

EMS activities of David Axford, May-October 2002

EMS Accreditation Committee matters

The final line up of Accreditation Committee members was completed by early May 2002 with 9 members. See Annex 1.

The draft proposal presented to EMS Council in Paris:

DRAFT PROPOSAL TO DETERMINE AND ADOPT BEST PRACTICE IN THE USE OF STANDARDS AND ASSOCIATED QUALIFICATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SECTOR

was circulated to all Committee members. Replies or relevant e-mails came only from Lutz Hasse (24/6/02) and Jon Weiringa (30/8/02).

In response to para 2 of Section 6 of the draft Minutes of the 6th Meeting of the EMS Council Paris, France, 26-27 April 2002, quoted below:

- *The proposal to obtain a grant for the work of the Accreditation Committee, as presented to Council was then discussed. Priority with obtaining this grant was given to the EU. The EMS President will (travel to Brussels to) meet with EU Commissioners, in particular taking those into account who deal with standardization. A second opportunity, to be considered if the EU approach is not successful is to ask the UK government which, in 2000, had expressed its willingness to fund such a study. With respect to more background material, Council requested the Accreditation Committee Chair to present a task description of the external expert at its following session in Brussels.*

The Chairman has prepared Draft Terms of Reference for a Review Team including the external expert required to do the job. Please see Annex 2.

The potential for funding this study from within either national and/or the EU is still being looked into. It is hoped that it will be possible to report some further progress at the November Council Meeting.

Further progress requiring more active participation of the Committee members will depend on the success in finding funding for this Study.

David Axford, Chairman EMS Accreditation Committee

ANNEX 1 to Report of the Accreditation Committee 20 October 2002

List of Members Appointed to the EMS Accreditation Committee **(as at 6 May2002)**

<u>Country</u>	<u>Members Name</u>	<u>E-Mail Address</u>	<u>Society</u>
Austria	Herrn Dr. Georg Zapletal	georg.zapletal@zamg.ac.at	ÖGM/(Austrian Meteorological Soc
Croatia	Mr Tomislav Kovacic	kovacic@cirus.dhz.hr	HMD/(Croatian Meteorological Soc and Hydrological Service of Croatia
France	Francois Duvernet	francois.duvernet@meteo.fr	Société Météorologique de France
Germany	Prof. Lutz Hasse	lhasse@ifm.uni-kiel.de	DMG/(German Meteorological Soc
Italy	Marcello Pagliari	mpagliari@srd.it	UNIMET/(Unione Italiana di Metec
Netherlands	Peter Kerkmans	P.Kerkmans@meteocon.nl	NVBM/(Dutch Meteorological Soci
Serbia	Mr. Dragan Radovanovic	radragan@eunet.yu	MDS/(Serbian Meteorological Soci
Switzerland	Prof. Hans Richner	richner@atmos.umnw.ethz.ch	IACETH, SGM/(Swiss Meteorologi
United Kingdom	Dr D. N. Axford	David.axford@dial.pipex.com	RMS/(Royal Meteorological Societ
Associate	NO	-	AerotechTelub
Associate	NO	-	ESA

EMS Accreditation Committee

Draft Terms of Reference for a Review Team

TO DETERMINE AND ADOPT BEST PRACTICE IN THE USE OF STANDARDS AND ASSOCIATED QUALIFICATIONS IN THE EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SECTOR.

Aim

The long-term aim of the project is to implement best practice in this field amongst those providing meteorological services within the EU, in order to improve the quality of such services, increase the confidence of users in them and facilitate mobility of employment within the sector.

Proposed Approach

It is proposed that there should be a **study** of current standards and qualifications in use amongst EMS members, (predicated on financial support, either from the EC but possibly the UK) to be initiated as soon as possible. Its specific purposes would be to:

1. Establish the current occupational qualifications and the underpinning standards and criteria which are in use within the meteorological service sector in Europe;
2. Characterise their comparative strengths and weaknesses in terms of their influence on a range of outcomes - perceived service quality, peer reputation, inherent rigour and objectivity of the standards/criteria etc.
3. Make recommendations as to the optimum way to achieve the long-term aim.

To enable progress, funding will have to be sufficient to meet the **fees and expenses** of a consultant of a suitable calibre and experience¹ and of an expert in meteorological practices, plus the **expenses** of two other members of the EMS sub-group. (It might be helpful to the Chairman for the Consultant to be based in the UK but this is not essential.) This combination will provide the breadth of expertise and the dedicated resource necessary to carry out a thorough review of current criteria/standards and qualifications and sufficient balance to assure all concerned that the exercise is being conducted on an independent basis.

As a minimum, the review team should expect to take evidence through visits and correspondence from the appropriate Societies and meteorological service providers in France, the Netherlands, Germany, UK, Ireland, a Scandinavian country and an Eastern European country, not least to attain the necessary wide ownership of recommendations relating to the aim. It may be useful to seek documentary input from elsewhere within Europe. It will be beneficial to obtain input from the USA on the AMS Scheme, but this should be obtainable via correspondence. It is envisaged that the study would be completed within 6 months of the start.

(On this basis expenses are likely to amount to €32,000 and fees @ 38 man-days x €875/day will be circa €33,000. A bid of €65k is indicated therefore. It is possible that some of these costs might be supported at EU or National level.)

Deliverables

The team would be required to produce a Report that would include an analysis of current practices and recommendations concerning those that are most likely to deliver the aim in the prevailing circumstances. The study should also include proposals as to how arrangements could be improved, particularly at the margins of the current occupational standards for weather forecasters and meteorological observers.

¹ It is envisaged that the consultant will have experience in the assessment and design of competence based qualifications and standards.