



COST ACTION TU0601

Robustness of Structures

Minutes of the 1st Management Committee Meeting

**Building Research Establishment (BRE)
Bucknalls Lane, Garston, Watford WD25 9XX, United Kingdom**

8 – 9 October 2007

8 October 2007 (Day 1)

1 Welcome

The Chair of the Action Prof. Michael Faber warmly welcomed all the participants of the meeting and the Action Rapporteur Prof. Kiril Gramatikov.

2 Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted without any amendment.

3 Presentation of the Delegates

The following were present during the meeting:

1. Jitendra Agarwal (UK)
2. Radu Bancila (RO)
3. Mike Byfield (UK)
4. Gerard Canisius (UK)
5. Fabio Casciati (IT)
6. Dimitris Charmpis (CY)
7. Marios Chryssanthopoulos (UK)
8. Purnendu Das (UK)
9. Geoffrey Decan (BE)
10. Dimitris Dimantidis (DE)
11. Michael Faber (CH)
12. Lucia Faravelli (IT)
13. Ludovic Fulop (FI)
14. Marian Gizejowski (PL)
15. Niels Peter Hoj (CH)



16. Milan Holicky (CZ)
17. Daniel Honfi (HU)
18. Bassam Izzudin (UK)
19. Birgitte Kroon (DK)
20. Bernt Leira (NO)
21. Harikrishna Narasimhan (CH)
22. Enrico Rizzuto (IT)
23. Lars Rolle (substitute for Ulrike Kuhlmann) (DE)
24. Luis Simoes Da Silva (PT)
25. John Dalsgaard Sorensen (DK)
26. Miroslav Sykora (CZ)
27. Luc Taerwe (BE)
28. Nicolae Taranu (RO)
29. Sven Thelandersson (SE)
30. Goran Turk (SI)
31. Dimitri Val (IL)
32. Ton Vrouwenvelder (NL)
33. Leonard Ziemianski (PL)
34. Action Rapporteur Kiril Gramatikov (MK)

All the participants introduced themselves and also briefly outlined their interests in the area of robustness of structures.

4 Action Website

The Chair presented the Action website – <http://www.cost-tu0601.ethz.ch/> and showed where information pertaining to the Action – organization, contacts list, future meetings, documents, links, etc. could be found. The link to the website would once again be sent to the members of the Action.

5 Cooperation with related COST Actions

The Rapporteur suggested to have close cooperation and interaction with COST Action C26 (Urban Habitat Constructions under Catastrophic Events), particularly to avoid any overlap or repetition.

The Chair pointed out that some members in this Action were also involved with COST Action C26 and this provided a strong basis to explore possible synergies. He further added that he was the leader of Working Group (WG) 4 in COST Action C26 which dealt with “Risk Assessment of Catastrophic Scenarios in Urban Areas” and that there could be mutually beneficial harmonisation, particularly between the activities of WG4 in C26 and TU0601.

6 Election of Vice–Chair

Prof. Ton Vrouwenvelder, who was appointed but not officially nominated as the Vice–Chair at the kick-off meeting in Brussels, was unanimously elected as the Vice–Chair of the Action.

7 Collection and Exchange of Basic Information

The Chair mentioned that most members had completed and submitted their response to the template sent out to obtain basic information. He added that the information was educative and offered different but interesting perspectives on robustness.

He encouraged those who had not sent the completed template yet to do so as soon as possible. The template could be downloaded from <http://www.cost-tu0601.ethz.ch/documents.html>

Once all the responses were received, all the information could be collated and presented as an initial communication document of this Action.

8 Administration

The Chair introduced Ms. Sandra Hofstetter (not present at the meeting) as the person responsible for all administrative matters pertaining to the Action. She could be contacted through email to hofstetter@ibk.baug.ethz.ch

The Chair further added that once the new COST grant system is in place, the financial administration of the Action would be decentralized and taken up by one member of the Action. Ms. Hofstetter would take up this responsibility on behalf of the Chair.

9 Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM)

The Chair briefly described the possibility of availing the use of Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs) within the COST Action. There is financial allocation for STSMs within the Action budget. STSMs are primarily aimed at PhD students and young researchers. The maximum budget for each STSM is €2500. Further details about STSM are available at: http://www.cost.esf.org/fileadmin/cost_documents/guidelines/Financial_Instruments/3-STSM.pdf

The Chair strongly encouraged members to submit proposals for STSMs.

10 Short Technical Presentations and Discussions

Each participant of the meeting made a brief presentation on his/her views and understanding of robustness. Some of the presentations were followed by discussions.

11 Closing of Meeting Day 1

The Chair thanked all the participants and remarked that the presentations and discussions were educative and fitted well with the general idea enshrined in the Memorandum of Understanding(MoU) for this Action. He then closed the meeting for day 1.

9 October 2007 (Day 2)

1 Welcome

The Chair of the Action Prof. Michael Faber warmly welcomed all the participants of the meeting, the Action Rapporteur Prof. Kiril Gramatikov and the COST Office Science Officer Mr. Thierry Goger.

2 Closing of Short Technical Presentations and Discussions

The Chair presented a brief summary of the presentations and discussions held yesterday. He once again thanked all the members for the informative and lively presentations and discussions yesterday.

He invited the Rapporteur to present his ideas on the subject and also to participate in all discussions held during the Action meetings. The Rapporteur thanked the Chair and proceeded to briefly outline his views.

The Chair then made a technical presentation of his views and understanding of robustness of structures. This was followed by a closing discussion.

3 Presentation by COST Office Science Officer

The COST Office Science Officer Mr. Thierry Goger made a brief presentation. The remaining budget for this year was shown. He also mentioned that the migration to the new decentralized COST grant system would happen in January 2008 or later.

4 Organization of Activities within the Action

The Chair presented an overview of all the 11 activities of the Action and illustrated the interaction between them. He also summarized the scope and objectives of each activity. The Rapporteur suggested that the word "guideline" be replaced with "recommendations" in the title for activity 9 and that the words "Proposal for" be added to the beginning of the title for activity 11.

Activity 1

The Chair said that activity 1 was being carried out currently. Basic information on understanding, literature, education and normative system for robustness was being collected through the template circulated among the members. Once all information has been collected, a database would be created. The database would be created using suitable tools like EndNote and become one of the outputs from this Action. The Chair would be responsible for this activity.

The Chair pointed out that the second part of activity 1 involved collection and synthesization of information on damages/failures/collapses of buildings and structures. Prof. Radu Bancila and Prof. Nicolae Taranu (both from Romania) would be responsible for organizing this information. They would be assisted by Prof. Sven Thelandersson (Sweden), Prof. Marios Chryssanthopoulos (UK), Prof. Purnendu Das (UK), Dr. Ludovic

Fulop (Finland), Prof. Milan Holicky (Czech Republic), Prof. Marian Gizejowski (Poland), Prof. Leonard Ziemianski (Poland) and Dr. Gerard Canisius (UK).

Activity 2

The Chair said that the risk screening to be carried out in this activity would be done at the workshop planned in Zurich, Switzerland on the 4th and 5th of February 2008. He added that the risk screening would narrow down and direct the scope of what is sought to be achieved in this Action.

It was agreed that the following aspects would be considered and discussed at the workshop:

- Classes of structures
- Exposures
- Damages
- Collapse/failure modes
- Consequences
- Strategies for achieving robustness
- Methodological framework for robustness

5 Leadership of Working Groups (WG) and Task Group (TG)

WG1: Theoretical and methodological framework

Prof. John Dalsgaard Sorensen (Denmark) was unanimously elected as the leader of WG1.

WG2: Modelling of exposures and vulnerability

Prof. Ton Vrouwenvelder (Netherlands) was unanimously elected as the leader of WG2.

WG3: Robustness assessment, implementation

Prof. Marios Chryssanthopoulos (UK) was unanimously elected as the leader of WG3.

TG: Dissemination actions

Prof. Fabio Casciati (Italy) was unanimously elected as the coordinator of the TG.

It was decided that the assignment of the above leadership roles for the Working Groups (WG) and the Task Group (TG) would be till the workshop in Zurich.

6 Core Group / Steering Committee of the Action

It was decided that the Chair of the Action, the leaders of the 3 Working Groups (WG) and the coordinator of the Task Group would together comprise the Core Group/Steering Committee of the Action.

7 Membership of Working Groups (WG) and Task Group (TG)

All the members of the Action were asked to indicate their order of preference for association with the 3 WGs and the TG. Based on member preferences and interests, the Chair would then decide on the composition of the WGs and the TG in consultation with the WG leaders and the TG coordinator.

8 Planning of the Workshop in Zurich

A detailed discussion was held on the planning and organization of the workshop in Zurich.

Mode of Workshop

It was decided that the workshop would be open to external participants to attend. However all presentations would be made by members of the Action. The workshop would be held over a period of 2 days with preferably about 20 presentations. The Chair emphasized the need to have discussions and closure on the discussion sessions.

Technical Organization/Organizing Committee

It was decided that the Core Group /Steering Committee of the Action (refer to item 6 of the day 2 meeting) would also serve as the Core Group for the workshop and be responsible for the technical organization and coordination of the workshop.

Topics for Presentation

The topics for presentation would be decided by the Core Group. It was suggested that those members who already had an idea of what they would contribute at the workshop were most welcome to communicate this to the Chair or the Core Group as soon as possible.

Publication Strategy

It was suggested that the workshop proceedings could be disseminated in the form of a printed book, a CD or on the Action website. The timing of the publication of the workshop proceedings was also discussed. It was pointed out that if the discussions at the workshop were intended to be included, the proceedings would have to be printed and distributed after the workshop.

It was decided that all the above issues related to type and timing of publication would be sorted out by the Core Group.

The Rapporteur and the Science Officer suggested that in case the proceedings were to be published after the workshop, care should be taken to ensure that this was completed within the current budget year (before June 2008) so as to achieve full utilization of funds from this year's budget.

Invitation to Workshop

The Chair would prepare and circulate the invitation for written contributions to the Workshop.

Invitation to External Experts

Several suggestions on the names of experts who could be invited for the workshop were received. Some of those identified included:

- Chair and all Working Group (WG) leaders of the COST Action C26
- Consultants or industry professionals working in fields relevant to this Action, particularly those associated with high rise buildings or bridges
- Experts associated with bridge committees such as IABSE

The names of several experts from the US and Asia were also suggested.

It was decided that members could send their suggestions in this regard by email to the Chair.

Deadlines

By the end of October 2007, the Chair would prepare the invitation to the workshop, call for meeting of the Core Group and begin work on a proposal for the various activities to be coordinated by the Core Group.

The Core Group would meet around the beginning of 2008 to finalize the arrangements for the workshop.

9 Future Meetings

As already decided at the kick-off meeting in Brussels, the venue and date of the next meetings are:

- 1st workshop, 2nd MC meeting and 1st WG meetings in Zurich, Switzerland on the 4th and 5th of February 2008
- 3rd MC meeting and 2nd WG meetings in Timisoara, Romania on the 22nd and 23rd of September 2008

It was decided that the next meeting after the above 2 meetings would be held in Coimbra, Portugal on the 2nd and 3rd of March 2009.

10 Closing of Meeting Day 2

The Chair thanked all the participants and closed the meeting.