

Minutes of the meeting of the

IFAC / SECOM Technical Committee

**Supplemental Ways for Improving International
Stability - SWIIS**

Friday, May 15th, 1998; 18.15 - 19.00

Palace Hotel, Sinaia
Room B

ATTENDEES:

1. Barkalin Viatcheslav (BELARUS)
2. Dumitrache Ion (RO)
3. Haber Gottfried (A)
4. Hersh Marion A. (UK)
5. Holubiec Jerzy W. (PL)
6. Kalaidjieva Magdalena A. (BG)
7. Kile Frederick O. (USA)
8. Kopacek Peter (A)
9. Kronreif Gernot (A)
10. Makarenko Alexander (UKRAINE)
11. Novikava Svetlana (BELARUS)
12. Richardson Jacques G. (FR)
13. Scheffran Jürgen (GER)
14. Tagarev Todor D. (BG)

AGENDA:

1. Roll call and introduction of attendees
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Minutes of the last meeting (San Francisco, 1996)
4. Activities since last IFAC World Congress 1996
5. Activities for a participation at IFAC World Congress 1999
6. Next conference - SWIIS-2001
7. Next meeting
8. Other business

ITEM 1:

The meeting was called to order by the SWIIS TC Chairpersons P. Kopacek and F. Kile. All participants were invited to sign the sheet circulated in order to update the TC-member database.

ITEM 2:

There were no additions to the agenda. The agenda was approved.

ITEM 3:

The minutes of the last TC meeting in San Francisco 1996 were approved. P. Kopacek reports, that the minutes were sent to about 120 persons listed in the SWIIS database.

F. Kile reports on informal talks held during the „Transition’97“ conference in Warsaw. In this series of conversations - serving as a kind of „TC meeting“ - relevant SWIIS supporters discussed to establish particular local SWIIS groups, ensuring a diffusion of the idea of SWIIS in particular regions around the world. In addition, there were discussions about SWIIS participation at the SWIIS’98 conference in Romania and at the next IFAC world congress 1999 in Beijing.

ITEM 4:

P. Kopacek and G. Kronreif gave a short report on the activities since the last regular TC-meeting in San Francisco:

1) Workshops and Conferences:

- Organized by the IFAC Technical Committee and with the valuable support from J. Holubiec, two IFAC/SWIIS sessions - entitled „International Stability I and II“ - were held during the International Conference „TRANSITION’97“, Warsaw - June 18-21, 1997.
In the first session, chaired by M. Kilgour, papers were presented by M. Hersh, J. Richardson, and a team from the Institute of Mathematics and Cybernetics in Minsk, Belarus. The second International Stability session was chaired by M. Hersh. Papers were offered by R. Starkermann, M. Kilgour, J. Holubiec and S. Piasecki, F. Kile, Cz. Mesjasz, and S. Pickl.
All presented papers were of varying relevance to International Stability but gave an excellent survey of the scope of our committee.
- Initiated by Cz. Mesjasz, the TC on SWIIS asked all the members of the SWIIS group to contribute to the 3rd Pan-European Conference of the ECPR Standing Group on International Relations - organized together with the ISA (International Studies Association) - which will be held between 16. and 19. September 1998 in Vienna. Due to various circumstances, a special session on SWIIS could not be installed. If there are any members of the SWIIS group participating with a paper, please let us now.

2) Additional activities:

- According to the new IFAC guidelines, the scope of our group was revised. The new, official scope is: „Identify and define the way, factors and elements significantly influencing international stability can be determined and improved; Interact with other (inter)national organizations to monitor efforts toward international stability and peace; Inform other IFAC TCs about the ideas and activities of SWIIS and outline ways in which IFAC people could use their systems and control capabilities to further the development of international stability and a more peaceful world.“
- Together with the „Control and Computers Faculty“ of the „Politehnica“ University of Bucharest (I. Dumitrache), the TC organized the IFAC conference SWIIS'98 in Sinaia.
- Initiated by C. Antonini, some of the members of our group participated in the Millennium Project (MP). This project is an effort, coordinated by the American Council for the United Nations University, to provide a global capacity for early warning on long-range issues. The purpose of the MP is to assist in organizing futures research, to update continuously and improve global thinking about the future, and to make that thinking available through a variety of media for consideration in public policy making, advanced training, and public education. It accomplishes these ends by connecting individuals and institutions around the world to collaborate on research to address important global issues. The project is not intended to produce a one-time study of the future, but to provide an on-going capacity for identification, assessment, and analysis of issues with global impact; it is, essentially, a geographically and institutionally dispersed think-tank.
- Following the directions of IFAC, SWIIS was one of the first committees linking a TC-homepage to the IFAC-homepage. G. Kronreif gave a short description of the general structure of this information system and asked for contributions to this homepage. The SWIIS-homepage can be visited by
linking from the IFAC-homepage (<http://www.ifac-control.org/>)
or by direct access (<http://www.ihrt.tuwien.ac.at/SWIIS/>) either.
- Together with the 1996 Newsletter a „Call for Opinion“ was sent out in order to update the SWIIS committee roster. G. Kronreif reported that about 60 of the data sheets found their way back to the SWIIS secretary.

ITEM 5:

The SWIIS chair will try to organize one or two special sessions on SWIIS during the IFAC World Congress 1999 (Beijing). Persons interested to participate at these sessions were asked to send a title and a short abstract of their presentation to the SWIIS secretary until end of May.

M. Hersh opened a discussion about the human right situation in China and possible statements of the SWIIS group to this situation. F. Kile stressed the strictly non-political orientation of IFAC and pointed out that it would not be good to break with this tradition. J. Richardson, J. Holubiec, P. Kopacek and many others agreed to this statement. J. Holubiec also mentioned, that the submitted papers should be highly formalized in order to „cut a good figure“. The IFAC world congress is a very big chance to attract members of other TCs to the

work of the SWIIS group. He also asked the contributors to make no short-term changes to the submitted papers or to avoid last-minute changes of the oral presentation abusing the conference host.

ITEM 6:

P. Kopacek asked for proposals for the next SWIIS conference in 2001. The decision will be taken during the next TC meeting 1999 in Beijing.

ITEM 7:

The next meeting should take place during the IFAC world congress in Beijing, 1999. The exact date and time will be announced.

ITEM 8:

The current TC Chairperson, P. Kopacek, proposed for the next triennium the following TC chair:

Chairperson: **F. Kile (USA)**
Vice-Chairpersons: **C. Antonini (RSA)**
 G. Kronreif (A)
 J. Scheffran (D)

The proposal was approved.

J. Holubiec proposed a contribution of SWIIS (also as co-sponsor) for a conference in Warsaw, 2000. A possible title for this event - organized by INFORMS (mainly by the Polish INFORMS chapter) - is „Operations Research and Management Sciences for Development and Stability“.

P. Kopacek asked for information about other events related to SWIIS.

In order to gain more attention to the SWIIS TC and to its work, P. Kopacek proposed a new sub-title for the next conferences. Ideas and proposals should be sent to the SWIIS secretary.