

## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EMS ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**

**For period August 2005 to March 2006**

A side meeting of the Committee was held on 15 September 2005 at which 17 EMS members attended. The current UK/RMS Scheme was discussed once again and compared with the German scheme. The question of similar schemes being extended to other European countries was also considered again with a mixed reaction. The Minutes of this meeting are attached as Annexe A.

The Chairman considered the proposal to contact Gerald Fleming formally, but decided not to do so during this period. An initial e-mail to WMO has received no reply as yet.

An enquiry from Bulgaria regarding certification of competency in aviation meteorology was answered by Howard Lyne as the Chairman of the Royal Meteorological Society Accreditation Board. He has been involved with the UK response to the new requirement for EC certification in the aviation industry. It is understood that under the EC Single European Skies legislation, it will be necessary in future for the national civil aviation authorities to certify providers of meteorological services before those providers will be permitted to deliver products to aviation users within the respective authorities' national jurisdictions. It is not yet clear to those in the UK whether this certification will be applied to all civil aviation activities or to subsets of the market, perhaps delineated in terms of operating scale.

Within the UK, the Roy. Met. Soc. is advocating that the attainment of the existing, EU-recognized professional qualifications of CMet and N/SVQ be a requirement, at appropriate levels within the production process, for the certification of those who desire to deliver meteorological services and products to any part of the civil aviation sector. All newly trained forecasters within the UK Met Office currently have to obtain NVQ level 4 with more senior forecasters encouraged to obtain Chartered status through CMet. There is much more to be considered in this area and it is satisfactory to see that it is being considered by the Roy. Met. Soc., which is the approved Authority for Meteorological Professional Qualifications within the UK.

I am stepping down from the Chair of the EMS Accreditation Committee as from this date. The Roy. Met. Soc. has nominated Howard Lyne to take my place on the Committee and has proposed that he should also take over as the Chairman. I commend this proposal to you.

The current membership of the Accreditation Committee is attached as Annexe C.

David N. Axford

## ANNEXE A

### **Minutes of Accreditation Meeting, 15 September 2005**

Location: Jaarbeurs Conference Centre, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Participants: David Axford (RMS, Bracknell, Chair of the Accreditation Committee), Ludo van der Auwera (RMI, Belgium), Alica Bajić (HMD, Croatia), Roxana Bojariu (ANM, Romania), Tanja Cegnar (SMD, Slovenia), Gerald Fleming (Met Eireann, Ireland), Tomas Halenka (CeMS, Czech Republic), Lovro Kalin (DMHZ, Croatia), Dominique Lapeyre de Chaverdès (Météo France, France), René Morin (SMF, France), Heleen ter Pelkwijk (NVBM, Netherlands), Fulvio Stel (UMVFG, Italy), Jay Trobec (AMS, USA), Visnja Vučetić (DMHZ, Croatia), Werner Wehry (DMG, Germany), Jon Wieringa (NVBM, Netherlands)

In attendance: Arne Spekat (EMS, Berlin)

Beginning: 17:00 End: 18:10

#### 1. Introduction

The meeting was called by the Chair of the EMS Accreditation Committee and announced in the Programme of the EMS Annual Meeting. There was no specific agenda set out beforehand.

As the Accreditation Committee Chair underlined that a the scheme introduced by the U.K. which has been recognized Europe-wide is available for about a year and presented as an introduction a slide with the Directive 89/48/EEC in which the qualification requirements are summarized. He reported that, since its national introduction in 1993, about 60 meteorologists have been accredited.

Following the accreditation meeting during the 4<sup>th</sup> EMS Annual Meeting a letter was sent to EMS Members and Associates, describing. There were not many replies, although there is a lot of interest in accreditation matters, e.g., with the employers of professional meteorologists.

Werner Wehry from the German Meteorological Society then explained its accreditation scheme. He pointed out that it is different from the one in the U.K. because it does not certify individuals, but companies. The German Meteorological Society identified problems in the certification of individuals because they consider it necessary that a constant updating of the certified meteorologists is necessary, for which it is too difficult to organize the necessary courses. Yet, a reconsideration of the structures in Germany might be possible, although results cannot be expected before a year's time.

#### 2. Discussion

##### 2.1 Academic qualification requirements

In practise there are potential accreditation applicants, e.g., from the field of forecasting. Forecasters have widely different educational backgrounds. It became clear that the UK/EU scheme has been extended in its requirements and now includes the need for a degree. WMO, for example, in its definition of a meteorologists mentions "third degree qualification". It should be added that, unless a post of a specialist for a certain scientific field needs to be filled, degrees are incomplete indicators for qualification.

##### 2.2 Accreditation for Media Meteorologists

In co-operation with IABM, WMO and AMS, a possibility for a worldwide accreditation scheme for media meteorologists is emerging. Soon, the WMO objectives are to be made public – Gerald Fleming is a liaison with the ongoing activities. In Europe there are activities in France and Croatia with respect to the quality of weather presentations in the media. The crucial factor is that the standards need to be raised. The mixed professional background of those presenting weather information in the media needs to be taken into account. The different nationalities and languages of the presenters might be posing a problem but that is not considered a major obstacle. Overall,

there is optimism that in Europe a “TV Seal of Approval” or a similar scheme is very helpful. EMS might be playing an important role in this development, particularly since there is a WMO-EMS agreement to build on. The open question remains, how EMS should address its Members to advance this process.

### 2.3 Acceptance of accreditation

As of today an accreditation scheme is not obligatory. There is a lack of motivation against the need to self-educate among the professional meteorologists who are often asking themselves what the real advantages are. Hiring of meteorologists at Weather Services is often more subjectively done, i.e., without a great deal of consideration for accreditation. Yet, one might answer that it is the definition of an accepted standard and might be an improving factor for the careers, as it is, e.g., with certified electrical engineers in the U.K. It might indirectly serve as a benchmark for ISO9000 certification of companies how many certified meteorologists are employed.

### 2.4 Sources of qualification

In many countries it is not possible to study meteorology as a stand-alone subject, which brings people into the profession of meteorologists who have degrees from a rather wide range of subjects. In some countries, the National Meteorological Services offer qualification but this is in most cases not mutually accepted by other Services. Most national Meteorological Societies are too small to run their own accreditation schemes – some make it clear that the task of assigning qualifications is not theirs but belongs to the Weather Service – and those who run them (RMetS, DMG, SMF) focus on different approaches.

## 3. Conclusions and Actions to be taken

It was concluded that currently there is no unified situation and that any development will take time.

It was proposed that the Chair of the Accreditation Committee officially informs WMO, by sending a letter to Gerald Fleming, about the activities of the EMS Accreditation Committee.

*Arne Spekat, 23 October 2005*

## **ANNEXE B**

### **List of Members Appointed to the EMS Accreditation Committee (as at October 2005)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Members Name</b>	<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<b>Society</b>
Austria	Vacant	Vacant	ÖGM/(Austrian Meteorological Society)
Croatia	SONJA VIDIC	<a href="mailto:sonja.vidic@mail.dhz.hr">sonja.vidic@mail.dhz.hr</a>	HMD/(Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Croatia)
France	Vacant	Vacant	Société Météorologique de France
Germany	Prof. Clemens Simmer	<a href="mailto:csimmer@uni-bonn.de">csimmer@uni-bonn.de</a>	DMG/(German Meteorological Society)
Hungary	Pal Ambrosy	<a href="mailto:ambrozy.p@met.hu">ambrozy.p@met.hu</a>	Hungarian Meteorological Society
Italy	Marcello Pagliari	<a href="mailto:mpagliari@srd.it">mpagliari@srd.it</a>	UNIMET/(Unione Italiana di Meteorologia)
Netherlands	Heleen ter Pelkwijk	<a href="mailto:Heleen.ter.Pelkwijk@knmi.nl">Heleen.ter.Pelkwijk@knmi.nl</a>	NVBM/(Dutch Meteorological Society)
Portugal	Dr. Sérgio Barbosa	<a href="mailto:sergio.barbosa@meteo.pt">sergio.barbosa@meteo.pt</a>	(APMG) "Associação Portuguesa de Meteorologia e Geofísica"
Serbia	Mr. Dragan Radovanovic	<a href="mailto:radragan@eunet.yu">radragan@eunet.yu</a>	MDS/(Serbian Meteorological Society)
Spain	Manuel Palomares	<a href="mailto:palomares@inm.es">palomares@inm.es</a>	AME(Asociacion Meteorologica Española)
Switzerland	Peter Rauh	<a href="mailto:peter.rauh@meteoswiss.ch">peter.rauh@meteoswiss.ch</a>	IACETH, SGM/(Swiss Meteorological Society)
United Kingdom	Dr D. N. Axford	<a href="mailto:dnax@dsl.pipex.com">dnax@dsl.pipex.com</a>	RMS/(Royal Meteorological Society)
KNMI	Heleen ter Pelkwijk	<a href="mailto:Heleen.ter.Pelkwijk@knmi.nl">Heleen.ter.Pelkwijk@knmi.nl</a>	KNMI
WNI	David Selway	<a href="mailto:daves@wni.com">daves@wni.com</a>	UK Commercial Sector (WNI)
Met. Office/EMS Pubs	Bob Riddaway	<a href="mailto:Bob.Riddaway@metoffice.com">Bob.Riddaway@metoffice.com</a>	UK National Met Service