

Minutes of the 11th ALADIN General Assembly held in Budapest, November 9-11 2006 Final Version

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting

Dr. H. Malcorps, general director of the RMI and Chairman of ALADIN General Assembly (GA), first thanked Mr. Zoltan Dunkel, President of the Hungarian Meteorological Service, for his kind invitation to the meeting in Budapest.

He welcomed all the participants and informed that Mr. Serrao will be replaced at the meeting by Mrs. Maria José Correia Monteiro and Mr. Cacic by Ms. Ivancan–Picek and opened the meeting.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda and of the Minutes of the Brussels Extraordinary GA

The agenda and the minutes of Brussels were adopted by the Assembly without any additional proposal.

3. Report of PAC Chairman

Dr. Fritz Neuwirth, Chairman of PAC (Policy Advisory Committee), informed the General Assembly about the PAC meeting held on 21-22/09/2006 in Lisbon, based on the preparatory document N° 3. The PAC Chairman emphasized that the 2nd PAC meeting was an important step in the preparation of the GA. Two items were pointed out from the minutes.

1. Evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of PAC mechanisms for consultation of Members: PAC should in a systematic way filter questions for the General Assembly and prepare a smooth General Assembly as far as possible.

2. Another point was the discussion about the relationship ALARO and AROME.

The Chairman reported that this discussion was one of the most important items of the PAC meeting. The developments of ALARO and AROME are not competing but are rather complementary in the opinion of MF, as they address different mesoscale capabilities corresponding to different objectives defined in the MoU. On the other hand MF cannot not share its NWP R&D resources between AROME and ALARO in the next two years, as it has to concentrate fully on the AROME development in that timeframe in order to fulfil its commitments under its contract with the French government. MF expects help rather from the other ALADIN partners for ALARO developments and its scientific maintenance.

The PAC Chairman explained that the discussion had clarified a lot the short term future, in particular as regards the short term priorities for (i) developing a 5 km ALARO capability and (ii) finalising the development of AROME for shorter scales.

The other points on the agenda will be discussed on the current agenda of the 11th Regular General Assembly meeting.

4. Report of the Programme Manager (PM)

ALADIN PM (Jean-Francois Geleyn) reported his activities based on the preparatory document N° 4. ALADIN PM emphasized that recent ARPEGE switches, affecting ALADIN operations, were accomplished smoothly thanks to the effective common coordination together with MF LTM and ALADIN-2 officer (Maria Derkova). ALADIN PM was satisfied with the new structure of the EWGLAM presentations (internal coordination of the scientific presentations by each consortium) and found more practical the last EWGLAM session than previous ones. ALADIN PM also found the common HIRLAM-ALADIN meeting on high resolution data assimilation held in Zurich after the EWGLAM/SRNWP meetings very fruitful. While mentioning the tough coordination effort needed for preparation of the draft 2007 plans, ALADIN PM briefly re-explained to GA how the planning is done (PM, CSSI, LTMs, LACE WGLs). He thanked warmly Jeanette Onvlee, HIRLAM PM, for taking over the new SRNWP proposal during his recovery. Initiated by the Météo-France representative (Alain Ratier), GA returned its thanks to ALADIN PM for the valuable work he did during the year.

5. ALADIN strategy

The Chairman gave the floor to Mr. Fritz Neuwirth, PAC Chairman, who expressed the need to develop the strategy of the ALADIN Programme.

a) Context as analysed by PAC

The summary of the PAC discussion (2nd PAC meeting in Lisbon) on the ALADIN Strategic planning was presented by ALADIN PM based on the preparatory document N° 5_a. The established task team under the chairmanship of Abdalah Mokssit should draft the strategy within the next half year. PAC recognised the very valuable paper of the project manager concerning the strategic plan as an input to the task team. A first version of the Strategy document shall be presented for evaluation at the beginning of April at the next PAC meeting in 2007.

b) First steps of the task-force's (TF) work

In absence of the Task force chairman, Abdalah Mokssit from Morocco, the preparatory document N° 5_b was presented by Jean-François Geleyn.

After the constitution of the Task Force by the General Assembly (February in Brussels) and the assignment of the Task Force chair, the progress of the work is that the agreement of the following timetable of the work was achieved and the first draft of the strategic plan structure was proposed and accepted.

4 points:

- Proposal time table and deadlines;
- Structure of the document;
- Outline of future documents;
- Comments established by PAC.

The Chairman opens the discussion for the two documents.

Météo-France praised the Task Team for this excellent initial progress, and suggested ways forward. First, if the past is important, the strategy document should concentrate on the future. In this respect, objectives, constraints and resources should be linked – especially the two last items – in order to set priorities and make clear choices, since it may not be possible to satisfy all ambitions.

The governance has been defined in the MoU, and is not a matter of discussion in the strategic process.

The ALADIN PM insisted on the benefit of keeping the ALADIN specificities, which contributed to the success of the programme so far.

GA agreed on these comments.

6. ALADIN planning

a) Organizational aspects

i. Terms of Reference of CSSI (Committee for Scientific and System/maintenance Issues)

As stated in the report of the PAC chairman, CSSI should be a lean body with the possibility to create ad hoc task teams if appropriate. The goal of the CSSI is to help the Programme Manager in the management of the whole spectrum of activities of the ALADIN Programme, with some delegation of management and responsibility left upon the decision of the Programme Manager. The SSCs (System/maintenance and Scientific Coordinators) ensure the system and scientific coordination within the Project Team, under the authority of the Programme Manager and with the means appropriate to their field of responsibility.

The CSSI should meet at least twice a year, on the occasion of the ALADIN Workshop and of the EWGLAM/SRNWP annual meeting.

The bullets in the text of preparatory document N° 6_a_i describe the terms of references. Météo-France clarified that the ToR are those of the CSSI, and not of the CSSI “members”.

The General Assembly adopted the terms of references.

ii. Composition of CSSI

The CSSI is composed of the first level SSCs of the ALADIN Project Team. Its Members are approved by the General Assembly, upon proposition by the Programme Manager, based on consultations, in particular at the ALADIN annual workshop.

The Programme Manager proposes to the General Assembly to approve the CSSI/ST composition as shown in the preparatory document (6_a_ii). The preparation of the new proposal followed the PAC's guidelines and was done in close collaboration with the (confirmed) CSSI Chairman. The new proposal is based on the guidelines given by PAC at its 2nd session.

Proposed CSSI Membership:

Predictability and Scientific coordination with HIRLAM: **Andras Horanyi** (CSSI Chair (*))

Data assimilation: **Claude Fischer**

Dynamics and LBC coupling: **Pierre Bénard**

Numerical efficiency issues: **Martina Tudor**

Interfacing issues: **Piet Termonia**

Maintenance: **Ryad El Khatib**

Observations and monitoring: **Sandor Kertesz**

Physics: **Bart Catry**

Support to distributed operations: **Martin Janousek**

Surface: The ALADIN EURRA coordinator if it shall exist; otherwise the issue will be reopened.

Verification: **Jure Jerman**

Proposed Support Team Membership:

Consortium level coordination: **Jean-François Geleyn** (ALADIN Programme Manager)

Consortium level cooperation support (LACE): **Dijana Klaric** (LACE Project Leader)

Consortium level cooperation support (MF): **Claude Fischer** (Toulouse LTM)

Documentation officer:

Information officer: **Maria Derkova**

Administration and Programme Manager assistance: **Patricia Pottier**

Secretarial support: **Jean Maziejewski**

The Programme Manager indicates that Maria Derkova will not be able to carry out her tasks during her maternity leave and that he has found Martin Janousek to take over, but that Maria Derkova can keep valuable contact with the Programme by staying in the Support Team. He remarks that the ST position for documentation officer is still vacant, and calls for volunteers. GA Chairman asked ALADIN PM to prepare a task description for the documentation officer position in order to find the appropriate person more easily. Austrian director asked how often the composition of CSSI is renewed. ALADIN PM answered that it has to be revised and can be renewed every year. The composition of CSSI was accepted with the addition that there might be a need to extend the recent scope of CSSI towards nowcasting and LAM-Climate, or to adjust if following the remaining discussions of the GA. Météo-France suggested that one could also consider that one CSSI member take care of all type of applications. PAC should review the issue at its next Session.

iii. Terms of Reference of LTMs

The General Assembly took note of the remarks expressed at the first LTM meeting. PAC reiterated the important role of LTM for ALADIN. PAC asked the Programme Manager to draft Terms of References for the role of LTMs. Each LTM should cooperate with the Programme Manager to fulfil the work plan of ALADIN, but is at the same time under the responsibility of the Director of his/her NMS. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the directors are well informed about the necessary ALADIN work.

ToR for LTMs were presented by ALADIN PM.

French delegate (Emmanuel Legrand) proposed modifications of the phrasing of some parts of the text in advance the meeting. As it was proposed too late, the originally distributed version did not incorporate these modifications. Local organizers redistributed the final version of the TOR for LTMs during the meeting. In connection with the TOR Austrian director emphasized the important role of the LTMs. As one of the most important conclusions of the 1st LTM meeting (Bratislava, 23-24/10/2006) ALADIN PM reported that the communication should be enhanced between MF and the other members in the context of the code development. To do this, a non-LACE ASC (ALADIN System Coordinator) is proposed to be nominated (Andrey Bogatchev from Bulgaria).

The General Assembly approved the draft proposal for Terms of References of Local Team Managers within the ALADIN programme.

iv Report about the 1st Local Team Managers meeting (Bratislava 23-24/10/06).

The General Assembly took note of the draft Minutes of the first meeting of LTMs. The contained information in the report could be used for other decisions. The report is a reference step for the General Assembly.

The ALADIN PM summarized the main points for the GA.

- Model cycles : in order to overcome practical obstacles, Andrey Bogatchev will inform all partners of the new developments and of their likely impacts when creating new model cycles.
- Operation support : in case of problems following a new cycle implementation, the persons whose code modifications might have caused them will be asked first to try to fix them.
- ALADIN/HIRLAM workshops : the 2007 one will be in Oslo at the HIRLAM invitation. Belgium proposed to organize the 2008 one on behalf of ALADIN. Concerning the ALADIN

mobility, the PM will look for solutions to counteract the tendency to an unbalanced in the current exchanges.

b) Report about RC LACE status and activities

The status and activities of LACE were presented by LACE Project Leader (PL) (Dijana Klaric) covering both research and budgetary aspects. Peter Lynch and Detlev Majewski have produced a report on LACE that the PL will make available. The LACE PL indicated the intent of LACE to look for a EU financial support. She also informed the members that LACE has a website: www.rclace.eu. ECMWF delegate (Erik Andersson) was interested in what extent ODB is used in the LACE community. PL answered and Hungarian delegate (Andras Horanyi) supported, that ODB and knowledge of it, is an essential issue for LACE taking into account the increasing interest to run local data assimilation in the LACE member services.

c) HARMONIE (HIRLAM ALADIN Research (towards) Meso-scale Operational NWP In Euromed, common work / planning with HIRLAM)

The status of the HIRLAM-ALADIN common work and planning was presented by Andras Horanyi. He mentioned that the coordination of the work is strong for data assimilation but there is less harmonization for the physics. It was also emphasized that there is a lack of activity in EURRA in both consortia and in GLAMEPS on the ALADIN side. The importance of surface assimilation / modelling was also emphasized. *An extra item (6 g) was proposed to be added to the agenda to discuss more details on the EURRA project.* HIRLAM PM (Jeanette Onvlee) commented the presentation expressing that HIRLAM has an interest for even more tight cooperation. She supported the opinion that assimilation and modelling of surface is very important and she draw the attention to the SURFEX workshop (to be held in Toulouse, 11-13/12/2006), which might lead to important outcomes for planning in this field. HIRLAM PM confirmed again that HIRLAM is going to re-implement all its development on 4DVAR into the ALADIN code environment in order to reach the common goal of a best possible meso-gamma scale assimilation system. ECMWF representative made a remark on the HARMONIE code cooperation, namely that the common phasing of the IFS and AAA/HIRLAM software will be an even more complex issue than so far and that it will require more organizational work consequently. ECMWF representative noticed the use of ECMWF LBC files to drive ALADIN as an interesting and probably beneficial topic and mentioned that the contact point for that is Gabor Radnoti from the ECMWF side.

The next meeting of HIRLAM and the ALADIN Workshop will take place in Oslo, from 22/4/07 (joint HMG/CSSI meeting) until 26/4/07.

d) Evolution of the SRNWP (EUMETNET 'vision') context

HIRLAM PM presented the evolution of the proposal for the new EUMETNET/SRNWP programme (3rd phase) based on the discussion at the 13th SRNWP meeting (Zurich, 9-12/10/2006). The most important agreement on that meeting was that 3 new projects would be submitted under the umbrella of EUMETNET in order:

- to create an operational European LAMEPS;
- to develop joint verification inside Europe;
- to enhance interoperability between European NMS.

ALADIN PM emphasized that HIRLAM and ALADIN directors need to build a common standpoint in this issue to be successful in front of EUMETNET.

Processes towards April 2007:

- Redaction group to work out the final proposal text for EUMETNET Council in April 2007: 3 members per consortium.
- Three drafting teams to work out each project proposal in detail: 2 members per consortium

- Authors to be designated by 1 November.

e) Objectives and priorities for 2007

ALADIN PM shortly presented his position paper on the 2006/2007 objectives and priorities based on preparatory document N° 6_e. Météo-France representative (Alain Ratier) considered that, for the specific matters under debate, the word “management” should be used instead of “governance”, in line with the distinction made by the MOU.. Czech representative (Radmila Brozkova) asked what is the mechanism to modify the governance if the latter is not working well. Météo-France representative answered that the governance and management processes described in the MoU, as adopted by all signatories, were just starting to be implemented and that the first thing was to use them before considering changes. In case changes would actually be justified by experience, it would be up to the GA, and, ultimately, to the signatories of the MoU to agree such changes. HIRLAM PM made a remark that when setting up the priorities it can be a very useful input to collect information what are the needs from the user side. She also added, that to set up common objectives and priorities of the consortium it is recommended to send a questionnaire to the NMS about their most important users. ALADIN PM reacted on this remark that in ALADIN it would be very difficult to build the planning (prioritization) on the user demands as the NMS taking part in the consortium are on different technical level and that this discrepancy should be considered in any case. Météo-France representative (Alain Ratier) made further remarks along these thoughts, namely that the first priorities to satisfy are the need of the NMSs with respect to the obligations to their governments. A survey to collect NMS needs and priorities could be carried, but is not a prerequisite at this stage. It was decided that Emmanuel Legrand would be in charge to collect and analyze the requirements of the ALADIN members.

f) Working practices and links between various bodies

ALADIN PM presented the working practices based on preparatory document N° 6_f. Météo-France representative suggested again the replacement of the word “governance” by “management”.

Further practical implementation of the new management:

1. PAC decided for 2007 to have an ordinary session in the spring, the meeting will take place on 2-3/4/2007 in the Czech Republic at the kind invitation of CHMI.
2. The role of Local Team Managers should somehow appear in the considerations about the links between bodies. The approval of the Terms of References for LTM’s by the present session of the General Assembly should help clarify some of the related issues.
3. Yearly calendar of events:
 - The LTM’s would favour having a specific separate meeting at the time of the ALADIN workshop to decide there whether or not they need an autumn special gathering like the one in Bratislava this year.
 - CSSI should meet twice at similar intervals.
 - The Fall sequence should be **PAC-CSSI-(LTM)-GA**.
 - In spring the PAC session should in principle be programmed before the ALADIN Workshop like it will be the case in 2007.
4. To enhance the cooperation with **HIRLAM**, it was recommended by PAC to invite observers from the relevant HIRLAM bodies to the relevant ALADIN bodies, depending on the agenda of the meetings and expecting some form of reciprocity, to be defined. If supported and implemented this would also represent some additional complexity for the issue ‘links between various bodies’, but would lead to far more efficient flows of information and decision processes. The links with **RC LACE** should not be forgotten either especially given the important role that plays the enlarged LACE steering Committee (LSC).

The General Assembly approved these points.

g) More details on the EURRA project

There was a lively discussion on this topic. Austrian director pointed out that the EURRA project is always mentioned as an important future task but there is no coordinator of it inside ALADIN. PAC is in favour of a common proposal, because it would bring more visibility in a field, where scientific effort has to be done in any way. Head of French NWP group (Francois Bouttier) carried the information to the French delegation to the GA that there is no call for the project yet so we're not late with that. In the opinion of HIRLAM PM it's useful to nominate a coordinator even before the call for the project in order to start the preparations. Météo-France representative proposed that CSSI should decide about the coordination of EURRA in ALADIN. LACE PL added that PAC also might be concerned in case if international data exchange is needed in the frame of EURRA. Hungarian delegate draw the attention to the fact that presently there is no manpower dedicated to EURRA and if directors find it is an important project, they should declare it and transfer / dedicate manpower for it. Météo-France representative agreed on the previous comment and added that the needed resources have to be estimated and that probably extra money has to be found for EURRA in the future as it is supposed to be a long term project. GA Chairman asked for the planned time range of the project but no exact information is available yet, however it is supposed to be a long-term project indeed. The French LTM (Claude Fischer) stated that the surface assimilation / modelling should be anyhow developed, which will also give a more solid basis for the EURRA project in the future. However the current under-staffed effort in the ALADIN work plan on this topic will have to be corrected. He also mentioned that for this development the NWP and Climate groups would have to work together more closely than before. It was repeated by the Hungarian delegate, that the forthcoming SURFEX workshop (Toulouse, 11-13/12/2006) will be a good occasion for discussions on surface data assimilation, consequently it is recommended that all the experts concerned in the planning should be present at this event and that maybe a EURRA coordinator can be nominated at that time.

7. Presentation of the work plan

a) Presentation of the work plan itself

ALADIN PM presented the work plan for 2007 based on the preparatory document N° 7_a. Hungarian delegate was surprised by the large amount of planned manpower dedicated to LAMEPS, which is in contradiction with the poor participation in the GLAMEPS for instance. Austrian delegate (Thomas Haiden) also expressed his surprises on behalf of the LACE WGL for predictability (Yong Wang) about the large amount of LAMEPS dedicated manpower in ALADIN (more than the double amount of the dedicated manpower in LACE). Météo-France representative raised the question, what was the way of planning and how the priorities were set up to each topic. ALADIN PM explained that these are the priorities specified by the LTMs and LACE coordinators. Météo-France representative noted that priorities would have now to be revised in accordance with the agreed recommendations of PAC as regards short term priorities. PM explained that most of the time, the LTMs individual estimation fits the overall common priorities, however there are some exceptions. In this case ALADIN PM should revise carefully the overall priorities and that's the way he tried to do it pragmatically.

b) Manpower implications

ALADIN PM presented the manpower implications of the work plan based on preparatory document N° 7_b. He found the work plan generally balanced considering the needs and available means, however he pointed out problems related to the planning of physics developments. Namely, he mentioned his experience that there are a lot of intentions to test new developments in the physics but

very few intentions for the real scientific / code development. HIRLAM PM asked whether the reason for such situation is the lack of knowledge or something else. ALADIN PM answered it is just the half of the problem. ALADIN PM explained that too much manpower was anticipated in advance for physics development planned so if the same goals are to be achieved some redirection of the resources is needed in the research. As a reaction to this explanation, LACE PL asked HIRLAM PM about the possibilities to complete the ALADIN manpower with HIRLAM contributions. HIRLAM PM gave a very positive answer that in principle HIRLAM is ready to contribute to the ALADIN (HARMONIE) work in several aspects like surface assimilation / modelling, physics, and data assimilation, and offered also support in training. HIRLAM PM proposed that in the future it would be useful to count together (HIRLAM and ALADIN) the manpower resources for the HARMONIE type of developments. Czech delegate mentioned that a research programme like ALATNET would maybe attract new people solving a part of the deficit in the manpower needs.

c) Global financial implications

ALADIN PM presented the global financial implications of the work plan based on the preparatory document N° 7_c.

Following the non execution of some missions/stays planned in the 2006 work plan and financed by the flat rate contribution, there will be a surplus of about 14 300 €. To maintain the mobility at the level of the previous years, the target value of the 2007 flat rate contribution will be 7 300 €.

GA assembly accepted this financial proposal.

8. From work plan to task allocation

Discussing this item, a debate came up on the manpower implications again, trying to find answer to the existing unbalances in the work plan. Czech director (Ivan Obrusnik) proposed that a general mechanism should be worked out in order to specify the best priority order for an efficient development. Austrian delegate expressed that the overall priority order is also affected a lot by the ability of the individual researchers. In his opinion there is a lack of knowledge for real scientific / code development, consequently simple things like generation of downscaled LAMEPS are preferred by scientists. Météo-France representative stated that the task allocation should reflect the agreed short term priorities, and that, in his view, a second questionnaire should therefore be sent out by ALADIN PM to the LTMs to help satisfying the short term priorities. Czech delegate emphasized that scientists are usually thinking in long term research which leads to appropriate solutions of the scientific problems and which also gives an opportunity for the continuation of their work. Météo-France representative pointed out that, while both ALARO and AROME developments are considered as priority short-term developments, MF was open to starting discussion on the longer terms goals earlier than 2008 in the framework of the PAC, but could not dedicate further resources in the short term. ALADIN PM expressed his opinion that the deadline for an operational AROME is close enough so that one should not have to wait until that time before investing any long-term secured efforts to the ALARO development. LACE PL's remark was that long term goals should drive the short term plans and actions, which was supported by Czech delegate adding that long term goals are more attractive for the scientists themselves too. Météo-France representative stated that MF had to concentrate its resources first on the AROME development until it is running on a solid operational basis as this was a constraint imposed on MF. He also mentioned that MF contribution to ALARO and other developments could be considered in a more relaxed and structured way after achieving the short-term AROME goals. The ALADIN PM stressed that he has problems with managing a project in which ALARO and AROME are competing objectives, and added that, in his opinion no major changes in the LTMs answers were to be expected to a second questionnaire.

GA Chairman closed this item by asking ALADIN PM to resend the questionnaire to LTMs and update the tables of preparatory document N° 7_a, with the objective to reduce unbalances as far as possible.

9. Overview of the past year

Reports on the past year's usual activities were presented by ALADIN PM based on the statistics provided by Patricia Pottier.

a) Operational report

ALADIN PM presented the operational report of 2006. An important comment of him was that if ALADIN partners have ARPEGE related operational problems, MF should make an effort to solve them. The French LTM answered that people in Toulouse are ready to solve all the upcoming problems if they are reported in a comprehensive way towards MF. This will be the case in particular for correcting the problem resulting from the treatment of the ice in the soil, causing important bias in the T2m forecasts.

Emmanuel Legrand gave a PowerPoint presentation about the operational report.

- NEC SX-8: first version of AROME-France end 2008 has currently being installed.
- NEC Phase 2 in 2009, an extended version of AROME-France.
- ARPEGE schedule: priority = moving to NEC
- Telecom: use of RMDCN:
 1. Current RMDCN: operations for BE, BG, CZ; back up for RC-LACE via Reading since August 2006.
 2. New RMDCN (migration Q1 2007).

b) Maintenance report

The General Assembly took note of the information to be presented during the Session as Maintenance Report and had the opportunity to comment it during the presentation.

The PM noted too weak a participation of some members, despite an overall satisfying repartition per topics. He stressed that the involvement in these activities during stays at Toulouse are very useful and allow the participants to be much more at ease when back in their services to cope with maintenance problems.

The maintenance report was accepted by GA.

c) Manpower figures for 7-05 to 6-06

The General Assembly took note of the information to be presented during the Session as Manpower Figures Report.

The PAC was pleased to see the significant manpower involved in ALADIN 2005-2006.

The ALADIN PM states that this information (schedules) must be read at ease at home and could be discussed there with the teams. He expects feedback on this paper.

Manpower statistics were presented by ALADIN PM ***and were accepted by GA.***

10. Membership and cooperation matters

- i. Monitoring the cases treated at the extraordinary General Assembly;

The General Assembly took note of the situation regarding membership and cooperation matters for the cases already treated at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Brussels (Turkey, FYROM and Moldavia).

Turkey:

Turkey needed clarification about an article of the MoU. It concerns Article 14 in the final clause; '98 This MoU cannot be opposed to or supersede any national law and/or regulation to be respected by the Parties'. This is valid in particular regarding the Turkish law defining the national territory, recalling that Turkey has not signed the UNCLOS convention. The signature of the MoU by the Turkish NMS will not violate their national legislation. However it is wise and sensible to recall this particular point when appropriate.

Accordingly, following a proposal by Météo-France representative, the Turkish NMS is invited to send a letter to the GA chairman confirming their willingness to become an acceding member, with the precision that it has to respect the national law defining the Turkish national territory. A positive answer of the GA chairman will be enough to make the Turkish an acceding member officially (no need for an addendum to the MoU at this stage).

This point will be again specified and confirmed when the Turkish NMS signs to become a full member.

Turkey thanks the General Assembly for supporting their membership.

FYROM:

Since the Extraordinary General Assembly in Brussels there has been a change of Director at the head of the Hydrometeorological Institute in Skopje, this explains that nothing happened in the meantime. The new Director is keen to pursue the aim of joining the ALADIN consortium as a strategic target and it can be expected that contacts will be re-established soon.

Macedonian representative visited Bulgaria (reported by the Bulgarian delegate, Valery Spiridonov) but they still lack manpower and funds to fulfil the criteria to become acceding member. Météo-France representative suggested that FYROM could look for a research cooperation agreement with some of its ALADIN neighbours.

LACE PL mentioned that there are LACE resources to help FYROM sending scientists at the next HIRLAM-ALADIN workshop.

Moldavia:

Moldavia intends to remain associated with the ALADIN consortium, however they do not have the resources to run the model, and they just receive the outputs from Romania as explained by Romanian delegate (Cornel Soci). ALADIN PM indicated that the GA chairman and he will send a letter to the Moldavia NMS recalling the conditions linked to the reception and use of the ALADIN products, namely that if they did not proceed with the signature of the agreement already proposed by Romania 4 years after the signature of the 3rd MoU, they are not allowed any more to receive the products.

ii. If appropriate, new cases.

The General Assembly took note of the situation regarding membership and cooperation matters for the cases not discussed at the Extraordinary General Assembly in Brussels.

Situation:

Ukraine: In Brussels, the Bulgarian delegation indicated the existence of a request by Ukraine to join the ALADIN consortium. However, no official step was registered since last February on that matter.

Georgia: The Centre for Monitoring and Forecasting of the Ministry of Environment Security and natural Resources of Georgia expressed to the Chairman of the GA, Dr Malcorps, their strong wish to become member of the ALADIN consortium with the aim to establish NWP for their country and maybe for the whole South-Caucasian region. They were informed of the relevant dispositions of the ALADIN MoU and asked to contact the Programme Manager for further exchanges. No reaction of their part followed.

Belarus: The Republican Hydrometeorological Centre of the Ministry of Natural Resources and environmental Protection of Belarus expressed to the Chairman of the General Assembly their intention to apply for joining the ALADIN consortium. They were informed of the relevant dispositions of the ALADIN MoU and asked to contact the Programme Manager for further exchanges. Nothing happened in this matter.

11. Resource matters

a) Manpower requirements and allocation

No discussion took place as everybody agreed that this was already discussed implicitly during the meeting.

b) Budget matters

French delegate (Christian Blondin) stated that the contribution of each member was fixed at 6000 Euros for 2006. Most invoices were sent on the 8th of August. He asked the non LACE partners to speed up the money transfers so that all the money arrives before the 15th of December 2006. He also asked the partners to proceed next year as soon as possible with the payment.

Representative of Morocco informed the GA that payment will be done earlier next year and asked for a letter referring to the meeting in Brussels explaining the invoice. The Chair will write a letter to their Director, Mr. Geanah Mustapha, in order to proceed with the payment of the financial contribution to ALADIN. Delegate of Tunisia expressed that the payment procedure is very complicated for them, consequently a delay is expected but the money is available. Tunisian delegate also promised to contribute more to the common ALADIN work in the future, in terms of manpower.

i. Monitoring of the 2006 budget execution, money stream and financed actions;

The General Assembly took note of the information provided in the preparatory document N° 11_b_i about the 2006 budget execution, money stream and financed actions.

The GA took note of the use of the flat rate budget and that the 2006 budget execution is monitored and under control.

For 2006, no effort was foreseen or has been done to harmonize the three budgets (the so-called flat-rate budget, the RC LACE research budget and the Meteo-France budgets for centralized maintenance and for Keep-In-Touch (KIT)-type actions) or to create some bridges between them. This was recognized as a weakness for the ALADIN Programme and a proposal, approved by PAC at its Lisbon Session, for dealing with the issue from 2007 onwards will be presented in the preparatory document N° 11_b_iii.

ii. Proposals for additional mechanisms for transfer and management of contributions in 2007;

iii. Matters regarding Royalties.

GA accepted the proposal of ALADIN PM on 'additional mechanisms for transfer and management of contributions in 2007'. **Matters regarding Royalties were also discussed in this item.** The proposal of ALADIN PM (preparatory document N° 11_b_iii) was approved by GA. As it was recommended by PAC (Lisbon, 21-22/09/2006) the following statement was accepted: The Members of ALADIN agree

that the term « selling » mentioned at the article 86 of the MoU not only does include sales made directly by a Member outside its national territory but also those made through companies under its control, to which it has transferred, by a convention, commercial and intellectual property rights on ALADIN products to carry out commercial activities outside its national territory. In this latter case, it is the responsibility of such a Member to declare the corresponding annual sales of the companies it contracted with, to collect the royalty fees and to redistribute their amount to the Members according to the General Assembly decisions. Taking into account all the modifications above, GA quoted, that the payment to be done in 2007 is 5850 € for each Member. This is composed by the flat-rate contribution (7300 €) minus the incomes from the Royalties (1450 € distributed to the Members paying flat-rate contributions equally from their share of the total rights, i.e. outside the right of MF and of RC-LACE Members).

12. Final check of the ALADIN Programme strategy and 2007 planning issues

It was repeated that ALADIN PM and LTMs still keep in contact in order to finalize the work plan for 2007.

13. OBSNET

ALADIN PM presented the idea of OBSNET based on the information provided by Jean Pailleux. GA declared that they will consider this information. Météo-France representative indicated that, due to the uncertainty about the SRNWP budget, it would be sensible to include OBSNET in the SRNWP proposal.

14. AOB

During the AOB session several comments were made.

- It was repeated that the planning procedure should incorporate the exploration of the needs of each NMSs. Emmanuel Legrand confirms his acceptance to carry out the NMS directors interviews, so that the ALADIN top objectives and the compulsory elements of the work plan be sound. A report will be presented at the next PAC.
- Austrian director made a remark that the cooperation in the field of nowcasting and climate related activities should be enhanced in the future as for the time being only individuals work on them in the community. Météo-France representative agreed that nowcasting is important but he would put less priority for starting such a cooperation immediately, saying that other tasks are more urgent at the moment. He recalled that the priority to be given to the development of deterministic models, which are the basic founding elements of probabilistic approaches. ALADIN PM made a remark that it is PAC's task to set the priorities. In conclusion, it was agreed that HIRLAM and ALADIN will elaborate a draft document to feed CSSI debates on those issues.
- Slovenian director (Jozef Roskar) presented his successor Klement Bergant and explained that his duties in the future will mainly be related to the South European Drought Monitoring Centre. When the Centre is installed, he will look for a contract with the ALADIN community.

The Royal Meteorological Institute of Belgium will organize the ALADIN-HIRLAM workshop in 2008.

15. Date and place of the next General Assembly(ies)

Slovenian director offered the organization of the next GA in Slovenia (probably in Ljubljana) and GA agreed that it will be held on the 8-9/11/2007. Portuguese delegate (Maria Monteiro) kindly offered to host the GA in 2008 in Portugal.

16. Closing

The Chairman of the ALADIN General Assembly, Dr Malcorps thanked Mr. Zoltan Dunkel for the excellent organization and closed the meeting.