



**EAI**  
EUROPEAN  
ASTROBIOLOGY  
INSTITUTE

**MC meeting  
+ EAI Wednesday 02 December 2020  
13:00 CEST**

## 1. Participants

### ESF

**Emmanouil Detsis**, ESF

**Mariette Vanderersch**, ESF

### EAI

**Wolf Geppert**, Chair of EAI, Stockholm University, Sweden

**Akos Kereszturi**, Konkoly Observatory, Hungary

**Caterina Boccato**, INAF, Italy

**Carlos Briones**, CAB, Spain

**Dennis Höning**, VU, the Netherlands

**Emmanuelle Javaux**, University of Liège, Belgium

**Ewa Szuszkiewicz**, University of Szczecin, Poland

**Yiannis Tsamis**, Open University, United Kingdom

**Ina Catalina Plesa**, DLR, Germany

**Jean Pierre Paul de Vera**, DLR, Germany

**John Brucato**, Vice Chair of EAI, INAF-Astrophysical Observatory of Arcetri, Italy

**Julie Novaková**, Charles University, Czech Republic

**Karen Olsson-Francis**, Open University, United Kingdom

**Louise Thomas**, Open University, United Kingdom

**Riho Mõtlep**, University of Tartu, Estonia

**Ruth-Sophie Taubner**, Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

**Thomas Henning**, Max Planck Institute for Astronomy, Germany

**Victor Parro**, CAB, Spain

**Zuzana Kanuchova**, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia

## 2. Agenda

1. ILAST proposal
2. General Assembly 2021
3. Future BEACON meetings
4. Working Groups and Project teams. focus on: Biosignatures and the Detection of Life beyond Earth
5. Encyclopedia of Astrobiology
6. Website and corporate identity
7. Industry Liaison
8. Seminars
9. Membership fees collection
10. Any other business

### 3. ILAST proposal

Unfortunately, our proposal was not successful. Several points in the proposal were criticised, but the planned activities found approval. A research strategy has to be developed for the EAI. This is a main task of the working groups and project teams, which need to develop an action plan to be presented and approved in the General Assembly. Where does the EAI see itself in 10 years? This is a key question that we need to answer and then be able to transfer it to the next proposal. However, input has to be contributed by the Working Groups.

It is also important to differentiate the EAI from Europlanet and show that the EAI found its place in the community. We should also align with the major space missions that will be launched the next years, together with aligning to national strategies.

**Action:** We need to have a **white paper** that can be reviewed externally, not only a paper for internal EAI consumption. We need an open paper that indicates that the EAI has the support of the wider community.

This could be a first task for the WG Policy and Funding. There is not going to be a call for a starting community proposal in H2020. But it is likely that similar calls are issued in Horizon Europe. The focus lies on the interconnectivity between Research Infrastructures. A strong national and regional support should be demonstrated as well, not only EU funding. In the long term, there is support for transnational access, but networking, education, and other activities will need to be supported from other funding sources. For the next bid, we need to demonstrate more the regional support by our core organisations and participating institutions— it needs to be visible.

### 4. General Assembly 2021

This is planned to be held together with the planned meeting “Astrobiology in future and ongoing space missions”. The meeting venue and the hotel has been reserved by Wolf Geppert in Höör, Scania (SE), close to Copenhagen for the last week of June and the first week of July. Plan B is to move the meeting to a later date if the pandemic doesn’t allow a meeting in early summer. It will then be held in Tartu, Estonia, in the week after the EPSC (takes place in Helsinki, Finland). The hotel and the meeting venue have been reserved by Wolf Geppert, too.

### 5. Future BEACON meetings

AbSciCon has been moved to 2022 (late May) as well and from then on in even years. The next BEACON meeting is planned for the end of April 2022 (same year), then we will have another BEACON in summer 2023 in Iceland and then in every odd year (2025, 2027...). Wolf Geppert will talk to EANA regarding the EANA workshops. It would be ideal to hold the EANA meetings in the even years so they alternate with BEACON. Ruth-Sophie Taubner reported that the EANA workshop, which was initially planned to take place in Porto,

Portugal, in 2021, will be held online. Wolf Geppert will talk to the EANA President Barbara Cavalazzi about future plans.

## 6. Working Groups and Project teams. Focus on: Biosignatures and the Detection of Life beyond Earth

Jean-Pierre de Vera reported about the first meeting of the Working Group “Biosignatures and the Detection of Life beyond Earth”. Four main topics have been selected. The next on-line meeting is planned for January 2021. The focus on Biosignatures is one of the main points of the Working group. Akos Kereszturi is interested in joining the WG.

**Action:** One of the tasks is to create a subpage on the EAI website with the meeting times for the WGs and to do an on-line calendar. A joint meeting will be organised between the WGs “Biosignatures and the Detection of Life beyond Earth” and “Planetary Environments and Habitability”.

Outreach, Media and Corporate Identity WG: Julie Novakova is preparing an e-book anthology and plan to create a crowdfunding project. The estimated cost is 12k. Crowdfunding has many advantages, including that it would draw attention to the project. Caterina Boccato proposed her help to Julie by mid-December.

**The Management Group approved this approach.**

## 7. Website and corporate identity

ESF will prepare design proposals for the website. Caterina Boccato asked to be involved in the choice of the template.

Concerning the exhibition in Fuencaliente (close to the BEACON venue): The next steps are to be planned. One part of it should be to introduce the EAI, e.g. by short videos introducing the members.

## 8. Industry Liaison

Yiannis Tsamis stated that one off the first steps should be to share best practices of industry liaisons between the EAI member institutions. Yiannis Tsamis stated that 20 people were interested in participating in the working group. He will contact them in order to arrange a round table discussion.

## 9. Seminars

Good success has been reported for the on-line seminars. 50 to 70 participants could be drawn to each seminar. Emmanuelle Javaux had to cancel for the next seminar on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December— we are looking for a replacement.

Wolf Geppert suggests to have the focus for the talks in spring on oncoming space missions. External people (i.e., from non-EAI institutions) can be invited.

## 10. Membership fees collection

All the contributions have been paid for 2020 except:

University Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)	In process
CNES	In process
University of Paris-Creteil (UPEC)	In process
CAB	In process
Open University	In process

The next meeting of the MC will be in January 2021.