

Minutes of the ALADIN regular 14th General Assembly

Istanbul, November the 12th & 13th 2009

1. Welcome

The General Assembly chairman (GA Chair, Henri Malcorps) warmly welcomes the members of the 14th GA, in particular the members participating for the first time : Mr. BOZÓ (Hungary), Mr. CHEDLY (Tunisia), Mrs. POTTIER (France), Mr. TERCHI (Algeria), Mr. ZWIEFLHOFER (ECMWF).

Mr. ÇAĞLAR takes the floor and, on behalf of the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS), has the great pleasure to host the GA and wishes a successful assembly in Istanbul, capital of peace, harmony of differences, bridge between east and west. He introduces the TSMS and its collaborations inside the meteorological community.

GA Chair expresses his thanks to Mr. ÇAĞLAR for his warm hospitality and appreciates cooperation with Turkey not only in ALADIN but also in other opportunities for instance ECMWF.

GA Chair declares the ALADIN 14th GA open. He asks for a copy of the presentations¹ to be joined to the Minutes: the GA agrees.

2. Adoption of the Agenda and of the Minutes of the 13th GA

The proposed agenda is approved with the point 5.c put between 8 and 10 (since LACE Council finished only the morning of 12/11/09).

The report of the 13th GA is adopted after corrections of two misspellings (Klemen Bergant with “t” at the end on page 2 and Slovenia instead of Slovakia on page 13).

3. Report of the GA Chairman on the ‘Bureau meeting’, Brussels, 14/10/09

Dr. Piet Termonia is doing the presentation of this item.

The 'Bureau meeting' identified and overviewed the points to be discussed during GA (see slides on-line).

The slides show what has to be decided and or to be approved during this meeting and what members are to be informed about and have to comment. These points shall regularly come back in the Agenda of the meeting.

4. Report of PAC Chairman on the PAC 5th Session, Paris, 29/5/09

Mr. Cornel Soci gets the floor.

The 5th PAC welcomed new members: Philippe Bougeault (observer), Gwenaëlle Hello in replacement from Vincent Cassé (Météo-France) and Aderito Serrao, head of I.M. (Portugal).

About ALADIN planning, PAC gave recommendations to revisit the chapters about physical parameterizations and system aspects.

For budget matters, PAC supported PM's proposal to transfer 5000€ not used in 2009 to the next budget 2010 and to have the 2010 flat-rate at the ceiling (7800€).

¹ All presentations are available on aladin website : <http://www.cnrm.meteo.fr/aladin/spip.php?article122>

PAC recommended a redaction committee for the new MoU: PM, CSSI chair and French LTM (later, the Bureau meeting recommended to also add the PAC chairman to the redaction committee).

PAC gave recommendations for the procedure of choice of the new PM.

See on-line full PAC minutes (preparatory document doc4) for more details.

5. Program Managers' reports

GA chair gives the floor to the Program Manager, Mr. Jean-François Geleyn. There are no documents for this item, only a presentation.

a) ALADIN work in the intersession and outlook for issues at the 14th GA; CSSI and LTM specific matters

ALADIN Project Manager (PM) presents the main topics for the program in the last 12 months:

Last year was deemed exceptionally good. But, this year:

- We have reached a **stability of the manpower** over the past three years but the manpower dedicated to our “core” activity (dynamics and physics effort) is dropping. Mobility alas also continues to decrease.
- This year was dominated by **sharing problems and concerns between HIRLAM and ALADIN**. The number of hot issues is growing year after year: a challenge for the management to be reactive on these topics with some influence of the planning process.
- **The flat-rate program cannot be fulfilled completely this year**: some actions will have to be transferred to the 2010 program (PM calls to directors and representatives to pay attention to the issue and the completion of next year 's flat-rate program in order to correctly close the budget execution for the end of the 3rd MoU).

Conversely, there are some good news :

- A **better quality of the ALADIN boundary conditions** since, according to a recent control score², **ARPEGE coupling files were never so-good** in relative terms;
- In 'Convergence' : some progress in practice (but not in results), see point 7.c;
- The search for complementarity in HARMONIE between our different cultures in maintenance practices (versioning or quality insurance) lead to a proposal made by SMHI (on which discussions started at the Utrecht workshop and will have to be continued): automatizing a scan of all possible combinations to check the feasibility as a first quality insurance step;
- The fact that SMHI managed to introduce the parameterization of the ‘resolved condensation-evaporation’ of the so-called Rash-Kristjansson’s scheme within the ALARO-0 algorithmic, thus, according to PM words, proving that the latter is not as hermetic as it is sometimes claimed.

CSSI related matters:

PAC recommended approving the nomination of Alex Deckmyn as CSSI Member for “EPS and Predictability”: **the GA approves**.

ALADIN PM opens candidacies for ACNA position (as the former ACNA Thomas Kral resigned from his position since leaving for a year to ECMWF) and reminds that the problems with circulation of information and documentation (documentation officer position in Support Team) are still pending.

² WMO scores

Excursion towards agenda 5.d:

ALADIN PM explains that ALADIN-France is the domain that represents the ALADIN Consortium for the SRNWP-Verification program (the aim of this program is to develop new verification tools and it has one component of model inter-comparison over a common area). Since ALADIN-France is likely to soon become no longer available for this purpose (even pending a possible decision by MF to stop its production), it could be replaced - as explained by the French LTM - by ARPEGE (but ARPEGE is not a LAM model) or AROME-France (but the domain is much smaller). This would ensure some continuity of the SRNWP-V representation of the Consortium, but is likely to create problems for the Partner Consortia (see both parentheses above). LACE PM announces that ALADIN-CZ has very recently been chosen by LACE Council as representing from now on the LACE Consortium within SRNWP-V. PM proposes that the combination of this LAM model (closer to ALADIN-France in its characteristics) and of the choice Météo-France will make takes over ALADIN-France. **The GA agrees.**

b) HIRLAM aspects of the joint plans under HARMONIE (outside 'System' and 'Physics')

HIRLAM PM, Jeanette Onvlee takes the floor to present the HIRLAM point of the view on the status of HARMONIE: things are processing quickly in data assimilation; the draft common plan in dynamics faces a lack of manpower; things are going well in surface despite a very limited staff; in probabilistic forecasting, the very good HIRLAM-ALADIN cooperation in GLAMEPS proves an added value in the short-range over ECMWF EPS but a balance between GLAMEPS & LAEF plans and a strategy for the research-to-operation link are needed; there is an untapped potential in verification matters.

HARMONIE could replace HIRLAM for scales from 5 to 15 km as HARMONIE proves to be meteorologically competitive with HIRLAM (even if not yet computationally). Additionally, a pragmatic approach was chosen by HIRLAM to make the models work at resolutions beyond the so-called gray zone scales. It proved to be much more complex than what people were hoping. Indeed this was not 'belief' but 'hope'. Hence it can be deemed more as a calendar error than as a scientific one. This issue is debated within the GA, but the general tune of the HIRLAM PM's analysis is supported, especially if interpreted in the direction of now persevering in the search for complete explanations for the encountered problems at high resolution (see Agenda Item 7b).

HIRLAM PM shares ALADIN PM worries about manpower, especially on dynamics, surface, code optimization (and modularization if IFS redesign).

c) Relevant outcomes of the RC LACE Council

This point was postponed on Friday morning, between point 9. and point 10.

d) Transversal issues (SRNWP EUMETNET Programmes and directly linked issues)

CSSI chair is deputizing for this topic.

SRNWP-I interoperability: The standard exchange format has been agreed (GRIB2); the data will be exchanged in original model grids and each Consortium will develop the relevant adapters.

SRNWP-V verification: the data exchange already started and should be consolidated.

Other EUMETNET issues (on behalf of Andras Horanyi): EUMETNET expects guidelines for observations, climate and forecasting. HIRLAM PM thinks that it will be important for the Consortia to be part of the roadmap redaction for the Single European Sky. Alain Ratier agrees: it is also part of the question on interoperability: how to combine the national products at the highest resolution in order to be able to deliver the appropriate products on real time.

6. 'Classical matters' for the past year

a) Operational report (Claude Fischer)

At Météo-France, after the acceptance and the switch to NEC-SX9 in September 2009, the next E-suite starts in November with a higher resolution for ARPEGE and ALADIN-France, double density of satellite radiances, ...

For 2010, plans contain: monitoring of SSMI/S, new convection scheme in ARPEGE, SURFEX in some ALADIN-models, an increase of horizontal resolution in PEARP, the extension of the AROME-Fr domain. For those countries using ALARO-0 (or interested to do so) - i.e. Au, Be, Cz, Hu, Hr, Ro, Sk, Si - going from ALARO-0 to ALARO-1 in their model versions.

b) Maintenance report (Claude Fischer)

Claude Fischer gives the calendar of past and future cycles - IFS and intermediate ones – with the next export version for CY36T1 in December 2009 (including developments of some partners, code cleaning, optimization, ...). Claude Fischer presents the statistics of manpower dedicated by partners for both phasing and other maintenance, with huge inhomogeneity in contributions.

Claude Fischer proposes for next interim cycles to have pairs of people coming to Toulouse, each for 3 weeks (thus less personal constraints but more coordination work than for usual 6 week individual visit), as an additional possibility to the classical 6 week invitations.

Important for code and system evolution are (i) the brainstorming led by ECMWF on reorganizing the IFS code (OOPS project), (ii) the continuous effort for cleaning and (iii) ongoing discussions on the way to harmonize ALADIN and HIRLAM maintenance.

GA underlines the importance of maintenance (including optimization for a better use of CPU resources) and agrees on the necessity of a maintenance training course. Météo-France agrees to organize it, probably in Toulouse. LACE offers some financial help, also for its lecturers to go to this training.

c) Manpower figures for 7-08 to 6-09 (Patricia Pottier)

The breakdown of the manpower by partners (cumulated since the beginning of the project) shows little changes since the end of the last MoU. The quarterly manpower cumulated over all Partners also remains stable over the last 3-4 years but the mobility keeps decreasing: the current so-called flat-rate stays don't compensate the former – longer and more frequent - ALADIN stays, funded by RFR, PECO, ALATNET, etc. . Most of the manpower is now funded by the NMSs for their people working on ALADIN "at home". The manpower is mainly dedicated to local installation and developments.

See on-line presentation for details on each Partner, year, type of work, etc. .

7. Important issues for the planning (ALADIN PM & CSSI Chair)

a) System (in particular in connection with HIRLAM)

In order to better coordinate the code maintenance between the profoundly differently organized ALADIN & HIRLAM consortia ('cultural' gap in the balance between transversality and quality assurance of the common code's developments), GA agrees with the main proposals of ALADIN PM:

- **more awareness of IFS/ARPEGE constraints on HIRLAM side** (HIRLAM PM approves and will involve more people, not only system people but also scientists, in phasing and fully supports the suggestion of the maintenance training course),

- **better knowledge of the HARMONIE system to be acquired by ALADIN people,**
- **less frequent 'export-type' interim Cycles with better quality assurance and more common work on them** (LACE has one concern about the frequency of the export versions since LACE is used to base its developments on them),
- **more HIRLAM effort on full Cycles** (common with IFS),
- **search for a common mechanism** (cf. IFS ↔ ARPEGE coordination): for coordination, experts, in the sense of scientists and developers, should meet during an already existing meeting (or have exchanges through teleconferences).

GA underlines that this is the right way to go and gives a clear signal that key ALADIN-HIRLAM-LACE developers have to be involved in maintenance and the effort towards a HARMONIE coordination mechanism must continue, on PM's initiative, through a core team (the ALADIN and HIRLAM PMs, the French LTM, the CSSI chair, one specialist from HIRLAM and one from LACE).

b) Physics (in particular, but not only, in connection with HIRLAM)

PM, CSSI chair and French LTM agree that 'physics' for high resolution NWP (in fact we are speaking here about parameterizations, dynamics and physics-dynamics links, including interfacing issues) is a complex set of topic (see Claude Fischer's slides about MF's ideas on some overestimated forecasts of strong convective systems). Despite accumulation of papers and new experimental results, we are working in new territory: problems need to be tackled from several angles but with the constraint that coherent solutions need to come out; some studies had no application for years but prove to be useful now; how to find an equilibrium between research and applications, lack of observation data at small scale, ...

Abadallah Mokssit proposes a chronology to resolve such problems (diagnostics at scientific, strategic and operational level that deliver variants and priorities regarded with respect to their implementation), in order to allow research to go from studies towards concrete results or re-assess open situations. As these efforts will cost money, manpower and CPU, the GA has to decide the priorities but leave the scientific aspects to the scientific committees.

Alain Ratier proposes a strategic workshop early 2011 to address issues where we need diversity of approaches. HIRLAM PM agrees but LACE PM thinks it should be organized earlier.

On PM's proposal, GA decides a two-stage process: a kick-off brainstorming meeting will be organized in May 2010 in Croatia, prepared by ALADIN, HIRLAM and LACE PM managers, CSSI chair and French LTM: experts on theoretical aspects from ALADIN/HIRLAM/ECMWF will be invited, in the fields of higher resolution modeling (i.e. all forecast model aspects including the links with data assimilation and EPS but not more on the latter aspects). PAC will then study the conclusions/proposals of this workshop and prepare a scientific vision workshop for early 2011.

c) Update about 'Convergence'

CSSI chair reminds that models (AROME, ALARO) are no longer defined by their scale specificity but by their difference in the way of capitalizing on upstream research either rapidly for the process side or more slowly for the NWP specific side. Concerning the actions defined during the convergence days, a status overview is given by PT: one action is perfectly on track, two presently a bit of delay; the other one (equations and interfacing) is the most crucial one but alas processing the most slowly. Thus, CSSI chair asks the GA to make proposals to endorse the coding effort of the interface.

Claude Fischer presents, as seen from Toulouse, the progress status on convergence issues at MF and the plans for 2010.

Owing to the fact that there is no consensus about the basic nature of the encountered difficulties (are

they scientific, normative or political? and in which proportions if mixed?), GA only understands that the very technical actions are progressing: the GA encourages Partners to continue, following the plans established at the time of the 'Convergence Days' and that should find a declination in the 2010 workplan.

d) LAMEPS

CSSI chair shows the results of a 12km resolution version of GLAMEPS (containing elements of EUROTEPS, HIRLAM EPS, ALADIN EPS) : it provides clear and consistent added value over ECMWF's global EPS on the short range (see scores in on-line presentation). This result was reached with relatively little ALADIN manpower and is operationally included in GLAMEPS.

The plans for implementation of LAEF are discussed. LACE PM explains the lack of manpower and computer power in LACE which constrain the possible LACE commitments to GLAMEPS : LACE could provide LAEF tools and data (soon available at ECMWF) for any volunteer to port LAEF products to GLAMEPS.

e) LAM-Climate

CSSI chair explains the strategic choices to be made between a light climate version (just provide an ALADIN model version to be used by climate), a heavy climate version (ALADIN consortium becomes active, hopes positive feed-back but provides additional support), or something in between.

GA members give examples of very different relationships between climate and NWP communities, depending on local organization (Météo-France, Maroc-Météo, CHMI, IRMB, etc.),

GA chair thinks that there is no urgency to decide for one strategy or the other. CSSI chair agrees but it should be part of the next MoU.

LACE PM gives details about LACE decision to enlarge the scope of LACE activities toward the climate modeling groups and to make stronger plans before the next Council (April 2010). LACE will prepare an internal strategy document for that purpose.

GA agrees that this LACE document can also be a valuable input for discussion in the whole Consortium, in view of finding the balance between :

- protecting sufficiently our NWP core business against opposite constraints originating from climate science (when attracting wider interest, even outside NWP-bound communities) on the one hand;
- a strategy of keeping close to NWP (since downscaling LAM-Climate activities are less prone to model-drift manifestations than global ones) on the other hand.

The accepted proposal is that the LACE document can be looked at the next HMG/CSSI in Krakow (April) and then sent to PAC.

Special presentation: ALADIN at Turkish state Meteorological Service (Fatih Buyukkasabbasi)

Fatih Buyukkasabbasi (FB) presents the TSMS, its history, its memberships (WMO, ECMWF, EUMETNET, ECOMET and ... ALADIN), its meteorological investments (automated observation system, radar network, supercomputing) and ALADIN at TSMS (operational configuration, performances and future plans).

GA chairman congratulates TSMS for its quick successful operational use of ALADIN and the ongoing developments.

8. ALADIN planning (PAC Chair, ALADIN PM & CSSI Chair)

a) Upon PAC advice, finalization and approval of the (minimally) updated version of the 4-year-plan

PAC chair explains the rewriting of two “hot” points: system aspects and physical parametrization.

GA formally approves the changes and, thus, the full new version of the 4-year plan.

b) Planning, if any, of a mid-term checking procedure during 2010 for the 4-year plan

On PM's proposal, GA debates about the opportunity to have a mid-term check of the execution of the original 4-year plan.

Alain Ratier proposes rather to ask the (current and next) ALADIN PM to prepare a strategic report on research and operational achievements, underlining unforeseen aspects (those not anticipated in the plans and that had to be addressed) as input to a strategic workshop to be organized in 2011.

ALADIN PM supports this proposal and GA chair approves as it will give visibility to Directors.

Alain Ratier's proposal is accepted.

c) Process and calendar for final approval of the 2010 work-plan before the end of 2009. Staffing considerations. Difficulties in enforcing priorities

CSSI chair gives the synthetic table of manpower preliminary commitments for the ALADIN work in 2010 (very preliminary results from LTM answers) in comparison with a similar inquiry performed 3 years ago. Despite an increase in the total promised manpower, a worrying decrease appears in absolute manpower dedicated to dynamics and upper air physics (the relative share of this part drops from 31% to 22%) whereas both data assimilation and the sum of diagnostic, validation, verification and link with applications remain stable.

HIRLAM PM shares this worry: not many people are willing to investigate in these difficult topics (like dynamics) and, for those identified, there is a big concern on how to protect them from being diverted towards other urgent problems or local projects?

Alain Ratier sees two issues: how to protect people (short term issue) and, at medium term, how to attract people to these types of topics.

GA chair concludes that we should create more awareness of protecting dynamics specialists from operational urgent requests in NMS (ALADIN PM is allowed to kick off this topic directly with LTMs), increase collaboration with universities, stress the link between core modeling aspects and their potential benefit in attractive applications like nowcasting or climate.

d) Discussions and suggestions about the annual suite of actions likely to lead to an optimal establishment of the ALADIN work-plan. Links with the ‘gliding’ of the 4-year plan

PM and CSSI chair propose a less tight calendar of establishment of the work plan. Alain Ratier agrees on the general guidelines but prefers a PAC meeting to a 'Bureau' meeting to define priorities and proposes to have a dedicated virtual session of the PAC meeting. The schedule is fine with HIRLAM who has the same synchronization.

GA approves the following calendar:

- **an early start at the ALADIN Workshop** (April-May) : CSSI (with the help of interested LTMs) draws up a list of short term priorities and actions needing a steady support, for which there will be a call for contributions in manpower;

- **confirmation or modification of these topics by the spring PAC session** (May-June);
- between June and September : **call for contributions** (answers by LTMs : volume of effort, priorities, names and short description of the proposed actions in each country), iterations with PM and CSSI for immediately identified problems ; preparation of a **draft-version** of the ‘partial-work-plan’;
- **consolidation of this work-plan at EWGLAM/SRNWP meetings** (1st week of October);
- the **PAC dedicated virtual session** (October or early November) verifies for the last time the match between the plan and the priorities set by the previous year's General Assembly and the spring PAC Session;
- November : PM and CSSI chair verify the complementary output provided by LTMs and prepare a synthesis document for GA;
- **GA (November or December) reviews the synthesis document prepared by PM and CSSI chair and adopts the final version of the work-plan;**
- January-February : **the ‘flat-rate-visits’ plan is established according to the work-plan;**
- ALADIN Workshop ...(the process repeats itself for next year)

9. Membership and cooperation matters if any (GA Chair)

None.

Back to 5.c, “Relevant outcomes of the RC LACE Council”

LACE PM summarizes the status of LACE projects (mainly operational 3DVar systems in several LACE countries, work in the ALADIN-NH dynamics, an operational ALARO at 5km mesh size, a common LAM-EPS application ALADIN-LAEF, processed at ECMWF) and reports the decisions taken during the LACE Council:

- internal LACE decisions : designation of the new RC-LACE President Dr. Laszlo Bozo (Hu); plan to start collection of national observations within 7 countries; choice of ALADIN-CZ as LACE representative for the SRNWP-Verification program; decision to enlarge the RC-LACE perimeter of concern towards climate modeling groups interested to work on a climate version of ALADIN
- LACE decisions for HARMONIE: the update of the ALADIN verification data base; the support to the organization of a HARMONIE training on maintenance; the level of contribution between LAEF and GLAMEPS

LACE demands a more transparent way to perform maintenance (from planning until concretization). LACE demands more progress on the most delayed issue of “Convergence” (see point 7.c).

Excursion toward agenda 10.c:

LACE proposed to strengthen and augment CSSI with LACE area leaders (see discussion 10c): at one year of the end of the current MoU, LACE doesn't ask for official change of nominations in CSSI, but for a redefinition in preparation of the next MoU and the possibility, during this last year, that LACE area leaders participate to CSSI meetings.

ALADIN PM thinks that LACE area leaders should not be CSSI leader for the same task: Project Area Leaders in LACE have budget power but CSSI Members do not have it and this would potentially introduce conflicts of interest.

LACE PM explains that, during the last 3 years, it would have been more efficient if LACE Project Area Leaders were inside the CSSI.

HIRLAM PM shares the concern on how to improve the very valuable contacts with LACE Working Group Leaders, but also fears a too wide participations in meetings.

Claude Fischer and Alain Ratier don't agree with LACE area leaders being added to CSSI. They wish that a balance be preserved and that collision between LACE functions/power and CSSI ones be avoided. They also wish to avoid having a too big CSSI group and mirroring functions between LACE and the rest of ALADIN representation. CSSI chair (Piet Termonia) agrees that too big CSSI should be avoided.

Abdalah Mokssit says that the most important aspect is the exact terms of references of CSSI for all ALADIN. The composition of CSSI may be revisited then, as the choice of the best person for a given topic generally is obvious.

Following GA chair's proposal, a pragmatic decision is adopted for the time being: we keep CSSI as it is, with the possibility for the CSSI chair to decide to invite specialists if he needs some support for CSSI on some topics.

10. New ALADIN MoU (GA Chair and ALADIN PM)

a) Redaction committee

PAC recommended for the redaction committee: PAC chair, PM, CSSI chair and French LTM.

Klemen Bergant proposes to extend the redaction committee with LACE PM and LACE Steering Committee chair. GA accepts LACE PM only, not to have a too big redaction committee.

Thus, the redaction committee will be PAC chair, PM, CSSI chair, French LTM and LACE PM.

GA asks PM to organize the redaction committee who will choose its chair.

b) Calendar

The first consolidated draft version should be ready 3 weeks before the 6th PAC session: PAC will review it, comment it and decide on the subsequent steps and their time-table.

In reverse to the situation of the MoU3, PM proposes only one ALADIN signing, to be positioned after the signing of the stand-alone part of the HIRLAM MoU, and following intermediate negotiations about the agreement that shall be part of both MoUs (ALADIN and HIRLAM alike). HIRLAM PM answers that it will probably be no problem to arrange this but it remains to be officially confirmed after next HIRLAM Council meeting.

The GA approves this timetable and decides that the 2010 GA should take place at the latest possible dates in 2010 (i.e. during week December 13-17) in Prague.

c) Anticipated main changes with respect to the present MoU (refinements in the definition of the links with other bodies [HARMONIE, RC LACE, ECMWF, EUMETNET, SRNWP, ...], discussions about human resources management, including some redefinition of the interactions between CSSI and LTMs; etc.)

Given the satisfying way in which the Program has been evolving under the current governance, PM won't propose any significant structural changes even if relationships between the bodies (ECMWF, LACE, HIRLAM, EUMETNET, ...) should be clarified and some redefinitions of the interactions between CSSI and LTMs should be studied (for the discussion on CSSI membership, see point 5c)

Alain Ratier comments on the importance of discriminating what is relevant to the MoU and what has

to be addressed somewhere else. The MoU must explain how to work in ALADIN, but not on which scientific or technical topics. HIRLAM PM strongly supports a simple MoU, governance oriented, and not dealing with scientific choices and strategy.

PM says that the new MoU will be written in a far less difficult context than the previous one and, thus, may be simplified. GA approves.

11. Procedure for the choice of the next ALADIN PM (GA Chair)

a) Terms of References (ToRs) and description of conditions of activity

PM presents the recommendations of the PAC and the Bureau meeting:

- given the fact that ToRs of PM are unlikely to differ substantially from the current ones, the selection procedure shall rely on those of the current MoU (see appendix in preparatory document 11)
- candidates must be staff members or ensured to go under specific contract of one of the ALADIN Partners' NMS
- the activity will be 100% of the in-kind type (at the sole charge of the NMS that employs the PM, both for remuneration and missions)
- candidacies will be public
- the election by the GA should happen by correspondence, under the responsibility of the GA chair, with a majority rule corresponding to the last officially updated list of manpower contributions (MoU re-signed in Cascais)
- PAC will verify the eligibility of the candidates and may interview some of them

Alain Ratier proposes that PAC takes the responsibility to make recommendations for the GA.

GA approves the recommendations of the PAC and the Bureau meeting presented by the PM and entrusts PAC to evaluate the candidacies and give GA a ranking of the candidates.

b) Calendar

GA chairman proposes the following calendar:

- Opening of candidacies on 1st of February 2010 and closing on 1st of April 2010
- PAC will give recommendations to GA : ordered list of chosen candidates of the 6th PAC meeting in Bucarest, 3-4 June 2010
- then, GA will vote by correspondence.

The elected PM will work with JFG during the second semester of 2010 until the 15th GA.

12. Budget matters (ALADIN PM)

a) Report about the ongoing execution of the 2009 budget

PM reports on the 2009 budget: the virtual budget is in balance but, on the contrary to last year, there are non performed actions (8670€ of unspent money). This situation absolutely should be avoided next year as we shouldn't finish the MoU with an unbalanced budget.

Alain Ratier gives the status of execution of this budget with still missing responses for 2009 from some partners (and still pending matters for previous years): since the administrative person in MF responsible for the survey of the execution is to be replaced very soon, flat-rate Partners are asked to help to complete the process as soon as possible and to send a contact point name to the French LTM within one week.

b) Adoption of the 2010 budget

With PAC's agreement, PM proposes a budget at the same level as 2009, meaning that the flat-rate contribution will be at the ceiling (7800€) and after transfer of the 2009 unspent money.

GA approves this proposal.

c) Royalties-linked issues;

Since the Royalties' revenues are not any more part of the ALADIN common budget, PM gives just for information the figures about Royalties concerning actions performed by MFI. For those flat-rate members having not yet sent a 686€ bill to MFI for 2009, there is now urgency to do so. Expected amount to be asked to MFI in 2010 is 492€.

d) Potential problems for the flat-rate budget's handling linked with the change of MoU.

Transitional period: we must do our best (no delay on procedures and no non-executed actions) to have a budget close to 0 at the end of the MoU (end of 2010). But there should be in the next MoU provisions ensuring the continuity of the flat-rate budget execution from one MoU to the next.

Implementation of the budget during the next MoU: Alain Ratier proposes to try to manage the flat-rate budget through a EUMETNET program (as EIG, EUMETNET presumably is now better equipped than ALADIN for receiving/sending money for mobility actions, in a simple way). GA decides that PM and Météo-France will study this possibility with EUMETNET's Executive Director (Steve Noyes).

Future ceiling: after debate, the GA decides that the ceiling will be written in the next MoU and will be valid for the 5 years duration but that, in special circumstances, the GA might vote to override it.

13. Appointments of the GA Chairperson and (potentially) Vice-Chairperson (GA Chair)

According to the MoU, the mandate of the GA chair is limited to 4 years. The GA thanks Henri Malcorps for his very good GA chairmanship since he carried out this responsibility at a time when the ALADIN project was going through a difficult period.

Fritz Neuwirth proposes Klemen Bergant as GA chairperson.

Alain Ratier proposes Abdalah Mossit to replace Klemen Bergant as vice-chairperson of the GA.

The GA approves and congratulates the new chairperson and vice-chairperson.

14. A.O.B.

GA chair informs that the report of this GA meeting should mainly contain conclusions.

15. Date of the next General Assembly (and confirmation of the places for the next two General Assemblies)

CHMI Director invites the GA for its 15th meeting in Prague, Czech Republic, 14-15 December 2010.

If no other proposals, Alain Ratier proposes to host the 16th GA meeting in France, place and dates to be fixed later. GA approves.

16. Closing of the meeting

GA chair closes the meeting and thanks the TSMS for the very good support, organization and hospitality.

List of Participants to the 14th General Assembly

COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION	NMS	FORENAME	FAMILY NAME
ALGERIA	ONM	Abdelhafid	TERCHI
AUSTRIA / PAC Chairman	ZAMG	Fritz	NEUWIRTH
AUSTRIA	ZAMG	Yong	WANG
BELGIUM / Chairman	RMI	Dr. Henri	MALCORPS
BELGIUM	RMI	Piet	TERMONIA
BELGIUM / Aladin	RMI	An	NEUKERMANS
CROATIA	DHMZ	Dijana	KLARIĆ
CROATIA	DHMZ	Ivan	ČAČIĆ
CZECH REPUBLIC	CHMI	Radim	TOLASZ
CZECH REPUBLIC	CHMI	Radmila	BROZKOVA
FRANCE	MF	Alain	RATIER
FRANCE	MF	Claude	FISCHER
FRANCE / Aladin	MF	Patricia	POTTIER
HUNGARY	HMS	László	BOZÓ
MOROCCO	DMN	Hassan	HADDOUCH
MOROCCO	DMN	Abdalah	MOKSSIT
POLAND	IMGW	Marek	JERCZYNSKI
POLAND	IMGW	Rafal	BAKOWSKI
PORTUGAL	INM	Maria	MONTEIRO
ROMANIA	NMA	Cornel	SOCI
SLOVAKIA	SHMU	Dr. Vladimir	PASTIRCAK
SLOVENIA	EARS	Klemen	BERGANT
TUNISIA	NIM	Ben M'hamed	CHEDLY
TURKEY	TSMS	Mehmet	ÇAĞLAR
TURKEY	TSMS	H. Murat	PULLA
TURKEY	TSMS	Mehmet Fatih	BÜYÜKKASABBAŞI
ALADIN / Programme Manager	MF	Jean-François	GELEYN
ECMWF	ECMWF	Walter	ZWIEFLHOFER
HIRLAM	KNMI	Jeanette	ONVLEE

The Turkish Support Team (from TSMS) also attends the 14th GA : Ersin KÜÇÜKKARACA, Ali Kema BAKIR, Fatih Mehmet KORKMAZ