

Summary of conclusions and decisions from the 83rd meeting of the ESRF Council held in Grenoble on 26 and 27 November 2024

(as approved by the Chair)

Item 1 - Adoption of the agenda

The Council adopted the agenda for its 83rd meeting as proposed by the Chair (ESRF/COUNCIL/24.28).

Item 2 - Minutes of the 82nd meeting of the Council held in Grenoble on 25-26 June 2024

(a) APPROVAL

The Council approved the minutes of its 82nd meeting held in Grenoble on 25-26 June 2024 (ESRF/COUNCIL/24.27, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.29).

Item 2 - Minutes of the 82nd meeting of the Council held in Grenoble on 25-26 June 2024

(b) MATTERS ARISING

The Council took note of the state of the matters arising from the minutes of the 82nd meeting of Council, as listed in document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.30, and complemented orally by the Secretary of Council.

Item 3 - Report by the Chair of the Council

The Council took note of the oral report from the Council Chair.

Item 4 - Report by the Director General

The Council took note of the report from the Director General, as presented in his written report (ESRF/COUNCIL/24.32) and complemented orally.

Item 5 - Exchange with CSE delegation

The Council took note of the statements of the staff representatives.

Item 6 - Scientific and Infrastructure matters

(a) ACCELERATOR AND SOURCE MATTERS

The Council took note of the oral report by Management, made in reference to the first section dedicated to Accelerator and Source Matters (pages 5-11) of the Director General's Report (ESRF/COUNCIL/24.32).

Item 6 - Scientific and Infrastructure matters

(b) REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE MACHINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC)

The Council took note of the MAC Report from the 20th MAC meeting on 22-23 October 2024 (attached to document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.35), complemented orally by the MAC Chair.

Item 6 - Scientific and Infrastructure matters

(c) EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME MATTERS

The Council took note of the oral report by Management, made in reference to the second section, dedicated to Experimental Programme matters (pages 12-52), of the Director General's Report (ESRF/COUNCIL/24.34).

Item 6 - Scientific and Infrastructure matters

(d) MEDIUM-TERM SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The Council took note of the Medium-Term Scientific Programme (ESRF/SAC/89-03, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.37), as commented orally by Management.

Item 6 - Scientific and Infrastructure matters

(e) REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Council took note of the SAC Report from the 89th SAC meeting held at the ESRF on 07-08 November 2024 (attached to document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.38), complemented orally by the SAC Chair.

Item 7 - Legal and procedural matters

(a) WRITTEN PROCEDURES - SETTLED

Referring to the document ESRF/COUNCIL/ESRF/24.39, the Council took note that, since its previous meeting, the following decisions had been made by correspondence on 21 August and 21 October 2024, respectively:

- *appointment of Michael Krisch as Director of Research for Chemistry, Life and Medical Sciences and Soft Matter Science for a period of five years starting on 01 September 2024, according to the terms laid out in the provided contract, as described in document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.03_WP submitted on 24 July 2024;*
- *five-year extension of the contract for the operation of the CRG ROBL (BM20), as described in document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.04_WP submitted on 10 October 2024.*

Item 7 - Legal and procedural matters

(b) STATUS OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH ASSOCIATES AND STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER POSSIBLE PARTNERS

The Council, referring to the table attached to the document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.40, took note of the status of the arrangements with Associates and of the status of negotiations with other possible partners, as complemented orally by Management.

Item 8 -Personnel matters and Committees (Restricted Session)

(a) OPERATION MATTERS

The Council, referring to the document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.42:

- *took note of the Supplement to the report from the Working Group on Investment Programme Analysis and Financing Scenarios, following the mandate received from the Council at its 82nd meeting on 25-26 June 2024, including the text of the "Council Resolution on the Optimal Exploitation of the ESRF-EBS"; and*
- *adopted, unanimously, the "Council Resolution on the Optimal Exploitation of the ESRF-EBS", as proposed in document ESRF/COUNCIL/24.42.*

Item 8 -Personnel matters and Committees (Restricted Session)

(b) APPOINTMENT OF THE AFC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR THE PERIOD 2025-2026

The Council approved, unanimously:

- *the appointment of Stéphanie Lê Vàn (French delegation, current Vice-Chair to the AFC) as Chair of the AFC from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2026;*
- *the appointment of Francesco d'Acapito (Italian delegation) as Vice-Chair to the AFC from 01 January 2025 to 31 December 2026.*

Item 8 -Personnel matters and Committees (Restricted Session)

(c) APPOINTMENT OF THE MAC VICE-CHAIR FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2026

The Council approved, unanimously, the appointment of Romain Ganter (PSI) as Vice-Chair to the MAC (Machine Advisory Committee) for the period 2024-2026.

Item 8 -Personnel matters and Committees (Restricted Session)

(d) PROCEDURE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC) FOR THE PERIOD 2026-2028

The Council took note of:

- *the need to appoint, no later than autumn 2025, the members of the SAC for the next period from 01 January 2026 to 31 December 2028; and*
- *the process and timeline proposed by the Management.*

Item 8 -Personnel matters and Committees (Restricted Session)

(e) DIRECTORS' APPOINTMENTS

The Council approved the extension of Gema Martínez-Criado's appointment as Director of Research for Condensed Matter, and Physical and Material Sciences for a further three years, i.e. until 31 December 2029.

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(a) REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AFC)

The Council took note of the report of the Chair of the Administrative and Finance Committee, who drew the attention of Council to the Summary of Conclusions of the 87th AFC meeting, held on 17-18 October 2024 (ESRF/AFC/24.27, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.47).

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(b) FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023

Referring to document ESRF/AFC-AC/24.01, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.48, and following the recommendation of the AFC, the Council:

- approved the final accounts for the financial year 2023; and*
- discharged the Director General with respect to the implementation of the budget for 2023.*

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(c) EXPENDITURE SITUATION AT 31 AUGUST 2024 AND SECOND REVISION OF THE 2024 BUDGET

The Council, referring to document ESRF/AFC/24.20, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.49, took note of:

- the expenditure and income situation at 31 August 2024, including the status of calls for funds and the cash flow situation; and*
- the transfers and other modifications decided by the Director General in accordance with his delegated authority, and with §§ 16.1, 16.6 and 16.7 of the Financial Rules.*

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(d) LONG-TERM PLANNING (2024-2033)

The Council took note of the information presented in the document ESRF/AFC/24.21 revised, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.50, and complemented orally by Management.

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(e) MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL ESTIMATES (2025-2029)

The Council, referring to the document ESRF/AFC/24.22 revised, attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.51, took note of the summary by nature of expenditure of the Medium-Term Financial Estimates (including the Medium Term Scientific Plan), supplemented by the corresponding Staff Plan, for the period 2025–2029.

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(f) PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025

The Council:

- *referring to document ESRF/AFC/24.23 revised (attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/23.52), approved the 2025 ESRF budget, based on an increase of contributions of 2% compared with 2024, providing for a planned expenditure budget of 123 471 k€, comprising contributions from Members and Scientific Associates/Associates of 99 745 k€ and 5 945 k€ respectively, 2 382 k€ of exceptional contributions for scientific overuse, 4 770 k€ of exceptional contribution for delayed critical operation expenses, and 10 629 k€ from additional resources (document ESRF/BUDG/25.01 B revised);*
- *took note of the information provided by the Spanish delegation that Spain was not in a position to pay the exceptional contribution to the 2025 budget for its scientific overuse in the period 2021-2023, amounting to 862 k€, and of the request of the Spanish delegation for the procedure for the limitation of scientific use following overuse, as set out in the Council document ESRF/COUNCIL/10.36Rev2, to be subsequently applied; and*
- *took note that the budget documentation would be amended by Management to include the modification of the amount of the exceptional contributions for scientific overuse, and then communicated to the Council delegates by the end of 2024.*

Item 9 - Financial, personnel and commercial matters

(g) LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 2026 BUDGET

The Council took note that:

- *the planned expenditure budget for the year 2026 as presented in the document ESRF/AFC/24.24 revised (attached ESRF/COUNCIL/24.53), had been based on the option of a 3% budget increase in 2025; and*
- *therefore, the relevant financial document would be revised by Management to take into account the approval of Council of the 2025 budget with a 2% increase and subsequently communicated to all Council delegations before the end of 2024.*

Item 10 - Any other business

(a) DATES OF THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council:

- *took note of the table attached to ESRF/COUNCIL/24.54;*
- *took note that its next meeting will take place on 24-25/06/2025 in Grenoble;*
- *confirmed the date of its autumn 2025 meeting, to be held on 25-26/11/2025 in Grenoble;*
- *reserved a date for its spring 2026 meeting (proposed date 23-24/06/2026), at DESY, Hamburg; and*
- *reserved a date for its autumn 2026 meeting (proposed date 24-25/11/2026) to be held in Grenoble.*