



Minutes Alternet Council meeting

Virtual – 2-3 February 2022

Host

INBO, Belgium

Contact

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Council Participants

1. Maurice Hoffmann, Council Chair, INBO
2. Ana Lillebo, Council Vice-Chair, CESAM
3. Jiska van Dijk, MB Chair, NINA
4. Alison Hester, Hutton
5. Anastasia Miliou, Archipelagos
6. Ben Delbaere, DC
7. Davide Geneletti, DICAM
8. Diana Hummel, ISOE
9. Hans-Peter Grossart, IGB
10. Eeva Primmer, SYKE
11. Eszter Kelemen, ESSRG
12. Mart Külvik, IAES
13. Jacques Berlo, Peiresc
14. Joan Pino, CREAM
15. Johannes Peterseil, EAA
16. Jørgen Rosvold, NINA
17. Kerry Waylen, Hutton
18. Kinga Krazue, ERCE
19. Mihai Adamescu, UNIBUC
20. Miklos Kertesz, MTA-OK
21. Nicolai Friberg, NIVA
22. Nicolas Dendoncker, ILEE
23. Nicolas Titeux, ERIN
24. Paul Mahoney, OPPLA
25. Rob Alkemade, PBL
26. Robert Kanka, ILE-SAS
27. Stefan Klotz, UFZ
28. Thierry Caquet, INRAE
29. Ulf Grandin, SLU

Also present

- 30. Adriana Cliville Morato, CREAM
- 31. Allan Watt, UK-CEH
- 32. Erica Bruno, DICAM
- 33. Juliette Young, UK-CEH
- 34. Marie Vandewalle, UFZ
- 35. Sibylle Schroer, IGB
- 36. Tyler Kulfan, Alternet Secretariat

Minutes: Tyler Kulfan

Day 1 - Wednesday 2nd February 2022**1. INFO: Welcome and start meeting**

Council Chair Maurice Hoffmann (INBO) opened the meeting and welcomed those present, noting that this is the first official annual meeting of the Alternet Council since Alternet became a legal international non-profit organization. Gratitude was expressed to Ana Lillebo and CESAM for their willingness to host the council in Aveiro, Portugal and regret was expressed for the need to cancel and hold the meeting virtually instead.

2. DECI: Approval of the agenda [DOC00](#)

The agenda was proactively shared with the attendees prior to the meeting.

Decision: Unanimous approval of the agenda was given. Additionally, proactive consent to record the meeting for the purpose of supporting minutes recording was given.

3. INFO: Roundtable intros

Noting that several new members were present, each representative and attendee present gave a brief self-introduction.

4. DECI: Minutes of the council meeting of 10-11 Dec 2020 [DOC01](#)

The minutes of the previous Council meeting were already approved during the in-between Council meeting of the 26th of Feb 2021, but were nevertheless shared again.

5. DECI: Minutes of the in between council meeting of 26 Feb 2021 [DOC02](#)

The minutes of the in-between Council meeting were now raised for approval. There were no issues raised with the minutes as shared.

Decision: The minutes of the in-between Council meeting of 2021 were unanimously approved and will be published on the members page of the website.

6. DECI: Adjustment of the Alternet Statutes [DOC03](#)

At the prior council meeting, it was noticed that there was a mistake in the Statutes about Article 26, which is not presently in the Statutes. Therefore, an adjustment (to make sure that the reference to this article is correct henceforth) is proposed. Changes in the Statutes require at least $\frac{2}{3}$ approval of the Association; the Chair noted that over $\frac{2}{3}$ representation is present.

Decision: The revision of the Statutes Article 26 is unanimously approved.

7. DECI: Election of Council chair, Council vice-chair and MB-chair [DOC04.1](#)

Nominations of key positions in the leadership of Alternet were raised for discussion. This includes nominations and elections of Council chair, Council vice-chair, and MB chair. The Council is responsible for appointing these persons; other operations and nominations of the MB are reserved to the internal decisions of the MB itself.

No reactions for Council chair (presently Maurice Hoffmann); 1 nomination for vice-chair (Ana Lillebo); no nominations for MB chair (presently Jiska van Dijk) and 1 nomination for MB member (Ana Lillebo, next agenda item) were received.

Nominations are needed for Council and MB chair; it is possible but not certain that the present leadership can continue in this capacity. A decision on the science service mechanism is awaited; if approved, Jiska will have an opening for chairing the MB, and if not it will be difficult to continue as chair and Jorgen Rosvold has alternatively nominated her as an MB member. Allan Watt suggested that Jiska chair the MB for one year instead of a full term; this would be possible according to the Statutes. Ulf Grandin recommended electing chairs for the full term and allowing early departure if necessary. Johannes Peterseil expressed agreement and recommended formally nominating Maurice Hoffmann with revision of the Statutes to allow more flexibility in term length of the Council chair.

Maurice Hoffmann is willing to continue as Council chair but must retire from INBO in April 2023 and then issues might arise. Ana Lillebo is proposed to continue in her role as Vice-chair of the Council. Based on internal discussions, NINA agrees that Jiska may continue in her role as MB

chair so long as it is accepted that she may depart from the role early if needed and that the work of the MB is better dispersed among its members.

Decision: Maurice Hoffmann is appointed as Council chair with the condition that this will be revisited as needed at the time of his retirement from INBO; Ana Lillebo is appointed as Council Vice-chair; and Jiska van Dijk is appointed as MB chair with the condition that she may depart early from the role as needed. Per NINA's suggestion, it is recommended that the MB is increased in number and that its work is better managed and dispersed to alleviate the in-kind contributions required of the chair.

8. DECI: Appointment of new MB members [DOC04.2](#)

Prior to the meeting, nominations were given for new MB members: UFZ has nominated Mark Frenzel; a member of UK-CEH to work on monitoring issues; Ana Lillebo, who has nominated herself on behalf of CESAM to join the MB; and Jiska van Dijk, who will continue as chair.

Stefan Klotz noted the involvement of Mark in ESFRI and LTER networks and gave a brief general overview of his work. Allan explained that there is an increased awareness of the importance of biodiversity monitoring; he and Bridgett Emmet have discussed a number of names of personnel at UK-CEH who would be appropriate to take up this role. Ana Lillebo explained that she can represent the important marine perspectives of Alternet in the MB. Jiska van Dijk advises acceptance of these members while leaving the organisation and fine details of their responsibilities and roles to the MB.

Stefan Klotz is retiring and will be replaced as Council member of UFZ by Mark Frenzel. IGB-Berlin will remain being represented by Sonja Jaehnig, Sibylle Schroer will be her deputy in case of absence of Sonja.

The statutes allow expansion of the MB. The chair recommends appointing these three new members accordingly.

Decision: The proposed MB members are unanimously approved and will be appointed accordingly.

9. INFO: New member: OPPLA (Paul Mahoney) (DOC05.1)

10. INFO: New member: NIVA (Nikolai Friberg) (DOC05.2)

11. INFO: New member: Archipelago (Anastasia Miliou) (DOC05.3)

12. INFO: New member: ERIN (Nicolas Titeux) (DOC05.4)

13. INFO: New member: Peyresq (Jacques Berlo) (DOC05.5)

It was noted that no less than five new member institutes joined Alternet in 2021 thanks to proactive outreach from members and the Secretariat. These include OPPLA, NIVA, Archipelagos, ERIN, and Peiresc.

Introductory presentations were given by each of the new institutes; these presentations were shared with the Council prior to the meeting. Gratitude was expressed for the membership of these new institutes (and two new European countries) in Alternet and it was recommended that outreach to further expand Alternet continues with its current momentum.

Communication platforms per the work of OPPLA will be discussed later. Further discussion will also be dedicated to eDNA (seminar, etc.), as raised by ERIN. The presentations concluded and a short break was taken.

14. INFO: Overall Financial situation [DOC06](#)

The chair raised the issue of the general financial situation of Alternet and the consequences of organizing the proposed activities in 2022 as pertains to budget. The budget table was shared with the Council and reviewed. Allocated amounts and realized expenditures for activities in 2021 were displayed, alongside the real income of 2021.

71,000€ in income was expected to be received in 2021; however, this was an overestimate. 52,500€ have been received to date and €8000 has not yet been paid but is owed. No new partners have been charged in 2021; they will be charged in 2022 assuming they become full members. By the end of 2022, transition to full membership is required. Realized income of the Summer School was lower than expected with €1700 still to be paid; the conference was not held in 2021; 15,000 is expected to be received from Eclipse projects. A total income of 129,250€ was expected but, to date, €66,236 has been received.

Other costs of activities including Secretariat employment, general secretariat costs, and all Alternet activities were reviewed. Total allocations were €168,000, compared with a total of €106,093 actually spent—a €39,857 difference from income, and thus a reduction of €39,857 in the Alternet bank account. In short, Alternet spent ca. 40 k€ more than it received in 2021. Anticipating on the 2022-allocation proposals by the MB and the expected income, a similar sum of 40 k€ overspending is expected.

Jiska van Dijk noted that 2021 had a strong learning curve as it was the first year as a legal non-profit organization and issues with VAT, etc. arose. Alison Hester expressed positive feelings about short-term surplus spending as previously agreed, as there is still quite a high amount in the bank account; the Chair noted though that a systematic overspending is ultimately unsustainable.

15. How to get a balanced yearly budget? DOC07

In 2017, it was decided to halve membership fees to attract and retain members. This, alongside an increasing number of activities, immediately caused a decrease in capital. This will

lead to an absolute reduction of capital in the upcoming years (5 years) at present rates. The Chair welcomed proposals for ways of increasing income and making Alternet financially sustainable.

Suggestions were given; these included:

- increase membership fees generally
- increase membership fees for those institutes that do not contribute agreed in-kind
- Reduce expenditures by reducing number, quantity, or frequency of activities (i.e. AHIA and MSR became alternating activities since last year)
- Make activities, such as conference and Summer School, financially self-sustaining
- Recruit new members

Rob Alkemade questioned what a safe buffer would be (in the bank account). Allan Watt noted a limit to the amount of income that can be raised from Summer School student fees, and noted that the VAT issue is quite serious because it is consuming some 20% of income. Jiska noted that 150 participants are needed for the conference in order to break even, but that there are risks about attendance related to COVID, etc. Eeva Primmer discussed the cost/income differences between in-person and virtual events. She also raised the question of the Science Service Mechanism and what employment under Alternet will look like should it be approved. Secretariat costs could be covered by this, as well as the proposal with CBD.

16. INFO: Alternet activities, overall evaluation of 2021 [DOC08](#)

2021 was a highly active year for Alternet, despite COVID-related complications. Jiska van Dijk reviewed the activities of the MB and Alternet at large and shared a relevant presentation.

The following activities were reviewed:

AHIA: The 2020 project is ongoing with no progress; a new lead proposition has been made; the 2019 and 2018 projects have been completed and all deliverables are in place. There will be no new call in 2022; as such, there is no proposal to Council.

MSR: The 2018-2021 project has been granted an extension through 2022 and all funding has been received; the 2018-2021 INBO project has delivered its manuscript and the contract is complete with all funding received. A new call will be launched in 2022.

Call Exchange: A new platform has been developed and ongoing, reactive use of this platform has been made; proactive call sharing is encouraged; and the Science Service Mechanism proposal and other proposals were composed as related activities of this platform.

Communication: Progress on the revived Alternet newsletter, website, promotional video series, press publications, and ongoing internal/external communications were reviewed

Summer School: A successful Summer School was held in October 2021 with a reduced number of students; and Peyresq Foundation has been accepted as a new member. Allan Watt will present on the 2022 school and a proposal for 2023.

Conference: The Alternet Conference is to be held 14-17 of June in Ghent; the scientific committee is led by Philip Roche; organization is ongoing.

Science-Policy Interface: A seminar hosted by SYKE will be held on 3 February; and the framework of the one-stop-shop webpage was initiated late 2021 and is to be launched in 2022.

Eclipse: Ongoing requests by DG Mare, FRB, and DG Env are underway; year-round request submission (permanent open call for requests) is to be shortly launched; 13 processed requests have been made to date; and collaboration with the science service and KCBD via workshop are present activities of Eclipse. Currently, Alternet handles contracts which are made through UFZ with 10% overhead.

Science Service: Consortium building on the proposed science service mechanism call was developed beginning in January 2021, led by SYKE. SYKE, UFZ, and INRAE are the core team with 16 Alternet members to be included in the consortium. Alternet is to be a third party with a boundary of 200,000€. A decision is pending.

HORIZON-CL6-2022-Biodiv-01-10: Alternet is joining the consortium led by WCMC for this call (deadline 15 February); a key component of this call is capacity building for the CBD process.

Other: Alternet re-applied for its seat in the CGBN and official stakeholder status for the European Biodiversity Platform (Biodiversa+).

Johannes Peterseil noted that there was an assembly from Biodiversa+ the previous week which included discussion of Alternet and that there is no final decision to date; it will likely be decided on the 22nd of February at the next general assembly.

Maurice Hoffmann noted that participation in calls is one of the key reasons Alternet became an INGO and that the engagement of Alternet in such proposals is highly positive.

17. INFO: Alternet activities, proposal of the MB for 2022 – budgetary implications [DOC09](#)

Jiska van Dijk shared the budget proposal and proposed allocations for activities as prepared by the MB. Costs were displayed alongside expected incomes. Total income expected is: €205,100; and the total expenditure expected is: 245,600€, representing a net loss of €40,500.

Maurice noted that Alternet had made the decision of 10% overheads on Eclipse requests. These are a benefit of managing Eclipse and support Alternet budget and activities. The issue

of VAT expenses was raised. It is recommended that these costs be included in the fees for activities.

Allan Watt noted that Summer School costs went up a few years ago when it was decided that Alternet speakers would have their travel costs covered. He stressed the intrinsic value of the Summer School and recommended against slashing costs, which would be at the expense of its unique character. The Eclipse buffer was also addressed; Jiska explained that, while this hasn't been touched to date, it can be used to cover contracts when there are delays in income from requesters. The value of such buffers is another reason why it is not advisable to let the Alternet balance decline to zero.

The present agenda point is informative; final budget allocation decisions will be made during every individual activity item 18-26 on the agenda and finalized in agenda item 28.

18. DECI: General support: secretariat, reimbursement of surplus of in-kind contributions to governance (Council, MB, secretariat)) [DOC10](#)

Jiska presented and explained the alternative model proposed for member contributions. As some member institutes (active in the MB) are presently contributing a great deal of in-kind and other institutes are contributing minimal in-kind, it is proposed that a more even approach is made. An alternative and potentially more justifiable model would be to include a certain amount of cash payment on top of the yearly partnership fee for those partners not contributing with in-kind contributions. This model proposal needs to be discussed in MB and further developed if the Council in principle agrees to and accepts such an approach. Many activities could be considered in-kind: for example, leading an AHIA proposal, Summer School organization contribution, conference support, etc.

This proposal represents an attempt to make work allocation more fair and to balance Alternet's budget. Only a certain number of activities can be outsourced. SYKE, for example, is helping support the SPI seminar and Alternet conference. A system of recording and recognizing in-kind will need to be developed; presently, the Council is asked whether they approve of such a system being implemented. Kinga suggested sharing the work that needs to be done and opening up allocations of time/work contributions to the institutes—a time bank model where different activities are outsourced; Johannes Peterseil expressed support for this idea. Clearer definition of what in-kind constitutes is needed. Eeva Primmer suggested doing both—time bank and higher costs for those without sufficient in-kind contributions. Allan suggested that proposed systems would be contentious and require a lot of time/work to quantify, implement and monitor. Eeva suggested that it need not be so rigid, and stressed the rewarding nature of Alternet engagement. Mihai Adamescu expressed support for the idea of a market of activities, stating the idea is to reduce the cash contribution if members are contributing with in-kind activities.

The chair emphasized that the present proposal is to address imbalance and also support financial sustainability. He detected more support for further in-kind contributions than replacing

absent in-kind with cash contributions. He noted, however, that work will always be somewhat consolidated in a smaller number of people. He recommended further exploring alternatives to the present in-kind model. Sibylle Schroer noted that a great deal of work of the MB, etc. was shown and that activities that do not offer compensation will not receive volunteers.

Decision: The Council asks the MB to explore and elaborate further on the issue and model of in-kind.

19. DECI: General support: Communication no docs

Adriana Cliville Morato was given the floor to present the communications work of Alternet. In 2021, Alternet finalized and launched its new website and supported Eklipse integration. The Alternet newsletter has been re-launched, with three editions shared to date. A graphic designer was hired to develop a new newsletter design, which has been completed. New content for social media was developed, including a series of promotional videos for the Summer School. Content about direct experience has been proposed. Ongoing regular communications work continues as usual, including social media, internal and external communications, website content, etc. Communication contact persons have been identified for member institutes to improve internal communications.

The new newsletter design was shared. A review of Alternet's social media strategy and web content is proposed for 2022. A full review and redesign of promotional materials will be needed prior to the Alternet conference, per changes to Alternet and its branding; and printing of promotional materials will be needed. The contact person spreadsheet for communications is to be shared with all Council members to make sure their institutes are connected. Allan Watt recommended that communications strategies should emphasize raising awareness of Alternet within Alternet.

A budget of 4,000 is requested for the communications activity.

21. DECI: Conference

Jiska van Dijk shared an update on the 2022 Conference activity. The participants of the Scientific Committee and Organizing Committee were reviewed. This conference, entitled "Transformative Change for Biodiversity and Health" is to be held in Ghent 14-17 June 2022. An expected attendance of 150 persons is estimated. The call for sessions was opened mid-December and is presently closed; the call for abstracts was opened 1 February.

Core conference sessions include:

- Biodiversity and Ecological Health
- Biodiversity and Human Health
- Transforming food systems

- How to deal with transformative change
- Actionize scientific knowledge (Eclipse)

There are to be four keynote talks. The costs of hosting and catering were reviewed, and it was stressed that a self-sustaining conference is strongly desired. €150 per person would be needed to break even on estimated costs, though technical costs are not yet estimated. It was suggested that there should be a lower cost for Alternet members and a higher cost for non-members. Maurice Hoffmann questioned a lower cost for students; Nicolas Dendoncker said a lower student fee could prevent us from breaking even financially.

Ulf Grandin questioned the cancellation policy; and supported the plan to have one standard fee for the entire conference, rather than a per-day fee. Four sessions proposals were received, plus an extension was granted for the PEER proposal of SYKE and the side-event proposal of the 2021 Summer School alumni.

The first day's meeting concluded at 18:00.

Council Meeting Day 2: Thursday 3 February 2022

Chair Maurice Hoffmann opened the second day of the Council meeting at 9:00, noting that the meeting would be recorded and offering another invitation to the SPI seminar hosted by SYKE to take place at 14:00.

20. DECI: Science-Policy Interface [DOC12](#)

Juliette Young presented on the activity of science-policy interface. An overview of key SPI activities of the past year, including those of Eclipse, the Biodiversity Partnership, the Alternet Summer School, and the Science Policy Webinar to take place shortly. The seminar series, beginning with today's seminar hosted by SYKE, builds on the success of the prior UFZ-hosted science-policy seminar. It is intended that this series will continue with rotating Alternet institute hosts.

The one-stop-shop webpage, a page overviewing European-level SPIs and science policy activities, has been initiated by Tyler. Budget options for completing this project and performing its ongoing tasks include allocating more time to Tyler's contract, bringing in support from a researcher, or hiring an intern.

Alison Hester noted that this work is a good opportunity for in-kind contribution. Tyler and Juliette will share information on how contributions can be made; Eszter Kelemen expressed her interest in contribution and will share information on SPI training opportunities. Ana Lillebo expressed interest in having CESAM host an SPI seminar, potentially with an emphasis on coastal marine ecosystems. The James Hutton Institute would also be interested in hosting.

21. DECI: High Impact Action (AHIA) no doc

Jiska presented on the AHIA activity, noting that there is no document presently because it was previously decided that MSR and AHIA calls will alternate annually and that 2022 will have no new AHIA call. The AHIA project, formerly led by Bede West and currently led by Nicolas Dendoncker of ILEE, is ongoing.

22. DECI: Multisite Research (MSR) [DOC14](#)

Joan Pino reviewed the progress of the 2018-2021 Multi-Site Research projects, including that of BC-CAS and INBO. All funding has been received by both projects. The BC-CAS project has been granted an extension due to COVID; the progress of the INBO project is unknown. The Council has previously agreed that costs can not be spent on personal costs.

It is presently proposed by the MB that the BC-CAS project is extended for an additional year as a flexible courtesy during the pandemic. Maurice Hoffmann noted that the 5,000€ for the MSR project of INBO will not be requested anymore, since the funds could not be spent due to COVID; however, the deliverables have been produced (an open access paper).

It is presently proposed by the MB that a new call is released for 2022 for a two year project with a maximum reward of 15,000€ per MSR project. It was inquired if the call is to proceed in 2022; if the money can be spent differently than previously approved; and if there is a need for the Council to rethink current procedures.

The MB generally recommends that this funding is not used for personal costs. Ulf Grandin questioned why this stipulation needs be attached to the funding. Jiska noted that spending on personal costs disincentivizes the use of this funding to bring together Alternet partners, which is a high value of the MSR activity.

Decision: The new MSR call is approved to proceed in 2022.

Decision: The existing criteria (no expenditure on personal costs) remains.

23. DECI: Mobility Fund no doc

Jiska van Dijk presented on the mobility fund, which has been in place for many years and which, in recent years, was not in use. The fund had previously been allocated 10,000; this was then reduced to 5,000. In early 2022, a proposal from the summer school alumni that will tie in with the Transformative Change conference and lead to a publication was approved for 4,500€. As such, an allocation of 5,000€ is proposed by the MB for 2022.

Decision: The Mobility Fund activity will remain with an allocated budget of 5,000€.

24. DECI: Summer School [DOC15](#) (DOC15)

Allan Watt presented the Summer School activity. After a necessary cancellation of the 2020 Summer School, the 2021 school was successfully held in October. Fewer students participated this year due to the pandemic, and all students who attended were currently residing in Europe (but many international students nevertheless attended). About half of the students were from Alternet partner institutes. Gratitude was expressed to the speakers, conveners, tutors, and the Peiresc Foundation.

Maurice Hoffmann noted the external interest of Biodiversa+ in the Alternet Summer School and its format. Co-funding of the present Summer School and on the long run potential expansion of this activity with a clear Alternet label and format are potential possibilities. This will be further discussed with Biodiversa+ and at the Alternet Conference.

It is proposed that the 2022 Summer School is confirmed; that approval for planning the 2023 Summer School can commence; that there is commitment to advertise the summer school within the network; and that ideas are considered for additional summer schools in Peyresq.

Decision: The budget is allocated for 2022 and planning is approved for 2023. It is emphasized that proactive outreach for more Alternet member participation is desirable.

25. DECI: Call Exchange [DOC16](#)

Tyler Kulfan (on behalf of Mart Külvik) presented on the Call Exchange activity. The new Call Exchange platform developed for the new website was shown.

The MB has recommended: to cease usage of the phrase clearinghouse mechanism; to switch to proactive sharing anytime there are two or more interested partners; case-by-case identification and broad sharing of calls of high interest (ie. science service mechanism); to share successful proposals (where call exchange successfully built consortia).

The Council was requested to consider procedures for identifying calls of high interest and contact persons were encouraged to proactively share calls.

Eeva suggested using the Call Exchange platform for comments of Alternet on initiatives of the European Commission, etc. Jiska suggested it could also be used for Horizon Scanning relevant to call texts.

26. DECI: Eklipse [DOC17](#)

Marie Vandewalle introduced the Eklipse activity and provided an overview of Eklipse's progress in the past year, including the ongoing requests of the French Environment Ministry and OFB, DG Mare, and DG R&I. Two new expert working groups have been established. Eklipse has

secured funding streams for 2022 through the EU Green Deal Call. The value of Eklipse's integration into Alternet was emphasized.

For 2022, the MB proposes allocating the same budget (i.e. 35,000€) to the Eklipse activity as a buffer to cover contracts, etc. when funding from requests is not received in time, and when pre-funding is required. This buffer was allocated in 2021 and went untouched.

Decision: The buffer will be allocated for 2022 to support the Eklipse activity, pending the final budget decision of the Council.

27. DISC: Potential New Alternet Activities

Potential new activities were discussed and opportunity was provided for new activity ideas to be shared.

27.1 Alternet science lecture series (Maurice, Jacques) [DOC18](#)

Jointly with Jacques, Maurice shared a proposed idea for a new activity, noting that a valuable way to share relevant knowledge would be to organize lectures or seminars on specific topics that can be participated in by all Alternet employees on a regular basis.

This new activity, the Alternet science lecture series, would enable Alternet personnel to get to know more about specific topics at other Alternet institutes, about colleagues, and about potentialities of cooperation. The format would be regularly organized Open University lectures, TED-talk type lectures, and/or seminars in workshop format.

Possibilities for online streaming were discussed, and Allan Watt noted that the virtual talk format worked well for the Summer School aperitif talks. He also suggested that interested parties bring ideas to the MB proactively. Jiska requested information from the SPI seminar today to gather a better understanding of associated costs, etc. of such activities.

General support was expressed by the Council for the MB to explore and advance with this proposed idea. It is requested that Council members engage with their institute to explore interest in such seminars.

27.2. Alternet-Peyresq communication platform (Jacques, Maurice)

Jacques Berlo presented on the history and identity of the Peiresc Foundation and the Scientific-Cultural Advisory Board was introduced. A communication platform is now proposed to be developed to build, alongside students, post docs, universities, the public, sustainable confidence in science and cultural information via a two-way process and dialogue by prioritizing information, using didactic presentations, checking the understanding of communicated knowledge, encouraging interest to acquire updated scientific and cultural news, and by

developing new networks. Communication activities may include interviews of experts, short pedagogical and didactic presentations of specific topics for local conferences or video conferences and webinars, organization of Forum Peiresc at Peyresq every two years.

The added value of Peyresq to Alternet was noted. Allan recommended not leaning heavily on the online elements of such a platform, as the locale itself of Peyresq is essential. Maurice noted the value that the medical and pharmacological expertise of the Peiresc Foundation Advisory Board brings in and encouraged participation in the Alternet Conference.

It was agreed that such a communication platform will be further explored and advanced in the Management Board.

27.3. Collaboration with third parties (Jiska) [DOC20](#)

Jiska van Dijk has been approached by FRB in Paris with an invitation for Alternet to join the Transport for Nature initiative. It is requested that Alternet members participate in their steering community and that Alternet helps to disseminate their events and communications. Jiska noted that such a partnership would be beneficial; and further recommends adding a page on the website for collaboration activities. The PEER collaboration can also be highlighted. Ben Delbaere mentioned connections to the New European Bauhaus initiative and recommended Alternet members join as partners. The Council was reminded of the Eklipse Network of Networks as another excellent opportunity for networking. The Ecosystem Services Partnership was also raised.

Ana Lillebo invited Alternet members for an internationally chosen webinar on biodiversity. Such webinars would be held annually in the Spring, beginning May 22nd. This could be combined with the SPI seminar series of Alternet or promoted as a separate activity. The MB will explore options.

Other suggestions for networking are welcomed. Alternet will continue to explore and engage with other networking opportunities.

27.4. Ideas to be send in by you (DOCxx)

Many new activities have been in discussion since the start of the meeting; no new activities were presently proposed.

The chair suggested condensing the remainder of the meeting into this evening's agenda and thus concluding the meeting this evening following the Alternet-SYKE webinar. An email was sent immediately to those not currently in attendance to ensure their consent.

A brief introduction to the SYKE-hosted science-policy seminar was given, and all were invited to attend the seminar.

28. DECI: Overall Budget allocations – 2022 [DOC09](#)

Following a notice without opposition from the Chair, it was agreed that the remainder of the meeting would be held Thursday evening.

Chair Maurice Hoffmann and MB Chair Jiska van Dijk again shared the budget spreadsheet and provided another brief overview of the proposed budget, noting that current proposed activities would further reduce the capital of Alternet by €37,500.

Income was reviewed. Income from partner contributions that have not yet been received have associated assurances from those partners that they are still incoming; the greatest likely potential difference between expected and actual income from partner fees is approximately 1,000€.

Recurring program expenses, incidental expenses, and legacy expenses were reviewed. A total budget allocation of €242,600 is proposed by the Management Board.

Comments from the Council were welcomed. Ulf Grandin noted that he thinks the capital reduction for this year is okay, but he recommends proactively considering changes that can be made over the next year so that the next year's budget is more balanced. Eeva Primmer recommended aiming outreach toward more university members and questioned how we could enroll more universities. Ulf suggested identifying key contact persons.

Alison Hester suggested a credit buffer goal of approx. 60-70,000€ rather than 100,000€. Allan stated that the buffer should be based on a rational understanding of the scenarios; Eclipse is a major factor, and other factors remain uncertain presently. Stefan suggested ranking of expenditures and gradually reducing expenditures rather than necessitating a dramatic reduction in upcoming years. This prioritization of activities was seconded by Eeva.

Decision: the Council accepts the 2022 budget as proposed by the MB.

Decision: The Council agrees to define a minimum credit balance limit of 80,000€ for Alternet's capital.

Decision: It was agreed that a prioritization of activities will not occur presently but that the Management Board will be tasked with providing a range of prioritization options and budget alternatives, with a different model than the previous prioritization ranking of 2020.

DISC: Alternative funding opportunities (continuation of issue 14 and 15 on the agenda)

The floor was opened for any other issues of interest. Gratitude was expressed for the excellent organization of the Council meeting, and to the MB members and Tessa Van Santen for the

preparation of all proposals and budget. A further thanks was extended to Stefan Klotz, who is presently retiring, for all of his many great contributions to Alternet since its very founding date of April 1st, 2004.

DECI: Next AC meeting (no doc)

Decision: It was again agreed that, if the next Annual Council meeting can be held in person, it will be hosted by CESAM in Aveiro, Portugal.

The meeting concluded at 17:30 and all those present were thanked for their contributions.