



Tübingen, May 30, 2018

**Minutes of the Sixth Management Committee (MC)
and the Fifth Working Group (WG) Meeting
of COST Action CA15101 “Comparative Analysis of Conspiracy Theories”**

**Oosterbeek, Netherlands
May 25, 2018**

1. Welcome by Action Chair

The meeting is officially convened by the Action Chair at 9:03 a.m.

2. Quorum Call

Countries present at the meeting: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, FYr Macedonia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and United Kingdom.

The quorum is reached.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda (Annex 1) is officially adopted by the MC.

4. Approval of Minutes from the Previous Meeting

The minutes are approved unanimously.

5. Status of the Action

Action Chair Peter Knight gives an update on the state of the Action:

- The Progress Report was handed in a month ago. It shows that many of the objectives have already been reached.

- Impact and stakeholder engagement need to be improved in the future. The Action Chair suggests working more collectively over the course of the next two years and encourages members to make more connections with NGOs, policy-makers, journalists, corporate reputation, educators, etc., cp. Fake News.
- The Action Chair reports on Education Resources.

6. **Report by the Grant Holder**

The Grant Holder Scientific Representative Michael Butter reports on the Action's bibliography:

- The bibliography can soon be shared with everyone. It will be made available via the website as soon as it has been properly formatted.
- He invites Action Members to submit publications to add to the bibliography and asks them to send new publications from languages other than English as well.

7. **Short Term Scientific Missions and ITC Conference Grants**

Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM):

- The Grant Holder presents a call for applications for Short Term Scientific Missions and encourages Action Members to apply in the new Grant Year.

ITC Conference Grants:

- The Grant Holder presents a call for applications for ITC Conference Grants and strongly encourages Action Members to apply.

8. **Budget Amendment**

The Grant Holder presents the following motions:

- The Local Organizer Support for the sixth MC and fifth WG Meeting at the Hotel de Bilderberg is to be raised from €2.800 to €4.000. Thus, the second reimbursement modality should be adopted.
- The hotel flatrate for the seventh MC and sixth WG Meeting in Dubrovnik should be raised to €120 per night.

The two motions are carried unanimously.

9. **Other Outstanding Items**

The Grant Holder presents five further outstanding items to the MC to vote on:

- The dates for the Dubrovnik Meeting this fall need to be changed from September 21st–22nd to October 19th–20th, 2018.
- The venue for the Dubrovnik Meeting will be the University Center Dubrovnik.
- The venue for the Training School will be the University of Kent.
- The Grant Holder presents the eighth round of applications and with it two new applicants.
- The first MC/WG Meeting in the fourth Grant Year will be held at the University of Huelva, Huelva, Spain and will take place from May 23rd–24th, 2019.

All five items are unanimously accepted.

10. Future Meetings

The Grant Holder reports on two future meetings, noting that they are not yet confirmed:

- MC/WG Meeting and Action Conference, Prague, Fall 2019
- Stakeholder Workshop, Brussels, February 2020

11. Training School

MC Member Jan-Willem van Prooijen reports on the upcoming Training School:

- The Training School will be held at the University of Kent in Canterbury from July 31st to August 3rd, 2018.
- Overall, twenty-two applications were received. All of them were accepted. Both MSc and PhD students from various countries will participate.
- The trainers will be Action Members Aleksandra Cichocka, Karen Douglas, André Krouwel, Turkyay Nefes, Jan-Willem van Prooijen as well as non-Action Members Robbie Sutton and Joseph Uscinski.
- The Training School will focus on Quantitative Methods and Conspiracy Theories.

12. Any Other Business

No other business.

13. Action Publications

The Action Chair reports on the Action's publications:

- Routledge Handbook of Conspiracy Theories
 - The title was commissioned by Routledge. During the Editorial Board Meeting in Brussels this January, the table of contents was finalized and the authors of the proposed chapters have received feedback on their abstracts. The contributors are starting to write their chapters.
 - The Action Chair presents the future timeline for the handbook: The deadline for drafts is January 2019. The introductions to the respective sections will be discussed in May 2019 at the Huelva Conference. The deadline for the final versions of the chapters will be May 2019. The editorial work will be done during the summer of 2019. The complete manuscript will be submitted in September 2019. The handbook will be published in March 2020.
- Routledge Series
 - The series was accepted by Routledge and is in progress.
- Edited Volumes
 - The editors report on their plans and their processes.

14. Closing

The Action Chair closes the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Annex 1: Agenda



MC Meeting Agenda
Bilderberg

Annex 2: Attendance List



Signed Attendance
List
