

## **Terms of Reference of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)**

*(as approved by the Council in its 33rd meeting, November 2011)*

1. In accordance with article 17 of the EGO statutes a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) is established.
  
2. The STAC makes recommendations to the Council on scientific and technical activities carried out by the EGO Consortium; in particular the tasks might include:
  - To make recommendations to the Council on the priorities of research programs and the allocation of research effort;
  - To assess annually the achievements of the VIRGO Collaboration and the EGO Consortium with regard to the annual goals set for the previous year;
  - To advise the Council from the point of view of scientific policy on the management and staffing of EGO, including the programs concerning the fellows;
  - To advise the Council on any other matters which affect the scientific activities of EGO.
  
3. The STAC will be composed by about ten scientific personalities including the chairperson, appointed by the Council for a period of three years renewable once. Their number shall reflect the range of expertise required for the STAC, as defined by the Council described in the Annex. They shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the STAC. The STAC shall establish its recommendations to the Council for the appointed members taking into account the range of expertise to be covered by the STAC, as defined by the Council. They shall act "ad personam" and not as representatives of their countries or Laboratories.
  
4. In case of reiterated absences of a member of STAC, the Chairperson will ask the Council to appoint a replacement.
  
5. Vacant positions are replaced following the same procedure as in article 3.
  
6. The Council shall appoint the Chairperson of the STAC, normally from among the current appointed members.

The term of office of the Chairperson is three years, renewable once. In this eventuality, the STAC membership of the Chairperson can be larger than six years.

7. The Council may appoint a Vice-Chairperson of STAC in consultation with the Chairperson. His/her role will be to substitute the Chairperson in case of his/her unavailability.

8. At each Council meeting, the Council will establish the reviews to be performed by the STAC at its next meeting. The questions from the Council shall be transmitted by the EGO Director to the STAC Chairperson.

9. The STAC Chairperson convenes the meetings and decides of their agenda in collaboration with the EGO Director. The STAC shall meet approximately one month before each Council meeting. If needed the Council may convene extraordinary STAC meetings.

10. At the end of each STAC meeting, a written report shall be submitted to the Council and to the Director. Once approved by the Council, the report is communicated by the Director to the responsible concerned and to the spokesperson of the Virgo collaboration.

11. The STAC meetings consist of a first session open to all Virgo/EGO members and a closed session where the recommendations and the written report are elaborated.

12. The STAC Chairperson may for portions of its closed session invite individuals (e.g. the EGO Director, the Virgo Spokesperson) for consultations.

13. Unless the Council decides otherwise, the STAC Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson shall be invited to attend the open sessions of the Council as observers.

## **ANNEX**

Fields of expertise to be covered through an appropriate choice of STAC members:

- experimental issues (interferometry, seismic isolation, commissioning)
- data analysis
- astrophysical science goals
- management and political aspects