

Constitution of the European Meteorological Society

Preamble

In the nations of Europe, Societies of professional meteorologists, weather and climate scientists, users of applied meteorology and dedicated weather amateurs have encouraged and enabled the advance of meteorology for many years.

On the eve of the 21st century, these Meteorological Societies establish a permanent organization for their cooperation, particularly to deal with those aspects of meteorology which can be solved only on a Europe-wide basis or are best approached on that scale. This organization is based on the following Constitution.

The constitution

1 Name

The name of the Society shall be European Meteorological Society e.V., abbreviated as EMS.

2 Seat

2.1 The seat of the Society shall be the seat of the Secretariat of the Society.

2.2 The seat of the Secretariat is at present in Berlin, Germany.

3 Membership

3.1 The Society shall be an Association of European Societies, mostly at the national level, which shall be scientifically based Societies in the fields of meteorology and related sciences, and their applications. Europe is defined as the area of WMO Regional Association Six.

3.2 New Members shall be elected by vote of at least two-thirds of the Council of the Society. Any national Society fitting the description set down in subparagraph 3.1 shall be eligible as a candidate for election as a new Member.

3.3 Members may leave voluntarily at any time.

3.4 Membership may otherwise be terminated only by vote of at least two-thirds of the Members present at General Assembly of Members, called by the President, with at least four weeks notice.

3.5 In addition to Societies defined in 3.1 above, other bodies with an interest in the aims of EMS may be eligible for Associate Membership. Such bodies include non-European Meteorological Societies, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, companies with interests in meteorology, related sciences and their applications, and Europe-wide bodies with similar interests.

4 Purpose

4.1 The objectives of the Society are to advance meteorology (and sciences related to it) at a European-wide level, and to assist the development of applications of these subjects for the public welfare and benefit of the peoples of Europe and elsewhere.

4.2 To these ends, the Society will concentrate its efforts into activities which can only be carried out at the European level, or which are carried out more effectively at that level than by a single member Society. Among other activities, the Society organizes scientific meetings and lecture series and supports

scientific publications and research for the public welfare. The Council may establish groups which have special interests at the European level.

4.3. The Society pursues only activities directly intended to promote public welfare in the sense meant by taxation regulations. It is to be registered at the Vereinsregister.

4.4. The Society acts disinterestedly, in the sense that it does not pursue primarily its own economic gain.

4.5. The assets and income of the Society may be used only for purposes set out in this Constitution. No Member shall derive financial benefit from the assets or income of the Society. Any person or party incurring expenses on behalf of the Society, and for the purposes set out in this Constitution, shall not be reimbursed excessively.

5 Organization

5.1 General Assemblys

5.1.1 There shall be a General Assembly of Members, called by the President in written form at least once a year in the State of a Member, chaired by one of the Officers (see 5.3), normally the President. At a General Assembly, financial matters and matters ruled by par. 5.5.1 and par.9 shall be decided by a two-thirds majority of Members present. The presiding Officer shall have a deciding vote and shall also decide which matters are financial. Other matters shall be decided by a simple majority. Minutes have to be prepared about the content of the meeting. The chairperson is to sign them.

5.1.2 At General Assemblys, ten Members shall constitute a quorum. Members may send any number of representatives to a General Assembly, but only one shall be designated by the Member to speak and vote on behalf of the Member in any particular discussion.

5.1.3 The General Assembly shall establish and adopt its own rules of procedure.

5.1.4 The General Assembly, having heard the report of the Council, including a financial report and a statement (written or otherwise) by the Society's Auditors, shall consider the accounts of the Society for the past year and elect two auditors for the forthcoming year

5.1.5 The General Assembly shall decide about other tasks according to the Constitution and the law.

5.1.6 All Associate Members shall be eligible to attend General Assemblys as observers.

5.2 Council

5.2.1 There shall be a Council. It shall meet at least once between any two sessions of the General Assembly and is chaired by one of the Officers, normally the President. The Council plans and directs the activities, and manages the properties and affairs, of the Society, in accordance with this constitution and decisions of the General Assembly of the Society.

5.2.2 The Council shall consist of representatives appointed by the governing bodies of the National Meteorological Societies of three permanent Members (France, Germany and the United Kingdom), plus six Members elected by the annual General Assembly who shall each normally serve for a period of two years.

5.2.3 Voting at the Council shall be by two-thirds majority on financial matters and by a simple majority on other matters. The presiding Officer shall have a deciding vote. The presiding Officer shall also decide which matters are financial matters.

5.2.4 At Council, seven Members shall constitute a quorum.

5.2.5 The Council shall prepare its own Rules of Procedure, in accordance with rules under 5.2.2 and 5.2.3, for approval by a General Assembly.

5.2.6 The Council shall approve Rules of Procedure for the secretariat, including rules on financial matters.

5.2.7 Associate Members shall be represented at Council in one of two ways. Associate Members which are Europe-wide institutions shall be eligible for permanent observer status on the Council and pay an annual contribution in cash and kind agreed with the Council. Other Associate Members shall also pay an annual contribution in cash or kind agreed with the Council, but shall choose from amongst themselves one Associate Member to represent each of the categories of Associate Members which Council may designate from time to time. Associate Members elected to attend sessions of Council may, like other Representatives at Council, speak when invited by the Presiding Officer.

5.3 Officers

5.3.1 President

The Council shall appoint as President an individual Member of the Council who is a former President of one of the Member Societies. The appointment shall be for a term of three years and Presidents shall not be eligible for re-election.

5.3.2 Vice-Presidents

The Council shall elect, from amongst the Presidents or former Presidents, Secretaries or former Secretaries, Treasurers or former Treasurers, of Member Societies, or from individual Members of the Council with at least one year's service on the Council, three Vice-Presidents, one of whom shall also serve as Treasurer. Vice-Presidents shall be elected annually and be eligible for re-election.

5.3.3 The President can represent the Society by himself, and the Vice-Presidents shall establish a representation seniority among themselves.

5.4 Cross-membership of Member Societies

The President of each Member Society shall ex-officio be a member, free of charge, of all other Member Societies.

5.5 Secretariat matters

5.5.1 Secretariat

There shall be a Secretariat of appropriate size, composition and location. These shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the Members present and voting at a General Assembly, having heard a recommendation by the Council. The Secretariat shall coordinate and assist the work of the Officers and the General Assembly.

5.5.2 Executive Secretary

5.5.2.1 The Executive Secretary shall be the senior official employed by the Society.

5.5.2.2 The Executive Secretary shall report to the Council, act as its Secretary and direct the work of the Secretariat.

5.5.2.3 The Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Council, for such period as it may decide and on terms which accord with the law of the country in which the Secretariat is located. Other staff, if any, shall be appointed by the Executive Secretary, within a complement agreed by the Council and on terms agreed by the Council which accord with the law in the country of employment.

5.5.2.4 The terms of appointments shall be agreed by Council by simple majority vote.

5.5.3 Bank account

There shall be a bank account in the currency of the country in which the Secretariat is located. On the decision of Council, accounts may be set up elsewhere and in other currencies. Orders and payments up to an amount which shall be decided by Council from time to time shall be valid on the signature of any one of the Officers of the Society or that of the Executive Secretary or a named deputy, if any. Orders and payments exceeding that amount shall be valid on the signatures of either an Officer and the Executive Secretary (or nominated deputy), or on the signature of the Executive Secretary alone following written authorization for each occasion by an Officer of the Society.

6 Funding

The Society shall be a non-profit-making body funding its activities by revenues raised from those activities, as well as by annual membership fees from Member Societies, donations and other income.

7 Communications

7.1 Communications within the Society, and between the Society and its Members, shall be in English. However, important documents, such as contractual documents, may, upon request to the Executive Secretary by one or more Members, be in either the English, French or German languages.

Documents to be used in litigation, or for other legal purposes in the State in which the seat of the Society is located, shall be in a language of that State.

7.2 Each document appearing in more than one language shall state which language version is definitive.

8 Applicable law

In case of a legal dispute, the applicable law shall be that of the State in which the seat of the Society is located.

9 Changes in this Constitution

This Constitution may be amended at a General Assembly by a two-thirds vote of the Members present, if at least eight weeks notice is given for the Assembly and for the proposed amendments. Such an Assembly may be either an annual General Assembly or one called for the purpose, either by the Council or by at least six Members of the Society.

10 Arrangements for dissolving the Society

The Society shall be dissolved only by a decision of a General Assembly.

Arrangements shall be made according to the law of the State in which the seat of the Society is located. Assets, which remain after dissolution of the EMS, can only be transferred to another geoscientific Society acting for the public welfare.

If the Society is dissolved, or if the Society changes its Constitution in such a way that the Society's purposes would no longer be tax-favoured, then its assets shall pass either to a charity recognized as a corporate body under the public law or to another corporate body which has tax-favoured status for the purpose of promoting geoscience.

Start up and transition arrangements

A Members of Council

The six Members of Council referred to in paragraph 5.2.2, will normally serve for two years. However, initially, in order to ensure later continuity, three Members shall serve for a period of one year and three for a period of two years.

B Funding

B.1 During an initial period, not exceeding two years(i.e. until the end of 2000), all Member Societies shall pay a minimum contribution of one EURO for each of their members, irrespective of category, free of banking charges for the period up to 31 December 1999, and a similar amount for the year up to 31 December 2000. In addition, Members are expected to make voluntary contributions according to their capacity.

B.2 For a further period of three years, all Members shall pay an annual contribution proposed annually by Council and agreed by a two-thirds majority at an annual General Assembly.

B.3 In addition, during the first three years, (i.e. until the end of 2001) the permanent Members shall make a substantial contribution to an amount negotiated between themselves and agreed by the Council.

B.4 Subsequently, and subject to paragraphs 3.3 and 6 of the Constitution, Members shall make contributions as proposed by Council and agreed by a subsequent General Assembly.