

**Brief report of the meeting of the
European ALMA Science Advisory Committee**

Garching, June 12, 2003

The newly-constituted ESAC met for the first time face-to-face in Garching on June 12, 2003. The first part of the agenda was devoted to discussions on the terms of reference of the ESAC and its relation to the ASAC and ESO-STC, project updates, and overviews of the ASAC and Science IPT activities. This was followed by lively presentations by the ESAC members on their own ALMA-related science interests, those in their countries, and the needs of their communities in preparation for ALMA. The second half of the meeting was devoted to discussions of EU Framework 6 (FP 6) proposal activities, starting with a summary of the proposals submitted so far (Radionet, Opticon, MC-RTN) and followed by more in-depth presentations of individual elements of a possible EU FP6 Construction proposal. The ESAC also had a brief discussion with the Director General on the status of plans for the European Regional Support Center in connection with the updated ESO Long-Range Plan.

Minutes of the meeting are attached to this summary. The main conclusions and recommendations are:

1. The ESAC was delighted to hear about the recent ratification of the ESO/Chile agreement on ALMA and the approval by Finance Committee of the initial Phase 2 European workpackages, and congratulates ESO and ALMA management on these achievements.
2. The ESAC agrees with the Terms of Reference, with one minor suggestion to modify point 2 to “Members shall be appointed by the ESO Director General following current practice on membership of the STC.”
3. The ESAC recommends that the antenna selection board includes astronomers which are actively involved in ALMA science.
4. The ESAC notes the EU FP6 proposal efforts to date and the opportunities for community involvement in technological, networking and training activities toward ALMA if they are funded. Planning for activities in 2004, in particular workshops, needs to start soon. The ESAC will be actively involved in this.
5. The ESAC heard presentations on possible elements of the EU FP6 ALMA construction proposal, and will discuss them in more detail at its next meeting in Fall 2003. ESO urgently needs to identify a leader of this proposal, if it is to meet the March 2004 deadline.
6. The ESAC will discuss the updated plans for the European RSC at its next face-to-face meeting in September 2003 in order to provide input to the discussion of the ESO Long Range Plan at the December 2003 council meeting.
7. The ESAC nominates P. Cox, J. Richer, P. Schilke, L. Testi and E. van Dishoeck as the European members of the ASAC.