



Growing
ideas
through
networks

COST Action CA18202

*Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research
NECTAR*

Demetrio Milea, AC and GHSR

Spring 2021 MC meeting, online, March 26th, 2021

<https://videoconfcolibri.zoom.us/j/83765639942?pwd=aFFSNjh3ODVpWHd1Z2JlQ0g0bXJTUT09>



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union





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Action Title: Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research

Draft Agenda Management Committee Meeting online :

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Portugal

March 26th, 2021, 16:30

1. **Welcome to participants**
2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting
5. Update from the Action Chair
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Member		Member		Member	
		France (FR)	P	North Macedonia (MK)	P
Austria (AT)	A	Germany (DE)	P	Poland (PL)	P
Belgium (BE)	P	Greece (EL)	A	Portugal (PT)	P
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	P	Hungary (HU)	P	Romania (RO)	A
Bulgaria (BG)	P	Iceland (IS)	A	Serbia (RS)	P
Croatia (HR)	P	Ireland (IE)	A	Slovakia (SK)	P
Czech Republic (CZ)	P	Italy (IT)	P	Slovenia (SI)	P
Denmark (DK)	P	Lithuania (LT)	P	Spain (ES)	P
Estonia (EE)	A	Malta (MT)	A	Switzerland (CH)	P
Finland (FI)	P	Moldova (MD)	P	Turkey (TR)	P



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4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting

- Minutes have been sent to MC via email
- **Voting for Approval**



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5. Update from the Action Chair

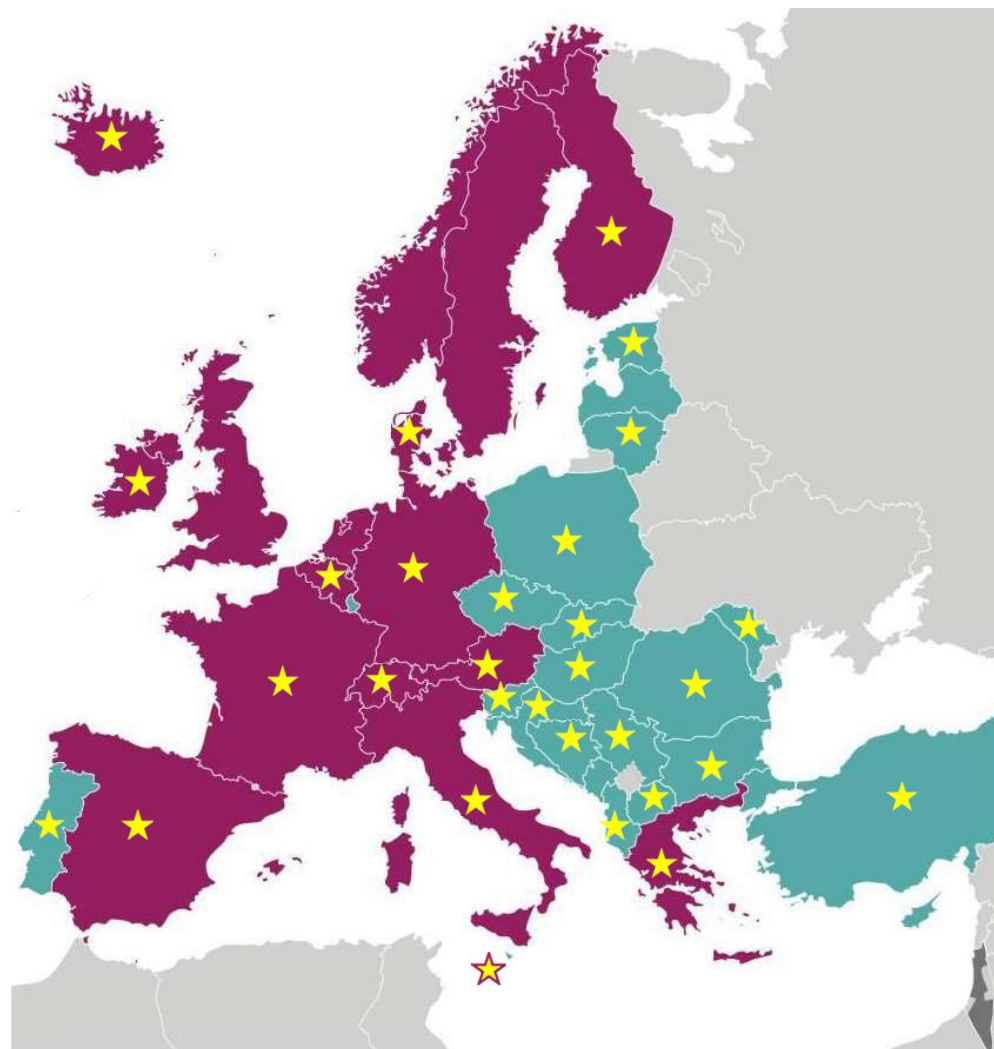
New membership request from Albania

- Voting for Approval

(Actual) Member Countries – 30 (18 ITC)



Member	Member
Albania (AL)	Ireland (IE)
Austria (AT)	Italy (IT)
Belgium (BE)	Lithuania (LT)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BA)	Malta (MT)
Bulgaria (BG)	Moldova (MD)
Croatia (HR)	North Macedonia (MK)
Czech Republic (CZ)	Poland (PL)
Denmark (DK)	Portugal (PT)
Estonia (EE)	Romania (RO)
Finland (FI)	Serbia (RS)
France (FR)	Slovakia (SK)
Germany (DE)	Slovenia (SI)
Greece (EL)	Spain (ES)
Hungary (HU)	Switzerland (CH)
Iceland (IS)	Turkey (TR)



International Group for the Thermodynamics of Complexes

www.ismecgroup.org

38 COST Members

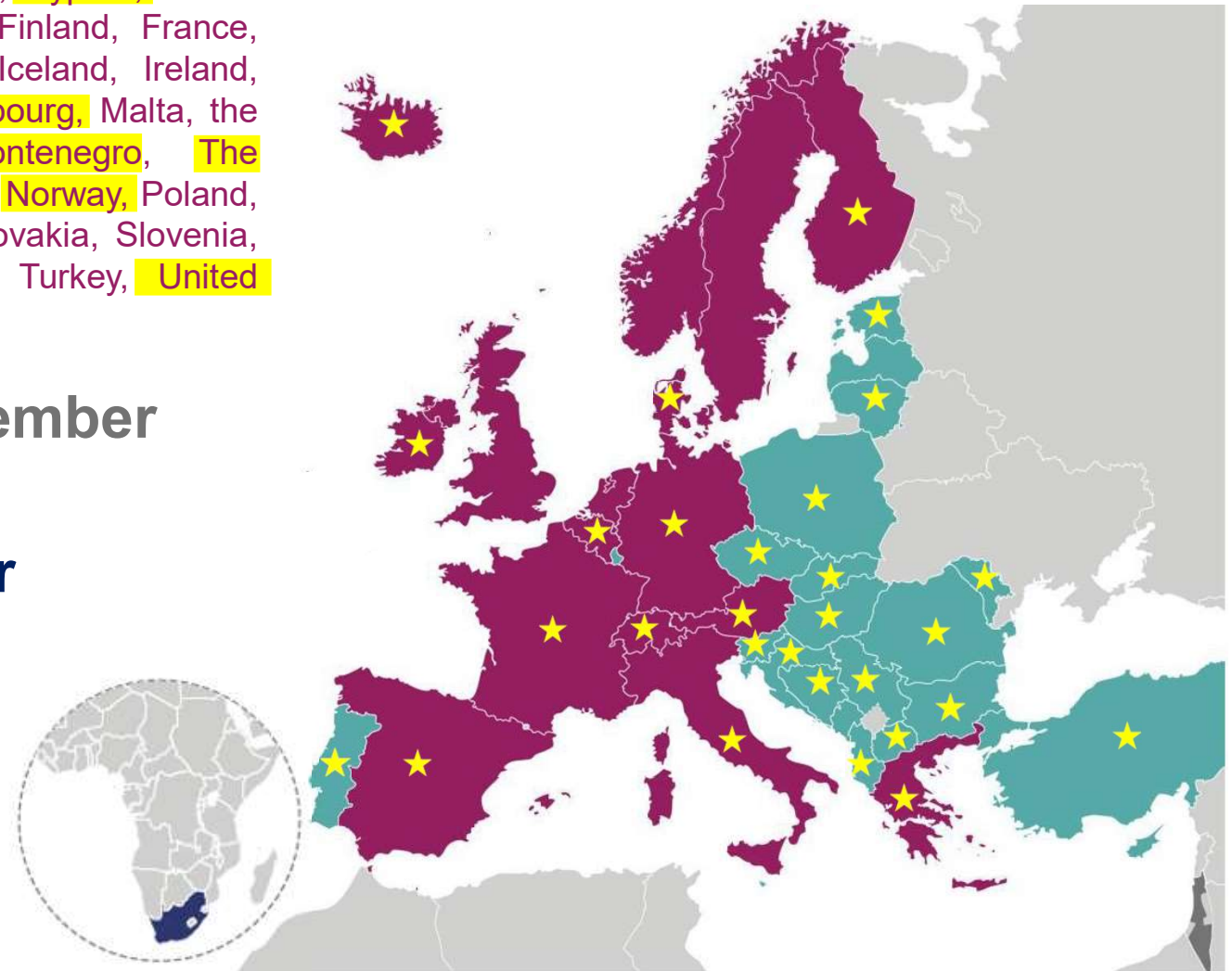
Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, **Cyprus**, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, **Latvia**, Lithuania, **Luxembourg**, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, **Montenegro**, **The Netherlands**, North Macedonia, **Norway**, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, **Sweden**, Switzerland, Turkey, **United Kingdom**.

1 Cooperating Member

Israel

1 Partner Member

South Africa





5. Update from the Action Chair

Top-up budget request

- During last MC meeting (online on Feb 5th, 2021), AC informed MC about an upcoming AC meeting (online on Feb 9th, 2021) in which there would have been the possibility to apply for a topup of actual budget for GP2.
- During the same meeting, MC gave AC full mandate make a proposal to submit to SO and COST Association to negotiate the topup request.
- During the AC meeting, after a long and fruitful discussion with SO about various options and possible requests, it has been suggested that it could have been reasonable to request a topup of 15550€ to dedicate to our end-of year MC/CG/WG/dissemination Meeting to be held in September in presence.
- On Feb 15th, 2021 AC launched the following MC vote:



CA18202 MC approval for budget topup request and WBP change

Description

Dear MC members,

During the Chairs meeting that I had last 9 Feb 2021, it emerged that COST has some extra budget for supporting additional activities of the running Actions during this current Grant Period (until end of October 2021).

I have been asked to decide, if needed, to submit a **top-up request** as soon as possible and no later than **25/02/2021**.

At moment, we have no idea about the possible budget, we just know that the evaluation and approval of our potential requests will be based on different elements, i.e.:

- The current number of countries (incl. NNC).
- The current expenses and forecasted level of Actions expenditures (*Please update your upcoming activities in e-cost till the end of the GP as soon as possible!*).
- The underspent from last GP.
- The impact of the new planned activities in the Action objectives.
- Other indicators: i.e. ITC expenditure, etc...
- The overall evaluation of the requests from all the Actions.

So, we have been asked to **be realistic in our forecast and requests**. We need to avoid high underspent at the end of the GP, so, **if there is not a clear need, we should not request any budget**.

As explained in the meeting, it is not guaranteed that all our requests can be covered now.

Once the top up is approved by MC, we will need to amend the current WBP.



On the basis of the above considerations, and after a long and fruitful discussion with SO about various options and possible requests, we thought it could be reasonable to request a topup of 15550€ to dedicate to our end-of-year MC/CG/WG/dissemination Meeting to be held in september.

The reasons behind that can be resumed as follows:

- 1) we already had, recently, amended original WBP for GP2 due to pandemics, with cancellation of TS and reallocating face to face meeting budget to STSMs, ITC Grants, Dissemination and other activities.
- 2) on that basis, all other networking activities are very well covered in terms of budget (even in terms of STSMs, we are not sure if we will be able to spend all budget, we still have another call to launch).
- 3) During CG meeting before MC votes on budget amendments, we agreed that a big final meeting is "necessary" and almost mandatory for various reasons. Among them, I just cite the scientific ones, related to the necessity to disseminate internally and externally our activities, to discuss about results and future within and between WGs, and to properly plan GP3.
- 4) Objectively, with vaccination campaigns and after summer and before starting schools, the COVID situation should be good enough for travelling (last september pandemics curve was lower than in other periods of this crisis, and there was no vaccine yet).
- 5) Actual budget allocated for meeting was already underestimated because of the uncertainty of pandemics, and waiting for the possibility (as it seems to be now) of topup. For example, budget was calculated not taking into account travel expenses. Furthermore, after more than one year of travel bans, we expect many participants and more activities.



On the basis of the above considerations, and taking into account that Lisbon is cheaper and easier to reach than Faro in September, always considering an average of **80 attendants** (53 are only actual MC members, last year despite cancellations we almost reached this number) and in the view of allowing more people to attend, our intention is to reduce the flat rate (as done in Belgrade) to **100 € per day** and make a **3-days meeting** (i.e. up to 4 reimbursable days) that, considering an average cost of flight tickets of 300€, would result in an estimated budget of 700€ per participant and, therefore of 60800€ (including LOS).

From the difference between that amount and the actual allocated budget it comes the topup request of **15550€**.

After these premises, you are asked to vote if you are favourable or not to request for that topup amount to allocate in the new WBP as above described.

Due to the time restriction, I kindly ask you to vote asap and not lather than this week, remembering you that:

1) Votes will be counted per country (in case of disagreeing votes between MC members of a country, the vote for that country is null).

2) No vote = approval

Best regards

Demetrio

Start 15/02/2021 12:48

End 22/02/2021 23:59



5. Update from the Action Chair

Top-up budget request

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- On Feb 15th, 2021 AC launched the following MC vote:
- On Feb 22nd, 2021 MC approved
- On Feb 23rd, 2021 AC officially forwarded a topup request of 15550€ to to dedicate to networking activities as per evote from MC.



5. Update from the Action Chair

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- On Feb 15th, 2021 AC launched the following MC vote:
- On Feb 22nd, 2021 MC approved
- On Feb 23rd, 2021 AC officially forwarded a topup request of 15550€ to to dedicate to networking activities as per evote from MC.
- On March 22nd, 2021 SO officially communicated AC that the topup request has been approved in the presented form.



5. Update from the Action Chair

Top-up budget request

- On March 22nd, 2021 SO officially communicated AC that the topup request has been approved in the presented form.
- Standard procedure for AGA and WBP amendment with GH to start after this meeting (eCOST blocked)



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6. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups

GP2 Goals

Grant Period Goals

Action Objectives Overview

#	Description
1	Promote and advertise Action and Action's aims
2	Consolidate (and expand) the existing Network
3	Identify and involve new stakeholders
4	Compilation and critical assessment of hydrolysis constants and solubility products for some selected elements (WG1).
5	Development and testing of recommended procedures for the accurate determination of stability constants for some selected systems (WG2).
6	Development of methodologies for determination of constants characterizing weak interactions of components involved in the equilibria and for investigations of equilibria in non-aqueous solvents (WGs 2, 3 and 4).
7	Investigation of multicomponent systems including non-covalent, ion-ion and ion-solvent interactions, ternary systems, and mixed solvents and ionic liquids (WG3).
8	Participating and co-Organizing high-level meetings and TSs on thermodynamic data analysis and correct use of experimental techniques for thermodynamic data determination (WGs 4 and 5).
9	Compilation of first data collections and guidelines according to WGs results (WG4 and 5).



6. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups

GP2 Goals

Grant Period Goals

Action Objectives Overview

#	Objective Number	Objective Description
1	Challenge	provide a scientific and technological platform to gather together, under a unique network, a critical mass of European research groups with a strong expertise in chemical equilibria with industrial stakeholders, with the valuable reinforcement of international partners and European enterprises.
2	Secondary objective 1	Give response to actual scientific and technological challenges. In the wide field of equilibrium thermodynamics, particular attention will be paid to four specific areas: i) biology and medicine; ii) environmental science; iii) technology and industry; iv) modelling and software development.
3	Secondary objective 2	Develop new technologies. The multidisciplinary and diversity of expertise within NECTAR will bring about a demand for developing new technological solutions, which will successfully combine all stakeholders' interests.
4	Secondary objective 3	Identify new industrial stakeholders and applications. One of NECTAR's aims is to enlarge the perception about the potential of the use of different thermodynamic studies on specific industrial and technological applications (including environmental and biological/medical).
5	Secondary objective 4	Promoting mobility and multidisciplinary training between the different participants of the Action.
6	Secondary objective 5	Transferring knowledge and promoting industrial awareness.
7	Secondary objective 6	Supporting a high proportion of ECIs, ITCs and assuring gender balance in the COST Action
8	Secondary objective 7	Promoting the sustainability of the network beyond the Action.



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7. Meetings and other networking Activities for GP2

Meetings:

- According to approved WBP changes, our 2nd NECTAR Conference will be held in presence in Lisbon in end-August / earl September.
- Organizing Committee communicates official dates and info.
- **Characteristics:**
- **Meeting type:** MC/CG/WG/Dissemination Conference
- **Venue:** Lisbon, Portugal
- **Dates (3 days):** 26-28 August
- **Flat rate:** € 100 per day
- **Max reimbursable days:** 3+1
- **Expected participants:** 80+
- **Long distance travel tickets:** as cheap as possible
- **LOS:** flat (20€ per day per attendant) or based on receipts



7. Meetings and other networking Activities for GP2

TS:

- According to approved WBP changes, SOLvE TS proposed in Belgrade was cancelled in its original form.
- Proposers will organize anyway a virtual SOLvE School in a similar form within the activities of the ISMEC Group (the International Group for the Thermodynamics of Complexes, www.ismecgroup.org). [Details from Organizers](#)
- There is the possibility to co-organize and support this TS free of charge for NECTAR, with the possibility for 15 ECI selected by NECTAR (through a committee led by TS Coordinator) to participate.

Dedicated to:

...students (MSc, PhD), post docs or professionals involved in the study of solution equilibria and the analysis of relevant thermodynamic parameters.

The well-known computer science motto of “garbage-in garbage-out” perfectly holds also for chemical thermodynamics.

Researchers working in this field need high-quality data to obtain high-quality results. Analogously, any subject dealing with chemical thermodynamics need high-quality data and models to ensure their robustness for high-quality applications.

SOLvE in an **online** training school which will help people dealing with solution equilibria in promoting good laboratory practices. Experienced professors will provide focused theoretical background, practical aspects and tips for high-quality experimental data collection and clues for robust data analysis through different models and protocols (ranging from Excel to more specialised software). The main experimental approaches for solution equilibria will be presented and discussed. Applications of each technique to cutting-edge research will be also highlighted.

www.cost-nectar.eu

Organized by:



Chairs:

Tarita Biver	University of Pisa (IT)
Sofia Gama	University of Białystok (PL)
Demetrio Milea	University of Messina (IT)
Carmelo Sgarlata	University of Catania (IT)

NECTAR Supervision:

Enrique García-España University of Valencia (ES)
TS Coordinator

Important info:

Deadline: 15th June 2021

Registration fee: 30 €
10 NECTAR free slots available

Registration fee includes:

- 12 + 1 topic lectures
- Training material

Min number of participants required: 10

Contact – Info – Registration:

solve@uwb.edu.pl



1st ISMEC-NECTAR Training School on the Determination, Analysis and Use of Thermodynamic Data



Advances in SOLution Equilibria

July 26th-28th, 2021



International Group for the Thermodynamics of Complexes



1st ISMEC-NECTAR Training School

on the
Determination, Analysis and Use
of Thermodynamic Data



Advances in
SOLution Equilibria

July 26th-28th, 2021

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Credits: Sofia Gama



2.5 DAYS ⇒ INTRODUCTION TO SOLUTION EQUILIBRIA + 4 FOCUSED TOPICS

A **plenary lecture** will introduce the theoretical background for a correct approach to solution equilibria.

Each session of the school (half a day) will be focused on a specific technique

- Potentiometry & Electrochemical techniques
- Spectrophotometry & Spectrofluorimetry
- NMR
- Calorimetry

At the end of each session, an experienced researcher will present the applications of each technique in nowadays research.

www.cost-nectar.eu

PROGRAMME (CET time)

July 26 th	July 27 th	July 28 th
	9:30-10:20 TOPIC 2 Theory	9:30-10:20 TOPIC 4 Theory
10:00-10:20 Opening	10:30-11:20 Data treatment	10:30-11:20 Data treatment
10:20-12:00 <i>Introduction to solution equilibria</i>	11:30-12:20 Application	11:30-12:30 Application
	12:20-13:00 Open discussion	12:20-13:00 Open discussion
Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Closing remarks
15:00-15:50 TOPIC 1 Theory	15:00-15:50 TOPIC 3 Theory	
16:00-16:50 Data treatment	16:00-16:50 Data treatment	
17:00-17:50 Application	17:00-17:50 Application	
17:50-18:30 Open discussion	17:50-18:30 Open discussion	

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Voting for approval



7. Meetings and other networking Activities for GP2

STSM and ITC Conference Grants:

- Calls



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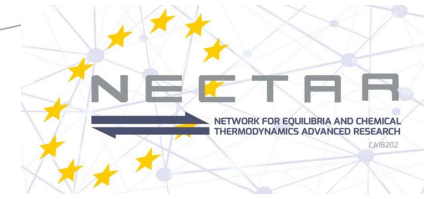
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8. Eventual budget changes

New WBP will be:

A. COST Networking Tools	
(1) Meetings	60'800.00
(2) Training Schools (TS)	0.00
(3) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	30'000.00
(4) ITC Conference Grant	1'000.00
(5) COST Action Dissemination	10'500.00
(6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	850.00
B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))	103'150.00
C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (15% of B)	15'472.50
Total Grant (B+C)	118'622.50

45'250+15'550

87'600+15'550



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11. Location and date of next meeting

Next MC meeting:

- Except for necessary virtual MC meetings, next MC meeting will be held in **Lisbon, on xxxxx**



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2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries or, if applicable, a quorum
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting
5. Update from the Action Chair
6. Follow-up of MoU objectives: progress report of working groups
7. Meetings and other networking Activities for GP2
8. Eventual budget changes
9. WGs' and other leadership positions changes
10. AOB
11. Location and date of next meeting
12. **Summary of MC decisions**
13. Closing



12. Summary of MC decisions

Decision taken by MC:

- Minutes of last MC virtual meeting of Feb 5th, 2021 have been approved
- Albania has been admitted as new member of CA18202
- Dates, venue and form of 2nd NECTAR Conference have been approved as presented
- Participation of NECTAR to SOLvE TS has been approved
- WBP for GP2 as per approved topup has been confirmed
- The following leadership positions changes have been approved:
 - Vw
 - Vww
- Except for necessary virtual MC meetings, next MC meeting will be held in Lisbon during the 2nd NECTAR Conference
- ...



COST Action CA18202

Action Title: Network for Equilibria and Chemical Thermodynamics Advanced Research

Draft Agenda Management Committee Meeting online :

<https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/83765639942?pwd=aFFSNjh3ODVpWHd1Z2JlQ0g0bXJTUT09>

Portugal

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