



## EISCAT Scientific Association

### Short Report from the 100<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Council Hybrid meeting on June 1 and 2, 2023.

#### Participants:

##### Council:

Chairperson: Prof. Jörg Gumbel  
Finland: Dr. Kati Sulonen (Delegate), Prof. Pekka Verronen, Prof. Anita Aikio  
Japan: Prof. Hiroshi Miyaoka (Delegate), Prof. Satonori Nozawa  
Norway: Dr. Pål Sørgaard (Delegate), Prof. Patrick Espy. Prof. Ingrid Mann  
P. R. of China: Prof. Jian Wu (Delegate), Dr. Zonghua Ding  
Sweden: Dr. Maria Thuveson (Delegate), Dr. Olle Norberg  
UK: Prof. Mervyn Freeman, (Delegate), Prof. Ian McCrea

##### By Invitation:

SAC: Prof. Yasunobu Ogawa (SAC Chairperson)  
AFC: Dr. Inger Solheim (AFC Chairperson), Ruth Chaplin  
WGLS: Dr. Tomas Andersson

HQ: Dr. Axel Steuwer (Director), Mr. Henrik Andersson (Head of Administration),  
Mr. Johan Svensson (Council meeting secretary)

Absent: -

Time: Session 1: June 1 GMT 08:00 to 18:00  
Session 2: June 2 GMT 09:00 to 12:00  
Restricted session: June 2 GMT 08:30

Location: Session 1 was held on the UiT field station in Skibotn and on the EISCAT\_3D site in Skibotn, Session 2 was held in Tromsø.

Chairperson Prof. Jörg Gumbel opened the meeting by verifying that all delegations are properly represented.



## **1 Adoption of the agenda**

The proposed agenda was accepted.

## **2 Approval of the minutes of the 99<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> extra meetings**

- 2.1 Council approved the minutes from the 99th meeting. Council approved the minutes from the 99th extraordinary meeting with minor corrections.

## **3 Matters arising from the 99<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> extra meetings.**

- 3.1 Matters arising from the 99<sup>th</sup> meeting and the 99<sup>th</sup> extraordinary meeting that need follow-up.

95: Council noted and welcomed the confirmation by the Director/EISCAT that the software development team will develop an algorithm to ensure compliance with articles 2a (non-military purposes), e (white-listed objects), and f (host-country inspection rights) of the EISCAT Agreement. 96: Not ready yet. 97: Not ready yet. 98: BlueBook items 2a and 2f will be taken care of by the newly established working group. Software development for 2e (white-listed objects) needs to be followed up. 99: Council needs to follow the work of the software development team, in specific regarding article 2e (white-listed objects). 100: Work in progress.

95: Council recommended that a strategy be developed on how to facilitate monitoring observations with EISCAT\_3D on the basis that this would be important for the future science return from the facility. Also, pre-scheduling should be prepared and the input from other instruments should be considered for triggering high-power mode observations. 96: Work yet to be done. 97: Work in progress. 98: Work in progress. 99: Work in progress. 100: Suspended. This should be considered by the EISCAT Company.

95: Council recommended that other sources of funding should be sought in order to increase the level of operations. 96: Important for the coming years. 97: METI has joined as an affiliate; work continues. 98: Needs to be followed up, will be affected by the conclusions of the new working group and discussed within the Strategy group. 99: Should be considered when planning the new organisational structure. 100: Suspended. In future, this will be part of the Director's reports.

99: Council recognizes that key performance indicators (KPIs) are important for monitoring the performance of the facility and for maintaining the landmark status of EISCAT\_3D, which will be evaluated in 2025 by ESFRI. Therefore, Council asks the SAC to elaborate the KPIs further. 100: Work in progress.

99 extra: The Association will establish a security organization within the Association and perform other activities that can prepare for the future company to become operational as soon as possible 100: Work in progress.



## Reporting

### 4 Report from the Director

The Director's report was focused on

- Organization Status
- Sites status
- Security measures

4.1 Council notes the report from the Director, including a report about security measures.

### 5 Report of EISCAT\_3D status

The EISCAT\_3D project manager presented the EISCAT\_3D status with focus on site preparation status. Monostatic First Light measurements are expected to be carried out during 2023.

5.1 Council notes the report about the EISCAT\_3D status.

### 6 Report from the Administrative and Finance Committee

The AFC chairperson informed Council on the 79th AFC meeting held on April 21 and 24, 2023.

AFC had the following comments and recommendations for HQ and Council:

- AFC recommends Council to accept the audit report.
- AFC recommends HQ to prepare a justification for the budget increase, and mitigation strategies for suggestions for additional funding or transfer of surplus funds.
- AFC recommends Council to appoint Ruth Chaplin (AFC Vice Chair UK) as new AFC chairperson, and Meri Vannas (FI) as new AFC vice chair.

6.1 Council noted the report from the AFC.

6.2 Council appointed Ruth Chaplin (UK) as new AFC chairperson, and Meri Vannas (FI) as new AFC vice chair.

### 7 Report from the Scientific Advisory Committee

The SAC chairperson informed Council on 83rd SAC meeting held on April 19-20 with focus on

- A further elaboration on Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
- Operations in 2022 and 2023
- Peer Review Program time
- All Associate time
- EISCAT reorganisation
- EISCAT\_3D User Meeting 2023, Radar School 2023, International EISCAT Symposium 2024



Some SAC recommendations to Council:

- SAC recommended Council to allocate further resources for more measurement days that originally targeted and budgeted.
- SAC recommended to Council and to the chair of the new Working Group on Future Relationships that they include at least two members from SAC into the WG, one member from a host and one from a non-host country.
- SAC requested that Council considers and confirms Dr. Thomas Ulich as Chair and Dr Lasse Clausen as vice chair.

Changes in the SAC committee: Dr. Lasse Clausen became the new SAC representative of Norway. Dr. Anja Strømme joined SAC as new external member.

- 7.1 Council notes the report from the SAC.
- 7.2 Council appoints Tomas Ulich (FI) as new SAC chairperson, and Lasse Clausen (NO) as new SAC vice chair.
- 7.3 Council asks EISCAT Headquarters and SAC to plan operations of the EISCAT Svalbard Radar and allows EISCAT Headquarters to overspend with regard to these operations during the remainder of 2023.

## **8 Working groups on the Legal Status and on Future Relationships**

Council acknowledged that the Working Group on the Legal Status (WGLS) has finished its work. At the extra meeting on March 30, 2023, Council decided to initiate a transition of EISCAT to a state-owned company. The ministries of the host countries are now working on the transition to a new legal organization. EISCAT HQ will in due time inform the user community about the development.

At the 99<sup>th</sup> extraordinary meeting, Council delegated to the Council chair to form a new working group with the mandate to develop ideas and recommendations concerning the future relationship between research community, funders, and company. As appointed chairperson of the new Working Group on Future Relationships (WGFR), Mervyn Freeman presented an overview over issues to be discussed in the group. The group should have broad representation, and each delegation is asked to nominate a member. Desirable representation also includes SAC and AFC.

- 8.1 Council notes the report from the Working Group on the Legal Status (WGLS). Council thanks the group for thorough work and suspends the group.
- 8.2 Council asks EISCAT Headquarters to provide public information about the planned transition of EISCAT to a new organizational structure, after appropriate consultation with the Governments in the host countries.
- 8.3 Council specifies the mandate of the new Working Group on the Future Relationships (WGFR): Describe the status quo regarding relationships between EISCAT Association, funders, and scientific community. Provide a value assessment of these relationships with regard to the future organization. As primary deliverable, provide a document to Ministries that serves as an



input to the formation process of the company. A basic version of the document should be available in September. An extended version of the document should be produced until the 101<sup>st</sup> Council meeting, with a possibility for Council members to provide input already prior to the 101<sup>st</sup> Council meeting.

## **9 Closing of the Annual Financial Report 2022 (approval and signing)**

9.1 Council approves the Annual Financial Report 2022 and closes the accounts.

## **10 EISCAT\_3D construction project financial situation**

HQ presented the EISCAT\_3D financial status. It was assumed that the construction project will run until the new legal status is in existence and ready for assets to be moved.

10.1 Council notes the financial situation of the EISCAT\_3D construction project. Council accepts the plan of EISCAT Headquarters to use current reserves to finalize the ongoing construction of EISCAT\_3D.

## **11 Financial development 2023**

The income will be less than budgeted. To compensate, the total transfer of funds from regular EISCAT to the EISCAT\_3D construction project is reduced. Additional grants from Finland, Norway and Sweden are redirected to the EISCAT\_3D construction project to cover project staff costs and system commissioning expenses in 2023. A doubling of the annual contribution by Japan is tied to operations of EISCAT\_3D.

Electricity cost on Svalbard did not increase as much as indicated which means that the Svalbard system can be operated about 100 hours more than budgeted.

11.1 Council notes the financial situation in 2023.

## **12 Budget 2024**

HQ expects that the EISCAT\_3D construction project continues over 2024. Budget implications due to the planned change of the legal structure have not been considered. In the budget, the transfer day to the new legal body is assumed to be January 1, 2025. The Kiruna and Sodankylä sites will be closed during 2023. Operations of the current systems, except for the Kiruna and Sodankylä receivers, are planned to be as in the 2023 budget.

12.1 Council notes the budget draft for 2024.

## **13 Five Year plan**

The Council decision on March 30, 2023, to change EISCAT to a state-owned company, makes it meaningless to make five-year plans over the transition period, since costs, funding, etc. will all change when going from the current association setup to a company.

13.1 Council accepts the idea of EISCAT Headquarters not to prepare a Five Year plan.



#### **14 Restricted Session**

The restricted session was held on June 2 from 08:30 until 09:00.

- 14.1 From the restricted session: Council asks the delegates of the host countries to contact their relevant ministries and point out the importance of continuity regarding the Director of EISCAT.

#### **15 Any other business**

- 15.1 Council encourages the plan of EISCAT Headquarters to plan for an event in 2025 combining the 50-year anniversary of EISCAT, the inauguration of EISCAT\_3D, and the transfer to the new company.
- 15.2 Council expresses its gratitude to Inger Solheim and Yasunobu Ogawa for their work during recent years as chairs for AFC and SAC, respectively.

#### **16 Next meetings**

- 16.1 The next Council meeting will be hosted by the P.R. of China on November 8-9 in Qingdao.
- 16.2 The 102nd Council meeting will be hosted by Japan.