



Minutes and action items of the spring meeting of the Netherlands URSI Committee April 17th, 2023

Distribution list: NUC members

Participants:	For information:
- S.J. Wijnholds [SW, chair] – ASTRON - B. Arbesser-Rastburg [BAR] – ESA/ESTEC - R.O. Perez [ROP] – ESA/ESTEC - J. Steenge [JS] – AT - F. Uysal [FU] - TNO - P. Zwamborn [PZ] - TNO	All NUC members

	Organisatie / Organization	Datum / Date
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1 Opening

SW opens the meeting at 13:15 and welcomes everybody. Originally, this meeting was intended to be held at SRON in Leiden but, regrettably, had to be rescheduled as an online meeting due to unforeseen circumstances at our host. The host confirmed that the invitation to host a NUC meeting at SRON still stands.

Apologies have been received from Ramiro Serra and Gerard van Rhoon.

2 Agenda

The agenda is approved.

3 Minutes and action items of the fall meeting on Nov. 8th, 2022

No comments/corrections to the minutes

Action items:

#52: No new members proposed since last meeting, ongoing action so remains open.

#79: Remains point of attention, suggestions are welcome.

#126: KIVI has been contacted, no response yet.

#129: The issue turned out to occur when sending multiple messages on the same day via the NUC mailing list. We are now aware of this issue, which will usually not affect us.

#130: Item 5b on the agenda.

#131: Information on the URSI-ITU Working Group has been sent to ROP and PZ and their interest has been expressed to Dave Michelson, who is working to get this Working Group formally established. The next ITU WRC will be held in November, which is after the URSI GASS, so this may be the first time that this URSI-ITU Working Group can officially raise the voice of radio science. There are also other routes to raise an issue at the WRC, for example via your national representative or CRAF.

#132: The report of the last meeting on radio noise and spectrum use has been distributed amongst the NUC members. We thank JS for providing this report.

#133: We have successfully nominated WB as candidate for President of URSI.

Unfortunately, WB decided to withdraw his candidacy due to personal reasons.

4 Announcements

- Ross Stone, Assistant Secretary General for URSI publications and the GASS, passed away after a period of illness. We will deeply miss his tireless efforts for URSI and his valuable experience and insights in scientific publishing and organization of scientific meetings.
- Gerard van Rhoon retired on November 1st, 2022 and decided to stop his activities in the NUC for Commission K. We thank him for his contributions. The same applies to Erik van Rongen.

Action point: PZ will prepare a nice card along with a gift card to thank them for



their participation and support.

Action point: PZ will seek to strengthen Commission K

5 Financial status

a. Budget

PZ gives an overview of the finances. The main reason for the very small loss is the fact that we did not receive an invoice for the Benelux Forum, but under normal operations, we still run a significant loss. We can keep this up for some time owing to a large (~20k) buffer, so in that regard, our finances are still healthy, but something needs to change structurally on the long term, hence, a.o., the point below.

b. Update on re-establishing connection with the KNAW

Together with MJB, a strategy was developed. SW will try to figure out whether and how ISC (International Science Council) expects UN Members to support scientific unions and how the Dutch Member Committees of IAU and COSPAR deal with the situation. This is a preparation for a, hopefully, joint effort to convince the KNAW to reconsider support for the Dutch Member Committees of international scientific unions under the ISC.

PZ notices that we have time for careful preparations, so please use that time to increase the chances of success.

6 Looking back

a. Report AT on radio noise and spectrum use (Steenge)

The next meeting of the “Overleg Wetenschappelijk Frequentiegebruik” (OWF) will be in June, so there is no report since the last meeting on October 27th, 2022. JS gives an update on developments since then:

- Since January 1st, 2023, AT is called RDI (Dutch Authority for Digital Infrastructure).
- Meeting with working group of the Committee on the peaceful use of outer space:
 - Mega-satellite constellations like SpaceX and Starlink have a negative impact on radio spectrum (quiet skies). To tackle this adequately, the idea is to create an expert group to be founded for three years.
 - Space weather information should be - according to several members of the WG of the COPUOS - be made available and distributed more widely using publicly accessible databases.
- A technical discussion was recently held at the RDI premises on the treatment of interference between weather radar in 5 GHz band and WAS/WLAN operating in the same band.
- There is a question to the members of the OWF whether passive applications have an interest in the 3-10 THz band and whether any action in this respect should be taken.



- Definitive decisions regarding getting rid of the "leap second" are only expected to be taken at the WRC 2027.
- The RDI is making an inventory of interference from the Iridium constellation and will ask ASTRON on their experiences on this. This as an answer to ECC DEC(09)02.

These issues and more will also be addressed at the next OWF meeting and JS will send the report of that meeting to the NUC chairman for distribution amongst the NUC members.

7 Planning/brainstorm future activities

a. URSI GASS 2023

General update

The 2023 GASSS is organised in Sapporo, Japan, see <https://www.ursi-gass2023.jp/>
We received close to 1700 contributions, most of which have been accepted for presentation at the conference. The scientific Commissions are currently working with the session conveners to compose the detailed conference schedule. All contributors are strongly encouraged to attend the conference in person to present their contribution. The option to present via a pre-recorded online presentation is only offered as fall back for exceptional circumstances such as visa issues or illness and does not allow for live interaction. Contributors should register before the early bird registration deadline on June 1st, 2023. There is a discount for URSI Senior Members, URSI Fellows and Members of IEEE AP Society, AGU, EurAAP and IEICE.

SW will normally become Chair of Commission J (Radio Astronomy) and will likely remain Assistant-Secretary General after the URSI GASS 2023.

NUC members at the GASS

RS and SW have registered for the conference. Do we know of any other NUC member who is coming to the conference?

Action point: If you register, please let SW know just in case something comes up during the conference that warrants a discussion within the NUC.

NUC representatives in Commission business meetings and Council

SW will represent the NUC during the Council meetings and cast the vote on behalf of the NUC. This particularly concerns the election of the Board (see below).

The Official Member of each Commission normally represents the NUC in Commission business meetings. Our Official Members are:

- Commission A: E. Dierikx
- Commission B: A. Yarovoy
- Commission C: M.J. Bentum
- Commission D: F.L.M. van den Bogaart
- Commission E: R. Serra
- Commission F:
- Commission G: R.O. Perez



- Commission H:
- Commission J:
- Commission K: A.P.M. Zwamborn

If an Official Member is unable to join the business meeting, he may arrange for a replacement, but this needs to be communicated prior to the conference to ensure that the new representative gets recognized as such.

Action point: SW will check with Official Members

Election members of the Board

Questions: does the NUC consider specific candidates to be particularly strong? Does the NUC consider certain candidates to be unsuitable? Now that WB withdrawn himself, do we want to, e.g., support Ari?

Action point: please let SW know about any strong opinions.

b. KIVI-URSI meeting

KIVI has been contacted with the proposal to focus the next KIVI-URSI meeting on the highlights of radio science in The Netherlands based on URSI conferences in 2022 and 2023 and the URSI Benelux meeting. No response yet, so to be continued.

c. URSI Benelux Forum

The next edition is to be organized by our Belgian colleagues.

Action point: SW will ask about the status.

8 New NUC members

No new proposals for new members.

9 AOB

BAR commemorates Ross Stone and recommends condolences to be sent on behalf of the NUC to Sue.

Action point: SW to prepare and send condolences to Sue on behalf of the NUC.

10 Closing

At 14:47, SW closes the meeting and thanks the participants for attending. He expresses the hope to meet each other in person next time.

11 Updated action item list

No.	Action item	Responsible	Deadline
52	Look for new NUC members	All	-
79	Try to improve attendance to URSI meetings	SW & RS	Next meeting



126	Organize next KIVI-URSI meeting	SW	Next meeting
130	Prepare for contacting KNAW for sponsoring	SW	-
134	Thank Erik van. Rongen and Gerard van Rhooen for their contributions to NUC Commission K.	PZ	Next meeting
135	Invite new members to Commission K	PZ	Next meeting
136	Inform SW if you plan to attend the URSI GASS in person	All	Before URSI GASS
137	Check attendance of Official Members at the URSI GASS and appoint representatives as desired / needed	SW	Before URSI GASS
138	Inform SW about arguments / opinions in (dis)favor of the candidates for the URSI Board	All	Before URSI GASS
139	Check status of URSI Benelux Forum	SW	Next meeting
140	Send condolences to Sue Stone on behalf of NUC	SW	ASAP