

CECAM CONVENTION

Between the Institutions detailed in Annex 1, hereafter called Member Organizations, is agreed what follows.

Preamble.

Mission statement

CECAM is an autonomous European multi-nodal structure driven by the vision and efforts of an international community of scientists and institutions. Its mission is to promote cooperation and knowledge-sharing, and to foster advanced research programs amongst the scientific communities dedicated to the *basic research* involving computationally intensive methods and grand challenges of computer simulation in physics, chemistry, biology, materials science, and engineering, including the application of machine learning and data driven sciences to these fields.

Context and background

Since its creation in 1969, CECAM ‘Centre Européen de Calcul Atomique et Moléculaire’ has played a pivotal role in developing and disseminating novel computational techniques, in particular for microscopic and mesoscopic simulations of matter.

CECAM’s early vision and pioneering coordination of the then small community of computational practitioners paved the way for the development of modern tools in numerous fields that require a proper treatment of quantum and statistical features. Nowadays, also thanks to the contributions of the CECAM community, computer simulations are increasingly integrated with experiments and allow scientists to access and predict detailed features in the structure, dynamical behaviour, or function of complex systems. Computer simulation accelerates the development and conception of new technologies and products. Last but not least, computational methods are increasingly relevant in addressing critical societal challenges, e.g. for health, energy, and the environment.

CECAM started as a partnership of six European science organizations. It is now a broad, multi-nodal network funded by institutions and consortia in Europe and beyond. The recent memberships of institutions from Asia and the United States of America testify to CECAM’s global leading role and outreach. To further promote the collaborative and sustainable development of computational sciences, adapt the mission and structure of CECAM to the needs of the growing community of computational scientists, and maximize the benefits of the High-Performance Computing services deployed in Europe and beyond, the CECAM Member Organizations have decided to renew the Convention regulating their partnership and reaffirm its core principles:

Principles and values

CECAM is committed to practicing and actively promoting a diverse, inclusive and open approach to science. It embraces the values of scientific excellence, collaboration and integrity, and strives to provide an exciting environment where all practitioners can participate and benefit.

CECAM encourages the intellectual pursuits of its community and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration and scientific exchange across subdomains in its field. It participates in the training of new generations of computational and data scientists in its core research fields, striving to inspire curiosity driven efforts, societally meaningful work, and fruitful dialog across generations. It acts to broaden the community of computational science and to ensure, in particular, that scientists from developing countries have access to its activities.

CECAM adopts and promotes ethical and responsible research and best practices to facilitate the development and dissemination of new methods and other scientific tools in computational science. It adheres to the principles of open science and FAIR sharing of data.

CECAM recognizes the importance of public awareness of the contributions of computational methods to modern science and is engaged in dissemination activities with stakeholders across the global society. It is aware of the responsibility of the scientific community towards society and promotes work relevant to address societal challenges.

CECAM promotes collaborations within the global ecosystem of scientific research organizations, initiatives, and activities in computational science that have similar values and scientific goals.

Article 1. Summary.

The geographical structure, objectives, and organizational structure of CECAM are:

Geographical Structure

1.1 CECAM is a Research Organization with strong European participation having a multinodal structure distributed over a number of locations with a primary Centre hosting CECAM Headquarters, hereafter referred as “Headquarters”, and secondary Centres, referred as “Nodes”.

The CECAM Headquarters must be located in Europe.

Further details of the CECAM network are given in articles 4 and 5.

Objectives

1.2 CECAM aims to implement a research strategy in computational science that should boost the capability of the partner organizations to address emerging challenges in science and technology. The focus of CECAM's activities is to encourage collaboration in Europe and beyond in order to foster ground-breaking research on numerical approaches in particular for microscopic and mesoscopic simulations of matter, designed to tackle problems in the physical, chemical and life sciences, applied mathematics and engineering, and to strengthen links with adjacent fields of computational science, including applications of machine learning and data driven sciences in these fields.

CECAM organizes and promotes a range of activities that include:

- supporting collaborative research projects through a programme of short- and longer-term visits of scientists to CECAM locations;
- organizing or sponsoring international meetings of varying scale and duration (seminars, discussion meetings, workshops, thematic and general conferences);

- organizing or sponsoring tutorials and schools aimed at the training of young scientists in specific areas of computational biology, chemistry, engineering and physics;
- contributing, through links with academics, to Master and Doctoral programs in Computational Science in high level European Universities;
- encouraging additional activities financed by other means and funding authorities when such activities benefit the CECAM community as a whole.

1.3 CECAM is dedicated to *basic research* involving computationally intensive methods and its application especially but not only to grand challenges simulation in physics, chemistry, biology, materials science, and engineering, including the application of machine learning and data driven sciences to these fields. CECAM accepts the ethical responsibilities associated to research in its fields. It pursues activities with the potential for global societal benefits in critical areas such as health, energy, and the environment.

1.4 CECAM is committed to practice and actively promote an inclusive and open approach to science. It actively promotes equity, diversity and inclusion among organisers or participants in its activities, for example in terms of gender, ethnicity, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, etc. Specific policies and actions towards increasing diversity and inclusivity in CECAM's management and activities are described in the CECAM Diversity and Inclusivity Plan (see article 2). To foster an open and respectful environment conducive to constructive scientific debate, all participants to CECAM activities must abide by the CECAM Code of Conduct (see article 2).

1.5 CECAM pursues sustainable computational practices, in particular via the development of novel methods and algorithms, dissemination of best practices for software development and deployment, and related training on use of available High Performance Computing resources. It targets minimization of the carbon footprint of its broad scientific community.

Organizational Structure

1.6 The activities outlined in paragraph 1.2 are organized throughout the CECAM network (Headquarters and Nodes) according to an organizational structure, described in article 6, which establishes four authorities to operate CECAM:

- The CECAM Council is the supreme governing body of CECAM, where all Member Organizations are represented. Its structure and functioning is the subject of paragraphs 6.1 to 6.10.
- The CECAM Director coordinates and executes the CECAM programme of activities (see articles 6.16 to 6.19.), under delegated authority from the CECAM Council. The Director and the CECAM administrative staff are located at the Headquarters (see article 4), where they also lead their research team.
- The Board of Directors consists of all Node Directors and the CECAM Director, who chairs the Board (see paragraphs 6.13 to 6.15). The CECAM Director and the Node Directors administer the part of the adopted programme taking place at their respective locations (see articles 6.16 to 6.19 and article 7). The Board of Directors works towards a coordinated optimal selection and distribution of CECAM activities throughout the network.

- The *Scientific Advisory Committee* (SAC) consists of eminent scientists across the different fields covered by CECAM. Its role is to advise the CECAM Director and the Board of Directors on the CECAM scientific policy. The structure and tasks of the Scientific Advisory Committee are discussed in paragraphs 6.23 to 6.25.

1.7 The financial operations of CECAM are described in article 7. Article 8 defines the conditions for accepting new member organizations. Article 9 deals with publications. Article 10 concerns the duration of the Convention, article 11 deals with modalities to amend the Convention, while article 12 deals with modalities in case of termination of CECAM, and article 13 describes the legal nature of the Convention.

1.8 The parties to the present Agreement encourage participation, by the scientific communities for which they are responsible, in all activities organized by the association throughout its network.

Article 2: Associated Documents.

2.1 Annex 1 lists the Member Organizations of CECAM and Annex 2 lists the Nodes of CECAM. Both lists are automatically updated when a new Member/Node is accepted, when a Member quits the Association or when a Node terminates or withdraws. Annex 3 states the currently agreed minimum membership fees (see article 7.1) and the minimum CECAM Node budget (see article 7.2). The content of Annex 3 may be modified by a vote at qualified majority (see article 3.3) of the Council, following which the President of the Council signs Annex 3 on behalf of the Member Organizations and the modified Annex 3 becomes effective. Annex 4 lists the additional documents described in article 2.3.

2.2 This Convention is complemented by three additional documents:

- The “Headquarters Agreement”, which deals with the conditions of hosting CECAM by one of its Member Institutions.
- The “Node Agreement”, consisting of the whole set of bilateral agreements between CECAM and the Node institution or institutions establishing a specific Node. In this way, the information given in the application, as approved by the Council, becomes an integral part of the agreements.
- The “Diversity and Inclusivity Plan”, consisting of the policies and actions that CECAM establishes to foster an open and inclusive approach to science.

2.3 In addition to the documents above, Council may adopt documents regulating specific actions or processes necessary to enable a smooth operation of CECAM.

These documents and any modifications to them, which may from time to time be proposed, are agreed by a qualified majority vote of the CECAM Council, whereupon the President of the Council will sign the relevant document on behalf of the Member Organizations.

Additional documents cannot supersede or modify the content of the articles of this Convention.

Article 3: Decision Making Process In Council.

Voting

3.1 In all voting decisions of the Council each Member Organization casts one single vote. If the representatives of a Member Organization cannot attend a meeting, the Member Organization may nominate a proxy to cast its vote (see article 6.6).

Regular Meeting Procedure

3.2 A voting decision of the Council is valid only when at least two-thirds (2/3) of all Member Organizations are present (present in person or having cast a vote (see article 3.1)).

3.3 The following definitions apply to votes of the Council:

- a *simple majority* is defined as more than 1/2 (one half) of the votes present or otherwise taking part in the vote;
- a *qualified majority* is defined as more than 2/3 (two-thirds) of the votes present or otherwise taking part in the vote;
- a *unanimous decision* is defined as a decision by all Member Organizations listed in Annex 1 at the time of the vote taken with no opposition vote and no abstention.

3.4 Except where stated otherwise in this Convention, the decisions of the Council are taken with a simple majority. An abstention in the actual voting procedure is not counted as a vote.

Written Decision Procedure

3.5 In the event of urgent questions, the Council may take decisions by written procedure on the initiative of the President. To this end the CECAM Director shall, on behalf of the President, communicate in writing to all Members the proposed measures, via email and/or fax. Voting by written decision requires a vote or an abstention by all Member Organizations. Decisions are made following the same voting rules as laid down in articles 3.3 and 3.4. The written communication shall include all relevant background information, and shall contain a return receipt with a deadline. Any Member having received the message, who does not object or abstain in writing, is considered to agree with the proposal. The response period shall be clearly stated in the written communication, and it shall not be less than thirty calendar days. Members not confirming receipt shall be counted as abstaining.

If three or more Members request that the proposed measures be examined at a regular Council meeting, the written procedure shall be terminated without result and the President shall then call a meeting as soon as possible and take appropriate intermediate measures.

Article 4: CECAM Headquarters.

4.1 CECAM is headquartered in a site provided by one of the Member Organizations located in Europe.

4.2 The conditions governing the hosting of the CECAM Headquarters by one of its Member Organizations are detailed in the “Headquarters Agreement”. This document can be updated by agreement between the CECAM Director and the host Institution. In order to be effective, any changes to the Headquarters Agreement require the approval of the CECAM Council by a qualified majority.

4.3 The programme of CECAM activities supports and involves the computational research community as a whole, and is open to scientists worldwide. The majority of activities funded directly by Membership Contributions of CECAM’s Member Organizations (see article 7.1) will take place at the Headquarters. Activities at the Nodes will be, as a rule, funded by the CECAM Node budget (see article 7.2).

4.4 The decision to move the CECAM Headquarters requires a qualified majority vote of the Council, any such proposal being explicitly announced in the Agenda of a Council Meeting. The new Headquarters site is selected by the Council following a widely publicized call procedure.

Article 5: CECAM Nodes.

5.1 The purpose of a CECAM Node is to contribute to the practical achievement of the objectives described in section 1.2. In this respect, each Node is required to devote a budget (defined in article 7) to fund the CECAM activities with which it is associated.

5.2 A CECAM Node is a research structure inside a larger Institution (the “Node Institution”), or a consortium of such research structures, devoted to active research in computational sciences in one or more domains covered by CECAM. The Institution (or consortium of Institutions) proposing to host a Node is expected to be a prominent Research Centre in the country where it operates. In particular, this Institution is supposed to develop, sustain or have access to:

- an internationally recognised research programme at the frontiers of the scientific domain(s) of interest;
- all cyber-infrastructures suitable for/required by the activity of the CECAM Node.

In the simplest situation, a Node is linked to a single Institution, which is also a member organization of CECAM. When the Node involves more than one “Node Institution” with possibly one or more Member Organizations of CECAM, a consortium agreement will be signed between all the institutions constituting the Node in order to establish the creation of the Node and to specify the “Node authority”: a person (possibly the Node Director) who can be authorised by each Node Institution to sign agreements related to the Node on behalf of each single Institution constituting the Node.

5.3 Any Node is represented in the Council through all the Member Organizations to which the Node is associated.

5.4 A CECAM Node is created for a four-year term by an agreement between the Node Institutions and CECAM. The set of such agreements for all Nodes constitutes the “Node Agreement” document defined in Article 2. The CECAM Council mandates its President to sign these agreements on its behalf. The Node’s authority, defined in article 5.2, signs, if mandated accordingly, this agreement on behalf of each single Node Institution constituting the Node.

5.5 Before an agreement -as meant in the last paragraph- can be signed, the association of a specific Node with CECAM must be approved by a qualified majority vote of the Council.

Under exceptional circumstances, for example when a Node does not comply with the Node Agreement, the President of the CECAM Council can propose with a detailed motivation a vote of the Council to remove a Node from the CECAM structure before the end of a normal term. This proposal must be agreed by the Council with a qualified majority vote and then it becomes effective.

5.6 A Node is renewed by the following procedure. At least three months before the Council meeting immediately preceding the termination date of the Node agreement, the Node authority, if mandated accordingly on behalf of each single Institution constituting the Node, writes to the President of the Council stating its wish either to continue to host a Node or to cease Node activities. In the former case, the Node authority, if mandated accordingly on behalf of each single Institution constituting the Node, may propose amendments to its Node agreement for the consideration of the Council. The Council then discusses this statement at its next meeting and decides by a qualified majority vote on renewal or termination.

5.7 The Node Institution (or Consortium) selects a scientist to act as CECAM Node Director for a mandate of 4 years maximum. This selection is normally made by an open procedure in which the CECAM President or CECAM Director or a representative designated by the President participates, at least as an observer. If the Node Institution or Consortium already employs a suitable candidate, it consults the CECAM President or the CECAM Director about the appointment. The appointments of Node Directors are acknowledged by the CECAM Council by the procedure laid down in paragraph 6.10.

5.8 As part of the CECAM network, the Nodes participate, through the Board of Directors, in setting up the programme of CECAM activities and in managing the part of the general programme of CECAM involving the Node, with emphasis on collaboration between nodes.

5.9 The list of Nodes is found in Annex 2. It is updated by decisions taken according to articles 5.3 to 5.5.

Article 6: Organizational Structure.

The CECAM Council

Powers

6.1 The supreme governing body of CECAM, representing all its Member Organizations, is the CECAM Council. The Council has the ultimate responsibility for all strategy and operations. It delegates its executive power to the CECAM Director it appoints.

Membership

6.2 Standard Membership: European academic and governmental organizations, and non-European academic organizations can become standard CECAM Members. Each Member Organization is represented on the Council by a delegation that has at most two members and one vote. This delegation should be fully mandated by the Member Organization to discuss and decide on its behalf issues of strategic importance for CECAM, and therefore have the high-level scientific expertise needed for the decision-making process. It is for the Member Organization to decide whether both functions are to be performed by one delegate or separate scientific and administrative representatives are needed. No delegate should have a direct involvement with the operations of any Node sponsored by the Member Organization he/she represents.

6.2a Associate Memberships: European and non-European industrial organizations can become Associate Members. Each Associate Member Organization is represented at Council by one member. Associate Members do not vote, but participate to Council deliberations in an advisory capacity.

President

6.3 The Council selects from its members a senior scientist to be its President and to chair all meetings of the Council. The President's term of office will normally be two years but can be extended to three years maximum.

6.4 The Council may select another of its members to act as Vice President, to assist and occasionally deputise for the President. The Vice President is proposed by the President and approved by Council with a qualified majority vote.

Conflict of Interest

6.5 Council members shall be required, on taking up their appointment, to declare any private, professional or commercial interests, which might conceivably give rise to a conflict during their term on the Council. Members and observers shall be required at meetings to declare conflicts of interest in any item being discussed. In such cases the concerned member shall abstain and remain absent from any discussion or decision on the issue.

Evaluation

6.6 The Council retains the responsibility for arranging independent reviews of the quality of the CECAM Programme. To this end, periodically (approximately every four-five years), the Council sets up a Visiting Committee of eminent independent scientists to review the activities of CECAM (Headquarters and Nodes). This Visiting Committee is asked to deliver, in an advisory capacity, a thorough assessment of the scientific outputs of CECAM, of its added value to European computational research, of the balance between Nodes and of the efficiency of the organization. It also provides advice to Council and the Director on possible future developments, comments on the overall scientific strategy of CECAM and gives appropriate recommendations whenever necessary.

Annual Meeting

6.7 The Council meets regularly once a year. The President is obliged to convene an extraordinary Council meeting if a significant minority (25%) of its members requests this in writing. Members unable to attend a meeting must either be represented by a deputy chosen by the Member Organization, or nominate another member of the Council to act as proxy on the condition that this other member has not already undertaken authorisation from another member. The Organization must notify in writing the CECAM President of the proposed deputy or proxy before the Council meeting.

6.8 Urgent questions, requiring Council decisions before the next scheduled yearly meeting, may be handled by the written decision procedure described in article 3.5. Extraordinary Council meetings may also be convened upon initiative of the President or the Director of CECAM if the written decision procedure is not adequate.

Agenda Points

6.9 Any Council decision requiring a vote must be explicitly announced in a separate point of the agenda of the Council Meeting.

Observers at Meeting

6.10 The Council may co-opt or consult other specialists selected for their expertise to assist with its work. Such specialists cast no votes at meetings of the Council.

Tasks

6.11 The principal tasks of the Council are:

- (i) to appoint by a qualified majority-vote the CECAM Director;
- (ii) to acknowledge the appointment of a CECAM Node Director on the basis of a report by the CECAM representative in the local Node selection Committee or on the basis of a report presented by the Member Organization(s) to which the Node is associated.
- (iii) to approve individually the scientists proposed by the CECAM Director to form the CECAM Scientific Advisory Committee;
- (iv) to establish the long-term strategy of CECAM. In this task the Council will work closely with the CECAM Director who will, with the Board of Directors, initiate the process of strategy development (see paragraph 6.18 (i)). The strategy will cover:
 - a) the main scientific challenges CECAM should address, within the resources available to it;
 - b) the ways in which CECAM nodes will collaborate on these challenges;
 - c) the balance of activities comprising the CECAM programme as a whole;
- (v) to review periodically the activities of CECAM as explained in article 6.5;
- (vi) to discuss and decide on the Annual Report of Accounts for the previous year (this includes Headquarters and Node budgets) and the corresponding Annual Report of the Scientific Activities of CECAM, after receiving these reports from the CECAM Director before the annual meeting of the Council for approval (see articles 6.18 (iv) and 6.18 (v));
- (vii) to discuss and decide on the planned CECAM scientific Programme for the coming year (this includes Headquarters and Node budgets) together with its Provisional Budget as established by the Board of Directors, after receiving these documents from the CECAM Director before the annual meeting of the Council for approval (see article 6.14 (i)).
- (viii) to discuss and decide on any other matter the Council deems necessary within the framework of CECAM's aims and activities.

Information

6.12 In order to carry out the tasks mentioned above, the Council may request from the Director any information it considers useful.

Suspension

6.13 In the exceptional case of a conflict between Nodes, that cannot be resolved within the Board of Directors, the Council will take up the issue. The "CECAM" status of a Node may be temporarily suspended to allow the Host organization, the Board of Directors and the CECAM Council to resolve any issues that may have arisen.

The Board of Directors

6.14 The Board of Directors meets whenever needed but at least once a year, sufficiently in advance of the meeting of the Council meeting at which the Annual Reports over the previous year and the CECAM Scientific Programme for the coming year with its Provisional Budget are to be discussed.

6.15 The principal tasks of the Board of Directors are to:

- (i) prepare annually the CECAM Scientific Programme and establish the Provisional overall Budget (this includes Headquarters and Node budgets) to be submitted by the CECAM Director to the Council for approval, taking into account the Node Agreements signed between the Node Institutions and CECAM, particularly the activities laid down therein;
- (ii) ensure the coherent and appropriate distribution of all CECAM activities taking place at the CECAM Headquarters, or CECAM nodes;
- (iii) act as a consultant body to the CECAM Director for the selection of the SAC;
- (iv) approve any request for external funding;
- (v) contribute to and implement the long-term strategy agreed by the Council,
- (vi) approve all general calls for proposals before being executed by the CECAM Director and incorporate all honoured applications into the CECAM scientific Programme.

Decision Making Process

6.16 The Board of Directors operates by consensus, but if necessary, may take decisions by vote. Any such votes follow the Council voting procedures laid down in article 3, in which each Node will cast a single vote. The President of the CECAM Council attends one meeting per year of the Board of Directors to ensure good communications between the Council and the Board.

The CECAM Director

6.17 The scientific programme endorsed by the Council is implemented by a distinguished scientist acting as Director. He or she is appointed by a qualified majority vote of the Council, having been selected from a list of suitable candidates assembled by a search committee established by the Council. The CECAM Director's mandate lasts four years to allow a rotation of scientific fields and nationalities. The mandate is extendable to six years, based on a Council decision sanctioned by a qualified majority vote.

6.18 The CECAM Director is responsible to the Council for the financial management of CECAM business, to be exercised in accordance with the measures laid down in the Headquarters Agreement. However, the CECAM Director is not permitted, without the consent of the Council, to exceed the CECAM budget, or to transfer amounts between expenditure lines for more than 20%.

6.19 The CECAM Director is responsible for the planning and implementation of CECAM's programme, and specifically:

- (i) ensures the efficient organization and operation of all CECAM activities;
- (ii) drafts the initial long term strategy document for consideration by the Council in consultation with the Scientific Advisory Committee and the Board of Directors;
- (iii) implements the policy decided by the Council, and carries out Council's decisions;
- (iv) prepares the Annual Report of Accounts for the previous year and the Provisional Budget for the coming year (see article 6.14 (i)) and submits them to the Council for approval at least one month before the relevant Council meeting;
- (v) prepares the Annual Report of the Scientific Activities of CECAM for the previous year, including node activities, to the Council for approval at least one month before the relevant Council meeting;
- (vi) submits applications in the name of CECAM for external funding according to the following procedure. If time allows, the CECAM Director includes foreseen applications in the annual plan presented to the Council, identifying any associated risks or commitments. If time does not allow this to be done, the CECAM Director consults the President of the Council regarding applications with a total value exceeding 500,000 Euros. The CECAM Director includes a list of all external funding in the Annual Report of Accounts to the Council, together with an estimate of the risks or commitments associated with the external funding;
- (vii) launches calls for proposals and participation in CECAM activities according to the strategy approved by the Council;
- (viii) chairs the Board of Directors and represents the Board at Council Meetings;
- (ix) proposes the membership of and chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee;
- (x) presents the assessments of the SAC to the Council in the Annual Report of Scientific Activities;
- (xi) attends Council meetings in a non-voting capacity;
- (xii) develops, on his/her own initiative, a sustained research programme of international quality;
- (xiii) is responsible for capital items bought with CECAM's funds;
- (xiv) may sign, upon delegation from the President, documents in the name of CECAM.

6.20 The status of the CECAM Director within the institution hosting the CECAM Headquarters is defined in the "Headquarters Agreement".

6.21 The CECAM Council may appoint a Deputy Director to assist the Director in their tasks. The Deputy Director is proposed by the Director and selected by Council via a qualified majority vote. The tasks and the duration of the mandate of the Deputy Director are established in a separate additional document (see article 2).

6.22 The status of the CECAM Deputy Director within the institution hosting the CECAM Headquarters is defined in a dedicated agreement between CECAM and the hosting institution.

The Node Directors

6.23 A distinguished scientist acts as Node Director, according to the provisions of article 5.7. Their period of office and other administrative aspects (including authority for Node financial matters) are stated explicitly in the Node Agreement between the Node Institution (or institutions in the case of a consortium node) and CECAM. The Node Director is ex-officio a member of the CECAM Board of Directors.

6.24 The Node Director is accountable to the Board of Directors for the planning and implementation of CECAM's approved programme at the Node, and specifically:

- (i) ensures the efficient organization and operation of all CECAM activities at the Node;
- (ii) participates in the development of the long-term strategy of CECAM – Node Directors may bring to the Board of Directors any idea or initiative of interest to the Node and to CECAM as a whole, seeking opportunities for collaboration between the Nodes;
- (iii) prepares the financial accounts, the annual budget and a report of CECAM activities at the Node and submits them to the Board of Directors. When approved by this Board, they are included in the CECAM Director's Annual Reports to the Council in accordance with articles 6.18 (iv), 6.18 (v);
- (iv) contributes to the development of the collaborative research programme of CECAM, pursuing all appropriate opportunities to apply, jointly with CECAM Headquarters and/or other Nodes, for external research funding (see 6.18 (vi)).

Membership Restrictions

6.25 A Node Director may not simultaneously also be a member of the Council or a member of the Scientific Advisory Committee. However, from time to time the Council may invite a Node Director to a Council meeting in which it discusses an item of special relevance to the Node in question.

The Scientific Advisory Committee

Membership and Chair

6.26 The CECAM Director chairs a Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) of five to fifteen members. Members of this Committee are eminent researchers representing the scientific disciplines in which CECAM is or intends to become active. They are proposed by the CECAM Director after consultation within the Board of Directors and appointed individually by the Council. SAC members will be appointed for a, renewable, four-year period.

Tasks

6.27 The principal tasks of the SAC are to:

- (i) make recommendations for the long-term scientific vision and strategy of CECAM;
- (ii) assist the CECAM Director to conduct a proper peer review by assessing and prioritizing the scientific quality of all proposals for workshops, tutorials and schools and other initiatives submitted within a given call for proposals;
- (iii) give advice to the Board of Directors on the planning of the CECAM programme.

Membership Restrictions

6.28 A member of the Scientific Advisory Committee may not simultaneously also be a member of the Council or a Node director.

The CECAM Executive Board*Membership and chair*

6.29 The CECAM President, Vice President, Director, and Deputy Director compose the CECAM Executive Board (EB). The Board is chaired by the CECAM President.

Tasks

6.30 The principal tasks of the EB are to:

- (i) ensure clear and frequent communication between representatives of Council and the CECAM executive management;
- (ii) monitor deployment of strategic actions that benefit the CECAM community as a whole;
- (iii) devise and implement, subject to final Council approval, timely actions to pursue CECAM's goals and objectives.

Article 7: Finances.**7.1 Membership Contributions**

The parties to the present Convention undertake to make available to the association an annual grant to cover the costs of the association and to contribute to the scientific programme endorsed by the Council. The grant to be contributed is at the discretion of the Member Organization, but must be at least equal to the minimum contribution specified in Annex 3 (see article 2.1). All the amounts set out in Annex 3 are subject to availability of funds within each CECAM Member.

These Member contributions are collected by and administered in the CECAM Headquarters. The detailed methods of payment of Member contributions are specified in the Headquarters Agreement.

The actual contributions to be made in a given financial year by each individual Member Organization are communicated to the CECAM Director on the Director's request in order to allow the timely drawing up of the annual Provisional Budget according to article 6.18 (iv). These statements on the contribution are confirmed by each Member Organization at the next annual meeting of the Council.

7.2 CECAM Node Budget

Each Node provides a budget (the Node budget) for CECAM activities. This budget is managed autonomously by the Node Director within the Node Institution's administration. The amount of this CECAM Node budget is at the discretion of the Node Institution but is expected to be at least equal to the minimum amount quoted in Annex 3 and be sufficient to cover the Node activities programme as given in the Node Agreement (see article 2.1 and 2.2).

The provisional Node budgets for a given financial year are confirmed annually in a meeting of the Board of Directors and then reported to the Council in the CECAM Director's Provisional Budget for the financial year in question (see article 6.18 (iv)).

The choice of activities to be financed by the set of Node budgets is decided jointly within the Board of Directors. In its decisions, the Board of Directors respects the agreements signed between the Node Institutions and CECAM which are collected in the Node Agreements (see article 2.2).

Article 8: Extension of Membership to New Members.

Any European academic or governmental research organization may apply for CECAM Membership. Non-European academic organizations are welcome to apply for Memberships. At least 2/3 of voting members of Council must be European organizations. Industrial research organizations may apply for Associate Membership (see article 8.2).

8.1 Membership

The application process is initiated by a formal written request to the CECAM Council. Council may then decide to invite the applicant organization for an interview during which the organization presents its case to be admitted. The presentation is followed by a qualified majority vote of the Council. If the outcome is positive, the new Member Organization signs the CECAM Convention. Such an extension of membership appears as an update of Annex 1 to the present convention. With the date of signature, the signing organization becomes a member organization. The amount of the new Member Organization's contribution is fixed according to the provisions laid down in Article 7 above.

If a Member Organization violates the provisions of the Convention, Council will convene a meeting to discuss the case and may suspend membership following a qualified vote.

8.2 Associate Membership

Industrial research organization may become an Associate Member Organization of CECAM. The application process is the same as for standard membership. Associate members participate as non-voting members in Council. The specific form of their contribution will be discussed on a case-by-case basis.

Article 9: Scientific Publications.

Scientific publications arising from research work sponsored by CECAM must acknowledge the location and source of support, mentioning CECAM.

Article 10: Duration.

10.1 This Convention starts from June 20th 2026 and remains in force for a period of eight years, expiring on June 19th 2034. It is subject to renewal, for new periods of eight years, by stated written consent of the Member Organizations one year before its expiration date. At the following meeting, Council verifies if a qualified majority of Member Organizations has provided this consent. If this is the case, the convention is renewed. If not, the procedure in Article 11 is triggered to propose an amended Convention. If Council fails to agree on this amended Convention the procedure to terminate CECAM (article 12) is initiated.

10.2 Any Member Organization wishing to withdraw from the association can do so by giving written notification to the President of Council. Any such withdrawal shall become operative six months after receipt of the notification. No claim of share of assets is possible at that occasion. If the withdrawing Member Organization is the sole representative of a Node in the Council, the CECAM activities of that Node will cease at the date the Member Organization withdraw becomes operative, with the possible exception of any pending CECAM activities which had been decided in an earlier Council Meeting.

Article 11: Amendments to the Convention.

This Convention may be amended if a qualified majority of the Member Organizations requires it or if required by article 10.1. In this case, Council establishes a Task Force, chaired by the President, charged with proposing an amended Convention. If this Task Force produces an amended Convention that the Council adopts with a qualified majority, then the amended Convention will be signed by Member Organizations. In the interim the previous Convention remains in force.

Article 12: Termination.

If the Council decides, by a qualified majority, to terminate and dissolve the CECAM organization as a whole, the President, helped by the Director of CECAM, proposes the means by which any associated staff are to be treated, any assets are to be disposed of or distributed, any grants held in the name of CECAM are to be terminated and all remaining liabilities and other matters are to be handled so that an orderly winding up of CECAM's affairs is achieved. These proposals are discussed by the Council, amended if necessary and agreed by a simple majority vote, and then carried out by the Director of CECAM and the Directors of the Nodes.

Article 13: Legal Nature of this Convention

The present Convention shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium.

Signed by understated entities, the Convention, whose aim is the scientific cooperation, has the legal nature of an international administrative agreement, to which the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties on 23rd of May 1969 does not apply.

ANNEX 1

CECAM MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- The Aalto University, Finland;
- Academia Sinica, Taiwan;
- The Commissariat à l’Energie Atomique (CEA), France;
- The Center for Computational Materials Science (CMS), Austria;
- The Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy;
- The Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS), France;
- The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany;
- The Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland;
- The Fonds National Suisse de la Recherche Scientifique (FNS), Switzerland;
- The Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (F.R.S.-FNRS), Belgium;
- The Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen (FWO), Belgium;
- The Forschungszentrum Jülich (FZJ), Germany;
- The Italian Institute of Technology (IIT), Italy;
- Institute of Physics, the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Beijing Computational Science Research Center (IOP and CSRC), China;
- The Irish Universities Association (IUA), Ireland;
- The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology (MINECO), Spain;
- The Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (MPG), Germany;
- The Norwegian Icelandic Consortium (NIC), Norway – Iceland;
- The Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO), The Netherlands;
- The Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati (SISSA), Italy;
- The National Institute of Chemistry (NIC) and University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (UL FMF) (SLING), Slovenia.
- The Scuola Normale Superiore (SNS), Italy;
- The Tel Aviv University (TAU), Israel;
- UKRI-EPSRC, United Kingdom;
- UKRI STFC, United Kingdom;
- The University of Bologna (UNIBO) and CINECA, Italy;
- The University of California, Berkeley (UCB), United States of America;
- The University of Chicago (UCHICAGO), United States of America;
- The Uppsala University, Sweden;

ANNEX 2

CECAM NODES

- CECAM-AT
- CECAM-CN
- CECAM-DE-JUELICH
- CECAM-DE-MMS
- CECAM-DE-QMDYN
- CECAM-DE-SMSM
- CECAM-ES
- CECAM-FI
- CECAM-FR-GSO
- CECAM-FR-MOSER
- CECAM-FR-RA
- CECAM-IRL
- CECAM-ISR
- CECAM-IT-SISSA-SNS
- CECAM-IT-SIMUL
- CECAM-NL
- CECAM-TW
- CECAM-UK-DARESBUY
- CECAM-UK-JCMAXWELL
- CECAM-US-CENTRAL
- CECAM-US-WEST

ANNEX 3

Minimum Membership Fees

The grant to be contributed for CECAM Membership is at the discretion of the Member Organization but is at least equal to the minimum contribution of 30,000 Euros per year. Council reconsiders the membership fee every two years.

Minimum Node Budget

The amount of the CECAM Node budget is at the discretion of the Node Institution, but is expected to be at least equal to 50,000 Euros per year.