a and 7.b.**

8. Dates of 2024-2025 events, including Assembly meetings

Claude explained that we have to choose a date for the 9th Assembly meeting in December. The initial proposal was to hold the December Assembly in-person (hybrid) in Reading, on Monday 9 December. However the organisation of the ECMWF Council meeting on 10-11 December is currently under discussion: online or in-person. Moreover, the Eumetsat Council will be in-person on 3-4 December (1,5 days) in Darmstadt.

So options for the A/A in December are:

- 4-5 December in-person (hybrid, two half-days) in Darmstadt pending confirmation by the Eumetsat DG Office that they can host us
- 5 December in-person (hybrid, full day), place to be determined
- 5-6 December in-person (hybrid, two half-days), place to be determined
- 9 December in-person (full-day) in Reading pending confirmation that the ECMWF Council is held in-person
- 16-17 December in-person (hybrid, two half-days), place to be determined

Andy Brown confirmed that the ECMWF Council is held in-person in Reading the 10-11 December.
Assembly members were then invited to express their preference between Darmstadt 4-5 December or Reading 9 December. The choice for Reading on the 9th of December was largely supported.

The Assembly approved to have the 9th ACCORD Assembly on the 9th of December 2024 in person in Reading.
The Assembly approved to have a pool for the 2 extraordinary online meetings in March 2025 and May 2025.

9. Appointment of Chair and Vice-chairperson of the Assembly

For the election of the Chair, Daniel took a break and handed over the chairing to the PM.
Claude reminded the Assembly that we do not have an elected chair since Martin left. He expressed his full satisfaction of having worked with Martin for about more than a year and a half, and before with him as a vice-chair.
Claude explained that the usual practice for appointing the chair and/or vice-chair of the Assembly is to give the floor to the Assembly members, who then make the proposal of a peer.

***Radmila**: I would like to make a proposal which is logical. I think it would be very nice if Daniel could be our official chair until the end of 2025. That's the proposal of CHMI.*

***Claude**: I would like to ask the Assembly members whether they approve the proposal by CHMI. Please use the chat by typing your country and say if you approve the proposal by CHMI.*

***Claude upon analyzing the votes in the chat**: I propose to move to the conclusion. There are 22 "yes", Belgium abstained, and there is no "no" (note: 23 members connected). The Assembly has unanimously agreed that Daniel becomes the chair of the Assembly until the end of 2025.*

Daniel GELLENS is elected Chair of the ACCORD Assembly until the end of 2025.

Daniel *thanked the members and confirmed his engagement as the chair until the end of 2025.*

Daniel explained that the next step in the procedure is to nominate the vice-chair person.

Marianne*: Congratulations Daniel with your post. I'm now talking on behalf of the HIRLAM Council which I am chairing.*
I don't know now if there are any formal rules against the proposal we are going to forward. I don't hope so, because I understand that Virginie SCHWARZ from Météo-France is not available in the meeting today, but we would really like to propose her as the new vice-chair of ACCORD.
I think it would be a good step forward for us to also have Météo-France into the management of our collaboration and we would very much like to see Virginie taking the post of the vice chair. So I just want the Assembly to support this suggestion. Thank you very much.

Claude*: To answer Marianne's question regarding the formal rules, the chair and the vice-chair persons should be Assembly members according to the memorandum. The DG of Météo-France is indeed an Assembly member of ACCORD. This likely is the only formal rule that is relevant for this item.*

Daniel *invited the members to express their voting by using the chat again.*

Daniel upon analyzing the votes in the chat*: I think we can finalize the vote and I am very glad to say that the vice-chair will be Virginie. The voting results gave 21 "yes", France abstained, and there was no "no" (note: 22 members connected).*

Virginie SCHWARZ is elected Vice-Chair of the ACCORD Assembly until the end of 2025.

Daniel*: Virginie, I give you the floor if you are connected.*

Virginie*: Thank you very much Daniel. I'm connected and first of all, I'd like to apologize because I wasn't able to participate for the entire meeting but I joined you later at the end of this morning.I just really wanted to thank you and say that I look forward to becoming even more personally involved in ACCORD than I have already been. I look forward to working and supporting Daniel as our chair, and also working with all of you in this context. So thank you very much.*

10. AOB

None.

11. Closing

Before closing, Daniel informed the Assembly that Marc PONTAUD would be retiring soon. This was his last meeting. On behalf of the Assembly, Daniel thanked Marc who gave very strong support during the preparation and the implementation of the present MoU. Daniel further reminded that Marc had an instrumental role in helping solve all the administrative issues with the bookkeeping and the official contracts to implement the ACCORD budget. He also played a leading role, as the MF point of contact, during the discussions for setting up DEODE. Daniel stressed that

Marc had sometimes to take up difficult managerial tasks which he then always did with a great engagement.
Daniel thanked Marc one last time, and gave him the floor.

***Marc**: Thanks Daniel for your few words. I was very happy to work with all of you. It's quite difficult to leave because meteorological services are a great involvement for me. I wish you very, very good continuation and a long way for ACCORD phase 2, the new MoU, and have good luck for the next steps. Thank you very much.*

Daniel closed the session at 13:05

Appendix I: Participants

Member	Delegation
ALGERIA	Sid Ahmed HAMMADI Mohamed MOKHTARI (LTM)
AUSTRIA	Gerhard WOTAWA
BELGIUM	Daniel GELLENS (vice-chair) Piet TERMONIA
BULGARIA	Ilian GOSPODINOV Boryana TSENOVA (LTM)
CROATIA	Ivan GÜTTLER
CZECH REP	Radmila BROZKOVA (PAC, LTM)
DENMARK	Marianne THYRRING Rune Carbuhn ANDERSEN (LTM)
ESTONIA	Kai ROSIN
FINLAND	Petteri TAALAS Sami NIEMELA (STAC)
FRANCE	Virginie SCHWARZ *from 12:00* Marc PONTAUD (PAC)
HUNGARY	Gábor Gyula SZANKA *excused before 9:40* Gabriella SZÉPSZÓ (LTM) *excused from 10:00 to 10:40*
ICELAND	Hildigunnur H. H. THORSTEINSSON
IRELAND	Eoin MORAN Saji VARGHESE (STAC chair, LTM)
LITHUANIA	-
MOROCCO	Siham SBII (PAC, LTM)
NETHERLANDS	Ben WICHERS SCHREUR (PAC)
NORWAY	Roar SKÅLIN
POLAND	Piotr SEKULA (LTM)
PORTUGAL	Nuno LOPES (PAC) *excused from 11:30 to 12:30* Maria MONTEIRO (LTM)
ROMANIA	Florinela GEORGESCU (PAC chair) Alexandra CRĂCIUN (LTM)
SLOVAKIA	Jozef Csaplár
SLOVENIA	-

SPAIN	Jaime REY *excused after 12:56*
SWEDEN	Håkan WIRTÉN Bodil AARHUS ANDRÆ
TUNISIA	-
TÜRKIYE	Murat ALTINYOLLAR Alper GÜSER
ACCORD PM	Claude FISCHER
ECMWF Observer	Andy BROWN
LATVIA Observer	Svetlana ANISKEVICH, Uldis ZANDOVSKIS
HIRLAM PM (obs.)	-
LACE PM (obs.)	Martina TUDOR
ACCORD CSS	Anne-Lise DHOMPS

Appendix II: Manpower figures

2023 accumulated manpower figures

Partner	Accumulated manpower: 01/01/2023-31/12/2023		
	person.months	F.T.E.	Breakdown
ALGERIA	31.92	2.90	1.86%
AUSTRIA	53.42	4.86	3.11%
BELGIUM	25.92	2.36	1.51%
BULGARIA	35.42	3.22	2.06%
CROATIA	36.92	3.36	2.15%
CZECH REPUBLIC	59.67	5.42	3.48%
DENMARK	30.21	2.75	1.76%
ESTONIA	13.92	1.27	0.81%
FINLAND	47.96	4.36	2.79%
FRANCE	697.77	63.43	40.65%
HUNGARY	39.92	3.63	2.33%
ICELAND	10.92	0.99	0.64%
IRELAND	43.96	4.00	2.56%
LITHUANIA	9.92	0.90	0.58%
MOROCCO	32.42	2.95	1.89%
NETHERLANDS	53.46	4.86	3.11%
NORWAY	138.46	12.59	8.07%
POLAND	30.42	2.77	1.77%
PORTUGAL	6.17	0.56	0.36%
ROMANIA	24.42	2.22	1.42%
SLOVAKIA	50.67	4.61	2.95%
SLOVENIA	44.42	4.04	2.59%
SPAIN	74.46	6.77	4.34%
SWEDEN	72.46	6.59	4.22%
TUNISIA	23.92	2.17	1.39%
TÜRKIYE	27.17	2.47	1.58%
TOTAL	**1716.35**	**156.03**	**100.00%**

Accumulated manpower figures used for voting

Partner	Breakdown of the accumulated manpower	
	Since 2021	**Since 2018**
ALGERIA	1.54%	1.55%
AUSTRIA	3.21%	3.44%
BELGIUM	1.82%	2.32%
BULGARIA	1.98%	1.64%
CROATIA	2.10%	2.26%
CZECH REPUBLIC	3.95%	4.54%
DENMARK	2.14%	2.34%
ESTONIA	0.68%	0.43%
FINLAND	2.87%	2.89%
FRANCE	41.17%	40.61%
HUNGARY	2.33%	2.53%
ICELAND	0.55%	0.50%
IRELAND	2.60%	2.54%
LITHUANIA	0.62%	0.36%
MOROCCO	2.12%	1.83%
NETHERLANDS	3.41%	3.38%
NORWAY	7.55%	6.24%
POLAND	1.70%	1.44%
PORTUGAL	0.85%	1.02%
ROMANIA	1.39%	1.50%
SLOVAKIA	2.93%	3.64%
SLOVENIA	2.30%	2.43%
SPAIN	3.98%	4.15%
SWEDEN	3.26%	3.55%
TUNISIA	1.44%	1.39%
TÜRKIYE	1.50%	1.48%
TOTAL	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Appendix III: Erratum of figures in the 7th Assembly minutes

Regularization figures for 2023

Partners	Tasks compensated by ACCORD in 2023 (DAP2023)	Tasks completed in 2023	**Amount to be reimbursed to ACCORD budget in 2024**
ALGERIA	**3 325€**	**2 125€**	**1 200€**
BELGIUM	**22 225€**	**17 475€**	**4 750€**
BULGARIA	**3 925€**	**2125€**	**1 800€**
FRANCE	**125 715€**	**117 690€**	**8 025€**
MOROCCO	**4 250€**	**1 850€**	**2 400€**
PORTUGAL	**3 500€**	**1 700€**	**1 800€**
TUNISIA	**3 325€**	**0€**	**3 325€**
TÜRKIYE	**4 250€**	**3 650€**	**600€**
AUSTRIA	4 850€	5 175€	-325€
CROATIA	10 300€	10 625€	-325€
CZECH REP	3 640€	4 380€	-740€
HUNGARY	3 325€	2 400€	925€
POLAND	9 800€	9 800€	0€
ROMANIA	3 925€	5 175€	-1 250€
SLOVAKIA	7 025€	7 025€	0€
SLOVENIA	6 100€	9 100€	-3 000€
total for LACE	**48 965€**	**53 680€**	**-4 715€**
DENMARK	13 050€	11 675€	1 375€
ESTONIA	16 715€	15 515€	1 200€
FINLAND	10 300€	8 675€	1 625€
ICELAND	1 200€	1 200€	0€
IRELAND	4 850€	3 650€	1 200€
LITHUANIA	2 400€	0€	2 400€
NETHERLANDS	12 975€	10 425€	2 550€
NORWAY	11 225€	9 100€	2 125€
SPAIN	6 840€	6 840€	0€
SWEDEN	14 900€	15 315€	-415€
total for HIRLAM	**94 455€**	**82 395€**	**12 060€**

Partitioning of the budget 2024

Budget for 2024

Claude proposed to keep the membership fee unchanged (11 k€ per Member) and to partition the expenses between:

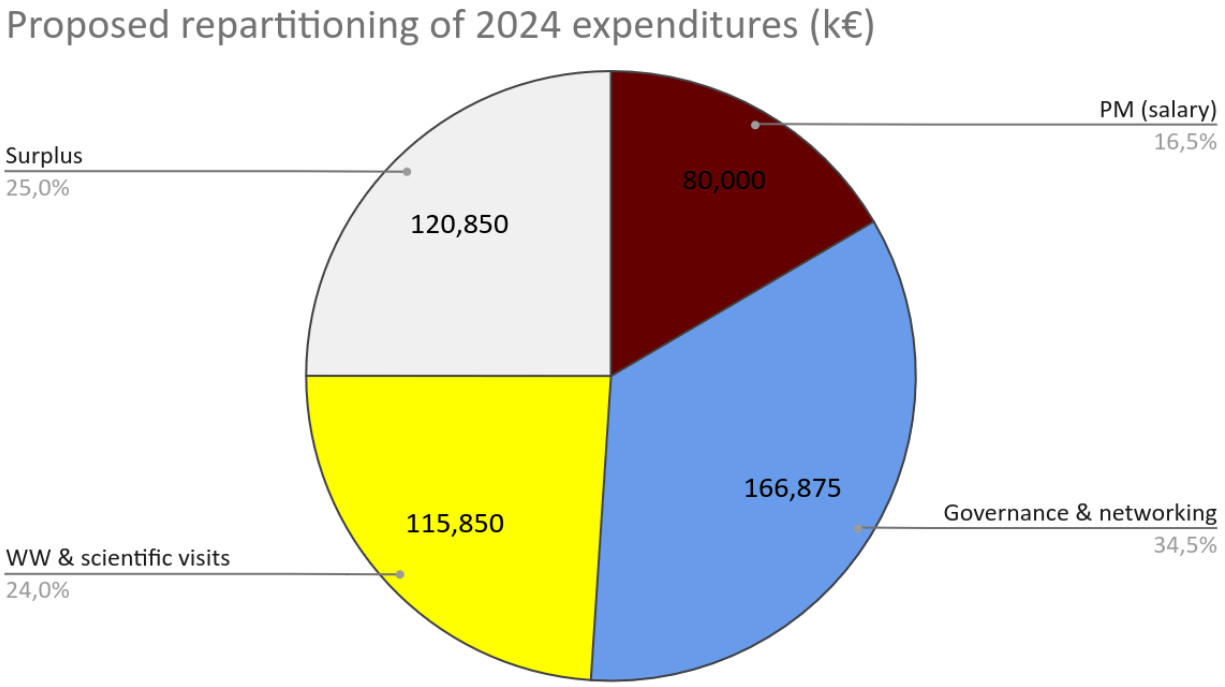
- "governance" expenses (246.875kE), including PM salary, short missions of PM & CSS, short missions to one STAC meeting (PAC online only), 2 one-week missions for the LTMs and MG at the ASW and at EWGLAM, missions for the DO, ASW organisation costs and a working week on Strategy;
- R&D actions on the DAP (Working Week organisation and travels, and Scientific visits): same level of funding as was planned in 2023 for the scientific visits and same as realized in 2023 for the WW/WD (115.85kE).

Taking into account the reserves and the regularization figures for 2023 actions (see item 5a), this leaves a surplus of 120.85kE in the 2024 budget.

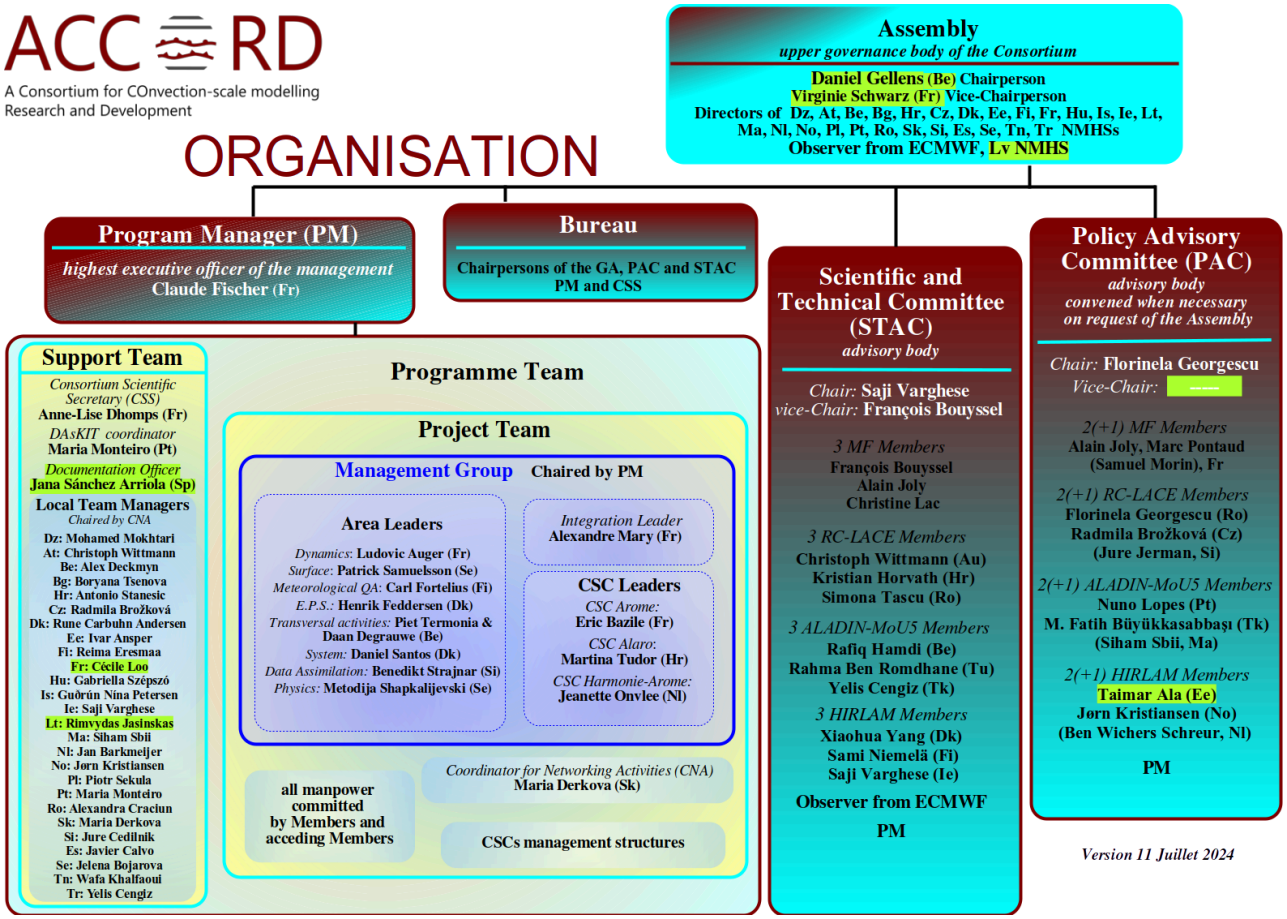
Available budget for 2024

- same Membership fee as in 2023: 11 k€ per Member
- reserve at the end of 2023:166.330 k€
- reimbursement by Members of 2023 non executed actions: 31.245 k€

Partitioning of the expenses



Appendix IV: ACCORD organisation chart



Appendix V: ACCORD governance meetings in 2024-2025[1]

Committees meeting only (PAC, STAC, Assembly and Bureau)

2024	• ACCORD Bureau regular monthly meeting (online) • STAC spring meeting (online), 5 June 2024 • PAC meeting (online) about strategy on international collaboration around the common codes, 11 June 2024 • **8th Assembly video meeting: 3 July 2024 morning.** • on-line STAC meeting to review the scientific strategy, 5 September • autumn STAC, two half-days, in person (& hybrid), 6-7 November, place to be defined • PAC meeting, if convened by the Assembly (virtual) • Specific Bureau meeting to prepare the end-of-the-year Assembly • **9th Assembly meeting, Monday 9 of December, one full day, Reading (hybrid)** - Communication with ECMWF on the venue in their premises has already taken place. The ACCORD Assembly was proposed to be on the full Monday (in-person), and be followed by the ECMWF Council in Reading.
2025	• ACCORD Bureau regular monthly meeting (online) • **Extraordinary ACCORD Assembly** in Q1/2025, progress by the MoU2-WG, Half-day, online, in March • **Extraordinary ACCORD Assembly** in Q2/2025, progress by the MoU2-WG, Half-day, online, in May • STAC spring meeting (on-line), May-June • **ACCORD Assembly spring 2025** (end of June or beginning of July) • autumn STAC, two half-days, in person (& hybrid), date and place to be defined (in end of October or beginning of November) • PAC meeting, if convened by the Assembly (on-line) • Bureau meeting to prepare the end-of-the-year Assembly • **ACCORD Assembly end of 2025**

[1] *more events on ACCORD calendar: http://www.accord-nwp.org/?ACCORD-MG-CSS-calendar*

ACCORD governance and other meetings in 2024-2025

In addition, a few milestone management meetings also are listed in order to provide a more comprehensive picture of the events next year.

- ACCORD Bureau regular meeting (online): every second Wednesday of the month from January to December
- LTM meetings: 14 February (online), 15 April (hybrid from Norrköping), 29 April 2024 (online)
- ACCORD All Staff Workshop, 15-19 April, SMHI in Norrköping
- Scientific strategy workshop (hybrid), 21-24 May 2024, Météo-France in Toulouse
- STAC spring meeting (online), 5 June 2024
- PAC meeting (online) about strategy on international collaboration around the common codes, 11 June 2024
- **8th Assembly video meeting: 3 July 2024 morning.**
- on-line STAC meeting to review the scientific strategy, 5 September
- *EWGLAM, 30 Sept - 3 Oct, Praha, Czech Republic.*
- *Just for your inform: Autumn ECMWF PAC, 21-22 Oct*
- autumn STAC, two half-days, in person (& hybrid), 6-7 November, place to be defined
- PAC meeting, if convened by the Assembly (virtual)
- Specific Bureau meeting to prepare the end-of-the-year Assembly
- **9th Assembly meeting, December 2024, place and date to be determined.**
- STAC meetings in 2025 have not yet been discussed. At least two regular STAC meetings, one end of May/beginning of June and one end of October/beginning of November, will take place.
- **Extraordinary ACCORD Assembly** in Q1/2025, progress by the MoU2-WG., Half-day, online, in March
- ACCORD All Staff Workshop, April, Hungary
- **Extraordinary ACCORD Assembly** in Q2/2025, progress by the MoU2-WG, Half-day, online, in May
- STAC spring meeting (on-line), May-June
- **ACCORD Assembly spring 2025** (end of June or beginning of July)
- *EWGLAM, End of September, Beginning of October*
- autumn STAC, two half-days, in person (& hybrid), date and place to be defined (in end of October or beginning of November)
- PAC meeting, if convened by the Assembly (virtual)
- Bureau meeting to prepare the end-of-the-year Assembly
- **ACCORD Assembly end of 2025**