

THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF SESAME

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dead Sea, Jordan, 21-22 December 2017

Decisions

The Council of SESAME took the following decisions at its 31st meeting:

- 31 C/Decision 1 The President of the Council will give ITER the name and contact details of the delegates to the Council of the SESAME Members so that ITER may verify with them whether any of the Members would be interested in receiving a speaker from ITER.
- 31 C/Decision 2 The request by CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) to acquire observer status in the SESAME Council is unanimously approved.
- 31 C/Decision 3 A sub-committee to sensitize the scientific community of potential Members to the importance of SESAME for their scientific work will be set up. It will consist of Cyprus, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority and Turkey. The sub-committee will elaborate a road map to identify the countries to be approached, and in each case the rationale for this, and decide who will contact whom.
- 31 C/Decision 4 The position of Technical Director will be offered to Dr Riccardo Bartolini (Italy) with effect from 1 January 2018. He will work on a 50% basis. The Scientific Director, Dr Giorgio Paolucci, is re-appointed for a further four years with effect from 1 January 2018. He will now need to deliver more science. There should be more coordination within the Directorate and the Director will need to ensure this.
- 31 C/Decision 5 Since no consensus was reached on the External Auditor to be appointed, it was unanimously agreed that the Director would take a closer look at the offers received and after the meeting transmit his recommendation to the President of the Council.
- 31 C/Decision 6 Dr Esen Ecran Alp (Advanced Photon Source, Argonne National Lab, USA) will be invited to chair SESAME's Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) when Dr Zehra Sayers steps down from this position immediately following the 32nd Council meeting in May 2018. Dr Sayers will be invited to serve as an *ad hoc* member of the Committee for one year with effect from 3 May 2018 so that the new Chair may benefit from her vast experience in the Committee's matters. Dr Graham Neil George (University of Saskatchewan, Canada) and Dr Marco Stampanoni University and ETH Zürich ETZ F 85, Switzerland), who had been appointed to the Committee at the 30th Council meeting (May 2017), will be invited to exceptionally serve for four years instead of three so that there is never a year in which more than four

members of the Committee are rotated at the same time. They will therefore be rotated in May 2021.

- 31 C/Decision 7 The 2018 operational budget will be US\$5,288,613.20. It will be distributed among the Members as follows: Cyprus US\$518,551.45, Egypt US\$534,522.84, Iran US\$912,650.59, Israel US\$912,650.59, Jordan US\$518,551.45, Pakistan US\$912,650.59, and Turkey US\$912,650.59.¹ In view of the particular situation of the Palestinian Authority, its contribution to the 2018 budget will be kept at US\$50,000.
- 31 C/Decision 8 With effect from 1 January 2018, the scale of basic salaries will be increased as follows: Director category: 5%; Professional category: 10%; Administrative staff (AD) in the General Staff category: 15% for the grades AD-1 and AD-2 and 10% for the grades AD-3 and AD-4; and Technical staff (T) in the General Staff category: 15% for the grades T-1 and T-2 and 10% for the grades T-3 and T-4. With effect from 1 January 2018, the child allowance will be increased to US\$60/child up to a maximum of three children.
- 31 C/Decision 9 With effect from 1 January 2018, SESAME will cover both its 50% contribution to the health insurance of the staff in the AD1, AD2, T1 and T2 grades of the General Staff category, as well as the 50% share to be covered by the staff members in these grades. Also with effect from 1 January 2018, it will cover up to US\$100.00/month of each of the said staff members' contribution to the pension scheme of Jordan's Social Security System if they are affiliated to this scheme in an individual capacity.
- 31 C/Decision 10 With effect from 1 January 2018, eligibility to education grants will be extended to staff in both the administrative and technical groups in the General Staff category as laid down in document SESAME/DEADSEA/31-C/17-11 submitted to the Council meeting. This grant will amount to 75% of the actual expenses admissible for reimbursement, up to a maximum of US\$1,000/child/academic year, or 75% of the actual admissible expenses, whichever is the lower, for a maximum of three children.
- 31 C/Decision 11 The offer by Switzerland of a *Swiss Lounge* (i.e. furniture/furnishings for a lounge) for a central place in one of the buildings on the SESAME campus is unanimously welcomed.

¹ Israel's vote on this decision was obtained after the meeting.