

Procès-Verbal de la 316^{ème} séance de l'Assemblée d'Ecole du mardi 9 février 2021

Présences Aleksandra Radevonic, Ens
André Fattet, CAT
Consuelo Antille, CAT
Fabio Zuliani, CI
Francesca Nicoletti, E
Frédéric Courbin, Ens
Ghali Chraibi, E
Jacqueline Morard, CAT
Julien Gamarro, CI
Marco Picasso, Ens
Maxime Brosset, E
Nicolò Ferrari, E
Pauline Franz, CI
Silvia Hostettler, CI

Kristin Becker, Déléguée des 2 AE au CEPF
Sabrina Wuilleret, Assistante administrative AE

Michael Hengartner, Président du Conseil des écoles polytechniques fédérales (CEPF)

Excusés Gianluca Paglia, CAT
Frédéric Rauss, Mediacom

Absent Georg Fantner, Ens

Ordre du jour

Membres AE; la séance débute à 12h15

1. Accueil
2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour
3. Adoption du PV de la 315^{ème} séance
4. Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF
5. Communications du Bureau de l'AE
6. Consultations
7. Divers et propositions du jour

Membres AE et Invités

8. Echange avec Michael Hengartner, Président CEPF (12.30-13.45)
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1. Accueil

Séance ouverte à 12h15 par Fabio Zuliani, Président de l'AE.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

L'ordre du jour est adopté.

3. Adoption du PV 315^{ème} séance

Le PV est adopté.

4. Discussion avec notre Déléguée au CEPF

Domain meeting February 3rd (next meeting of ETH Board : beginning March 2021)

Concept Desk sharing

The confederation (Federal Office for constructions and logistics) has come up with a Concept for the introduction of collective workplaces (desk sharing) for the federal administration (<https://www.news.admin.ch/news/message/attachments/64580.pdf>) and is now asking the ETH Domain to elaborate a domain wide concept for the ETH Domain before end 2021. The aim is to reach 0.8 working places /full time equivalent. The idea is to have a concept sufficiently large to leave enough liberty for each institution to develop their own concept. KB pointed out the importance to involve the employees into this process.

Gender Strategy

Big effort was made to integrate remarks from the consultation, will be approved in March.

Open Research Data

ETH Domain wide project starts this year, EPFL: Katrin Beyer (ENAC) & Gilles Dubochet (General secretariat).

Federal Council's strategic objectives for the ETH Domain 2021-2024

- An external evaluation on personnel management and development has to be carried out during the period, the HR managers of the ETH Domain will work out a concept.
- Projections of the number of students and professors & strategy on the evolution of student and PhD student numbers have to be elaborated. First step: common position statement will be discussed in March meeting.

WBK-N Science, Education and Culture Committee from the National Council, January meeting (<https://www.parlament.ch/press-releases/Pages/mm-wbk-n-2021-01-22.aspx>)

- Supports Erasmus+
- Hearing with Martin Vetterli, Gisou van der Goot and representative of Polyquity regarding harassment at EPFL. The commission decided to deposit a parliamentary motion for a campaign for prevention of harassment at EPFL and ETH. The Federal Council proposes to reject the motion, because this will be included into the Strategic objectives

5. Communications du bureau AE

- Commission Covid: new regulations on teaching and homeworking will be announced very soon.
AE member: Direction should inform the whole community and not only part of it (distribution list). This point has been considered and next information-mailing will be sent to everyone.
- VPO – Cristal : Système informatique de gestion des projets. Aleksandra se porte volontaire pour rejoindre le COPIL.

- Séance extraordinaire AE : une séance informelle est agendée le 10.05 pour rencontrer la Vice-Présidente pour la transformation durable, Gisou van der Goot, et notamment permettre à l'AE de préparer la réunion « DIALOG 2021 » prévue le 16.06 entre l'AE et le CEPF.

6. Consultations

- 03.02.2021 : Consultation sur le projet de la Révision de la Directive pour la gestion de noms de domaines (autres que epfl.ch) (LEX 6.2.1) et de sa fusion avec la Directive concernant la validation des dénominations et sigles de site WEB (LEX 6.3.2), GT – TBD (Deadline 30.03)

7. Echange avec Michael Hengartner, Président du Conseil des écoles polytechniques fédérales (CEPF)

Prof. Michael Hengartner, Président du CEPF avait exprimé le souhait de rencontrer les assemblées d'école de l'EPFZ et de L'EPFL en début d'année. Les Bureaux respectifs de ces 2 AE lui ont proposé chacun une rencontre séparément, lors d'une plénière.

Introduction, présentation des activités du CEPF et des objectifs par Prof. Hengartner.

Résumé des questions/réponses :

- How can those 6 institutions learn from each other's experiences (example: Gender strategy)?

ETH Board encourages such exchanges and can help to coordinate. ETH Board ensures a common understanding and common goals on key aspects. Institutions implement the topic of Gender Strategy in their own ways, there is some harmonization, but flexibility is left to optimize to local environment and specific issues.

- It is mentioned in the presentation that serving Swiss people is a priority for the ETH-Board. How do you expect internationally recognized professors to consider this service as a priority (and not being focused on the international scene)?

This question can be asked only to the very top strategic level (EPFL and ETH Presidencies). There is no conflict overall, if you serve Science, you serve the World and therefore you serve Switzerland. Top scientists participate in the Institution recognition and are part of the system. Teaching is also a direct contribution to the Swiss society.

- What about financial reserves?

We must invest funds on education, research, knowledge transfer. By 2024, we have to reduce reserves by 10% which will be invested in education and research.

- A follow-up question about "DIALOG 2020" on environment and sustainability. What is the ETH Board point of view?

Energy and environment are parts of our main topics of interest: we need to have a better definition on that, contributing to have a sustainable society will be one of the major challenges. Being scientists, we must contribute to having technical solutions (with cooperation and partnership). A working group has been created to be more concrete and proactive. We will keep on working on those subjects and align the institutions as much as possible.

- Institutional Accreditations: it's a huge task. How is it perceived by ETH Board?

Goal of accreditation is to ensure that institutions have quality control and quality development systems in place, which is nothing more than a process in place to improve itself. The main risk would be for the image of EPFL if the experts had to formulate advice.

- What is your view on combining the visibilities of ETHZ and EPFL?

A portfolio including the 6 institutions is necessary and would be an added value to foster interactions with industries, also on the international level. On a local level, the 6 institutions are well known individually.

- DIALOG meeting: In 2020 EPFL Direction has presented a similar topic to the one of AE. If the discussion was taking place at the same time with Direction and School Assembly, perhaps it could be profitable?

There is a time limit on this day and it's important to separate the time of the Direction and that of the AE. AE could coordinate with ETH-Board and EPFL to see if the discussion on the transversal theme could happen at the same time.

- Can EPFL continue to grow on the education side?

It cannot go on forever. It is one of the goals of ETH Board to assess this with EPFL Management.

- Academic evaluations and audits: often, the audits of Schools indicate that we should limit the number of students but EPFL (as all Swiss universities) is not allowed to limit the entry of Swiss students. Auditors do not understand the political constraints. On the other hand, EPFL Direction worries when a section is decreasing its number of students. It's difficult to combine and know what to do. Should we limit the number of students?

It's a hot and delicate topic that must be discussed at all levels. There is not an easy solution. The Swiss Government has asked the ETH Board to think about a strategy. Creating a new institute is not a reasonable solution for research nor education, we need to find a more dynamic way to set up new initiatives when we need to address a new challenge.

8. Divers et propositions du jour

- Discussions on the long-term scientific contracts and their position in the Intermediate Body.
- Discussion on the role of the ACIDE, EPDA and Polydoc, the Intermediate Body members are working on it already, more to come in the months ahead.